



Climate Smart Communities

November 2015

City of Cohoes

CSC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare for impacts of climate change and save taxpayer dollars. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas outlined in the [CSC 10 Pledge Elements](#) (see below).

This CSC profile outlines the City of Cohoes progress through the 10 pledge elements. Detailed information on actions completed, in progress, and identified for future action is provided in the tables on the following pages. If a table is missing for a particular pledge element, it means that the CSC program does not have a record of actions taken to address that pledge element.

The [CSC Certification](#) program provides local governments with a comprehensive framework to guide climate action and enables high performing communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. Each pledge element below is accompanied by a [CSC Certification Manual](#) that recommends initiatives and resources for getting started. Click on any of the pledge elements for additional information.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACTS:

Adopted Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge: 2009

CSC Pledge Elements Addressed: 7 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 16

Government Type: City

County: Albany County

Region: Capital District

Population: 16,168

Climate Smart Communities Pledge Elements [Click links to view CSC Certification Manual]

1. [Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community](#)
2. [Set Goals. Inventory Emissions, Plan for Climate Action](#)
3. [Decrease Community Energy Use](#)
4. [Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy](#)
5. [Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Management Practices](#)
6. [Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools](#)
7. [Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change](#)
8. [Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy](#)
9. [Inform and Inspire the Public](#)
10. [Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action](#)

Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community

Action	Status	Description
Adopted the CSC Pledge	Completed	The City of Cohoes adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.

Pledge Element 2: Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Plan for Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Develop a Community Climate Action Plan	In progress	The City of Cohoes is working with the CSC Regional Coordinator to develop a local climate action roadmap that builds off of the results of the City of Cohoes Community GHG Inventory.
Local Government Operations GHG Inventory	Completed	In 2014, the City of Cohoes completed a local government operations GHG inventory with a baseline year of 2012.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Upgraded Wastewater Filtration Pumps	Completed	The City upgraded the switch gear and motor for the Cohoes Raw Water Pump Station and installed variable speed drives on the water filtration plant's high lift pumps.
Upgraded Heating Systems at City-Owned Buildings	Completed	The City completed energy retrofits at City-owned buildings including a new chiller and cooling tower at the Cohoes Public Library, a new natural gas boiler at the Senior Center, and a new heating system at the DPW Garage.
Lighting Upgrades	Completed	The City changed out all lightbulbs in local government offices to energy efficient lightbulbs.
Window Efficiency Upgrades	Completed	The City installed energy-efficient paneling to place on top of the older single pane windows in City Hall.
IT Upgrades	Completed	The City staff have replaced a number of physical servers to virtual servers which has allowed the City to run more servers on less energy.
Lighting Motion Sensors	Completed	The City installed motion sensors for their lights in City offices.
Convert Traffic Signals to LEDs	In progress	The City upgraded several traffic signals (where equipment allowed) to LEDs in 2006-2007.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Hybrid Plug-In Vehicles for Code Enforcement	Completed	In winter of 2014, the City of Cohoes through a local grant administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation purchased two Ford C-Max Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles. The use of these vehicles will positively contribute to air quality within the City, as well as reduce GHG emissions and save money.
Water Efficient Fixture Upgrades	In progress	The City continues to replace traditional fixtures with low water fixtures when making repairs to public buildings.
Convert Streetlights to LEDs	In progress	The City upgraded all City-owned streetlights on Bridge Avenue to LED as well as two streetlights at the entrance of City Hall, and two streetlights at Canal Square.
Conducted Energy Audits of City-Owned Buildings	Completed	The New York Power Authority (NYPA) funded energy audits for all City-owned buildings.

Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

Action	Status	Description
Solar on Cohoes High School	Completed	In 2011, a 50 kW Solar PV system was installed at the Cohoes High School, which saves the school around \$9,000 per year in utility costs. The solar PV system includes a custom, public webpage to view the energy output of the entire system in real time. The school uses the solar PV system as a model example in student curriculum to teach children about the future of clean renewable energy in America.

Pledge Element 5: Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Action	Status	Description
Recycling Program	Completed	The City of Cohoes provides a community recycling program.
Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection	In progress	The City hosts an annual hazardous waste and E-Waste day for residents in May each year.
Recycling Education	In progress	The City sends an educational brochure to all new homeowners on the benefits of recycling annually.
Electronic Filing and Mailing	Completed	The City uses an electronic filing and mailing system to try and reduce energy costs and waste produced from paper products.

Pledge Element 6: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Comprehensive Plan Update	In progress	The City of Cohoes was awarded a grant under Round 2 of the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program to update their Comprehensive Plan which will foster regional collaboration and open doors for new funding opportunities.
Green Infrastructure Zoning Code Provisions	Completed	The City of Cohoes in 2015 updated its local zoning code to contain definitions in site plan review for green infrastructure.
Encouragement of Anti-Idling Practices	In progress	City Staff (including emergency services) are encouraged to turn off their vehicles whenever it is safe to do so to encourage fuel consumption.

Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Farmers Market	In progress	The City hosts a Farmers Market every Friday during the Spring, Summer, and early Fall and distributes educational materials to inform residents about this opportunity.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Stormwater Coalition of Albany County	Completed	Cohoes is a member of the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County: http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/
Capital Regional Sustainability Plan	Completed	City of Cohoes participated in Capital District's regional sustainability planning process. Under Phase I of NYSERDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities Program, each region developed a regional comprehensive sustainability plan. http://sustainablecapitalregion.org/

For more information about the City of Cohoes's climate protection efforts, please contact: George Primeau at (518) 233-2121



Climate Smart Communities

The Climate Smart Communities Program is jointly sponsored by six New York State Agencies: the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of State, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and Public Service Commission.