



## 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 adaption 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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