

## NEW YORK COMMUNITIES:

# GET CLIMATE SMART

- New York's communities can take action to reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change.
- Climate Smart Communities save taxpayer dollars; cutting emissions means lower energy use and smaller energy bills.
- Climate Smart Communities are New York's sustainability leaders.

## Why is the Climate Smart Communities Pledge important?

- **Communities control or strongly influence key emission-reduction and climate-adaptation factors** such as building and fleet efficiency and land-use planning.
- **Any New York city, town, village or county** can take a stand on protecting the climate.
- **An emissions inventory** and **local climate-action planning** define the best strategies for each community.
- **Local efficiency and renewables projects** often return their cost in long-term savings of taxpayer dollars.
- **Making everyone part of the effort** boosts energy and emission savings.
- **The voluntary Climate Smart Community Pledge** emphasizes important areas of local climate action, while enabling each community to choose the activities that suit it best.

## Can a community get help fulfilling the Pledge?

- **Assistance and guidance are available** for community emission inventories, climate planning and energy-saving projects. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>
- **Climate Smart Community Coordinators** provide technical support and guidance for greenhouse gas inventories and projects to reduce emissions and adapt to effects of climate change.
- **The Climate Smart Communities listserv and webinar series** notify municipalities of funding and educational opportunities.
- NYSERDA's **Energy \$mart Community Coordinators** can help communities identify funding and technical support for emissions inventories, planning and energy-saving projects. <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov>

## How can my community be climate smart?

- Adopt **the model Climate Smart Communities Pledge** (some communities add their own legislative findings or pledge elements).
- Inform DEC that your community has adopted **the pledge** by mailing a **certified** copy of the resolution to the Office of Climate Change, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY. 12233-1030.

For more information about becoming a Climate Smart Community, see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html> or contact [CSC@cameronengineering.com](mailto:CSC@cameronengineering.com)

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# The New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge

## 1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community

Set goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes.

Establish a task force.

Designate a point person.

Join a national climate campaign such as ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives)—Local Governments for Sustainability (<http://www.icleiusa.org/>).

## 2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Gather data about local GHG emission sources.

Inventory emissions, establish baselines.

Develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets.

Propose emission-reduction schedule and financing strategy.

Develop a local action plan for reducing emissions.

## 3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Adopt a goal of reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels no later than 2015.

Include new and existing public facilities, community infrastructure, vehicle fleet and commuting.

Improve waste management in government operations.

## 4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Set a goal to maximize the use of public energy generated from renewable sources (e.g., solar, wind, small hydro).

## 5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Promote reuse; ensure access to comprehensive recycling.

Adopt a green purchasing program.

## 6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land-use Tools

Keep development low in carbon intensity and resilient to climatic change.

Update land-use policies, building codes and community plans in ways that reduce sprawl, minimize development in floodplains and protect forests.

## 7. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

Identify risks to government facilities and functions (e.g., water supply, sewers), and factor into long-term investments and decision-making.

Develop a climate adaptation plan, giving priority to the most vulnerable areas.

## 8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

Incorporate climate protection and sustainability into economic development plans.

Encourage workforce training and public education for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## 9. Inform and Inspire the Public

Lead by example.

Publicize local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars and adapting to changing conditions. Encourage citizens to follow suit.

## 10. Commit to an Evolving Process

Be willing to consider new ideas and adapt existing approaches.

Compare successes, and work cooperatively with neighboring communities.

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.

