NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY™ | Climate Smart Communities

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 Rensselaer's 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: 8 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 11

Government Type: City

County: Rensselaer County

Region: Capital District

Population: 9,392

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 CSC Pledge	Completed	Rensselaer adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Replaced Windows at City Hall	Completed	Windows were replaced at City Hall for improved energy efficiency.

Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

Action	Status	Description
Solar Panels on Library	Completed	The solar panel installation at the public library helped to reduce the electric bill from approximately $1,100 to $400 per month (June 2011).
Solar Panel Installations on Municipal Property	Completed	The City installed solar panels on municipal properties, including: 108 solar panels at the Library in 2010, 104 solar panels at the North End Fire house in 2011, 60 solar panels at the Broadway Fire House and 120 solar panels at City Hall in 2012.

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

Action	Status	Description
Offers Recycling to Residents	Completed	Rensselaer has a community recycling program.

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

Action	Status	Description
Local Waterfront Revitalization and Land Conservation	Completed	The City released a final draft of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan in July 2011.
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program	Completed	The City adopted a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in 1986 and released a program update report in 2011.
Tree Inventory	In progress	The City is conducting a tree canopy inventory.

Pledge Element 7: Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change

Action	Status	Description
Green Infrastructure Policy and Projects	Completed	The City adopted a policy that all new developments have green infrastructure components and has implemented a number of green infrastructure projects at City Hall and the local Library.

Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Brownfields Program	Completed	The City has secured 2 assessment (Phase 1) grants from EPA to investigate Brownfield sites in Rensselaer. These include a hazardous waste assessment and a petroleum site assessment. The City has also been awarded a grant through the Brownfields Opportunity Program to focus on a redevelopment plan for the port area.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Signage for Green Infrastructure Projects	In progress	The City will be installing explanatory signs about the purpose and benefits of the green infrastructure project at City Hall.

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

Action	Status	Description
Participate in Regional Stormwater Coalition	Completed	The Rensselaer County Stormwater Coalition is a multi-municipality task force to manage stormwater and maintain a healthy environment. Coalition members include the following municipalities: Brunswick, Castleton, East Greenbush, Nassau, North Greenbush, Poestenkill, Rensselaer, Sand Lake, Schaghticoke, Schodack, and Troy.
Capital Region Sustainability Plan	Completed	The City of Rensselaer 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 Rensselaer's climate protection efforts, please contact: Charles Moore at (518) 465-1693