

STATE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and thrive in a green economy. The benefits of participating include leadership recognition, free technical assistance, and access to grants. Local governments participate by signing a voluntary pledge and using the CSC framework to guide progress toward creating attractive, healthy, and equitable places to live, work, and play.

Climate Smart Community (CSC) Program Goals

- **Reduce** greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Build resiliency** to the impacts of climate change.
- **Save** taxpayer dollars.
- **Increase** energy security and reliability.
- **Improve** community public health and safety.
- **Support** a green innovation economy.
- **Demonstrate** leadership.

How do communities benefit from the CSC program?

- **Receive funding** for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects via the DEC CSC Grant program.
- **Reduce the cost of clean vehicles** and associated charging/fueling stations via the DEC Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate program.
- **Receive free technical assistance** for clean energy and climate change initiatives from regional coordinators.



- **Discover online guidance** and decision-support tools via webpages.
- **Learn about best practices** through CSC webinars.
- **Network** with like-minded community leaders at CSC events and workshops.

Where does the support come from?

The Climate Smart Communities program is jointly sponsored by seven New York State agencies:

- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Department of Health
- Department of Public Service
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Energy Research and Development Authority
- New York Power Authority

How do communities participate in the CSC program?

- **Adopt** the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge. See below for the model resolution.
- **Visit** <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/getting-started/> to review next steps and be designated a **registered CSC**. Once your local government has registered, you'll see your community on displayed on the map.
- **Select actions** and learn about what it takes to become a **certified CSC** at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/> .
- **Sign up** for the CSC email list to be notified of upcoming opportunities at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76483.html> .
- **Visit** the CSC funding programs webpage at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html> .

Model Resolution for Municipal Adoption of the CSC Pledge

Local governments may amend the preamble to the resolution below, but all 10 points of the pledge must be adopted *verbatim* in their entirety.

WHEREAS, the Town/Village/City/County of _____ believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town/Village/City/County of _____, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which comprises the following 10 elements:

- 1) **Build a climate-smart community.**
- 2) **Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.**
- 3) **Decrease energy use.**
- 4) **Shift to clean, renewable energy.**
- 5) **Use climate-smart materials management.**
- 6) **Implement climate-smart land use.**
- 7) **Enhance community resilience to climate change.**
- 8) **Support a green innovation economy.**
- 9) **Inform and inspire the public.**
- 10) **Engage in an evolving process of climate action.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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