

# NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

## Energy-Efficient Policies and Ordinances: Opportunities for Cost-Savings and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Current municipal ordinances vary widely in content and coverage and many municipalities cannot devote sufficient resources to form fully developed green building, wind and solar ordinances. Yet, municipalities have the ability to control many aspects of their local land siting, providing many opportunities for small-scale, renewable projects throughout the Long Island region.

### Resources/Case Studies

- *Columbia Center for Climate Change Law (CCCL): Model Municipal Ordinance Project*
  - Columbia's model ordinances offer a framework that can enable local governments to implement and enforce the effective and efficient use of renewable energy resources. These model ordinances were derived from the best aspects of existing municipal ordinances. They are designed with New York municipalities in mind. For each of the model ordinances provided below, the CCCL has provided a secondary copy of the ordinance with professional legal commentary and separate legal analysis of the ordinance. This allows municipalities to complete an initial assessment of potential legal issues without the cost burden typically associated with legal review of local policies. In addition, the CCCL provides completed SEQRA environmental compliance forms to accompany the adoption of the ordinances.
  - - [Model Municipal Green Building Ordinance](#)
    - [Model Municipal Wind Siting Ordinance](#)
    - [Model Small-Scale Solar Siting Ordinance](#)
- *Oregon Department of Energy*
  - Guidance to local governments to address wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and co-generation project planning needs at the city and county level. Specific standards for wind address visual impact, wildlife resources, public safety, and setbacks. Specific standards for solar address acreage, ground leveling, wildlife resources, misdirection of solar radiation, public safety, airport proximity, and cleaning chemicals and solvents. In addition, the model ordinance accounts for impacts on the traditional energy field and includes guidance on: electric power transmission and distribution lines, natural gas and petroleum pipelines, and biofuel production plants. Please visit: <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/SITING/docs/ModelEnergyOrdinance.pdf>

For more information on Climate Smart Communities: [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html)  
For assistance from Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP - an independent contractor to NYSERDA:  
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*New York State Climate Smart Communities is a program of the state departments of Environmental Conservation, State, Transportation, Health, Energy Research and Development Authority; and Public Service Commission.*



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