



# Climate Smart Communities

November 2015

City of Watervliet

## 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 Watervliet'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:** 2010

**CSC Pledge Elements Addressed:** 9 out of 10

**Total Actions Completed:** 19

**Government Type:** City

**County:** Albany County

**Region:** Capital District

**Population:** 10,254

## 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	The City of Watervliet adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2010.
Climate Smart Communities Certification	Completed	The City of Watervliet became one of six certified Climate Smart Communities in New York State.
Watervliet Sustainability Working Group (WSWG)	Completed	WSWG was founded in 2009 to advise the City on further developing sustainable and practical strategies that can help Watervliet take strides toward diminishing its impact on the environment. The group is a spin-off of the Local Development Corporation.
Mayors Climate Protection Agreement	Completed	The Mayor signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

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

Action	Status	Description
Government Operations Climate Action Plan	Completed	The City released a Climate Action Plan for local government operations in 2008 and updated the CAP in 2012.
Government GHG Inventory	Completed	Watervliet has completed a GHG inventory for municipal operations for baseline year 2008.
Reduction Targets Set	Completed	Watervliet's current goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% below 2008 levels by the year 2014. They hope to achieve 20% reduction by implementing innovative strategies like performance contracting to upgrade their facilities.
Community Climate Action Plan	Identified	The City would like to develop a community-wide Climate Action Plan that uses the Regional GHG Emissions Inventory data as a baseline.

## Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Green Fleet Procurement	Identified	A grant application was submitted to install charging stations that would run off of the electricity generated from the anaerobic digester.
Performance Contracting and Lighting Upgrades	Completed	The City has an ongoing contract with Honeywell for continuous building retrofits, mostly consisting of lighting upgrades. As of 2012, the City has realized \$140,000 of cost avoidance due to the retrofits completed to-date.

### Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
CNG Vehicle for Department of Public Works	Identified	The City submitted a grant application to purchase a CNG DPW vehicle, but was not successful. They are also working to fund installation of the infrastructure in the City to convert additional vehicles (the DPW vehicle will fill up in Menands).

### Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

Action	Status	Description
Solar Installations on Municipal Property	Completed	The ARRA funding, the City installed solar panels at Hudson Shores Park Boathouse, the Firehouse, and the J. Leo O'Brian Municipal Building (Senior Center), which saved the City an estimated 83,816 kWh, \$13,998 in energy costs and 27 metric tons of GHG emissions per year.
Geothermal at Cultural Center	Identified	This project would install a geothermal furnace in an existing historic building.
Green Power Partner	Completed	The City government became an EPA Green Power Partner on October 27, 2010. They are working to become the first Green Power Community in New York State.
Rome Hydro Project	In progress	The City is planning to install a 5 MW hydro-plant at the dam between Delta Lake in Rome and the Mohawk River. The City hopes that the revenue from the sale of the electricity will offset the costs of building a new waste water treatment plant. This project is currently going through Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review.

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

Action	Status	Description
Single Stream Recycling	Completed	Watervliet has a single stream recycling program. Since its inception, the program has increased recycling rates three-fold. The City was awarded third place for this program by NYCOM Public Works Division program.
Organic Waste Recycling	Completed	The City of Watervliet has cut its landfill costs and reduced its carbon footprint by removing organic waste from its waste stream. Residents of the City have been provided with receptacles to deposit their food waste which is then collected bi-weekly and delivered to a City built facility where it is composted.

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

Action	Status	Description
Anaerobic Digestion	Identified	The City is currently working with the Village of Minoa, NY to build an anaerobic digester. Once built, the digester would supplant the composting of the organic waste. As of November 2013, a grinder had been purchased with funding from the Housing Department.

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

Action	Status	Description
Develop a Bicycle Master Plan	In progress	The City received a grant through Capital District Transportation Commission's Linkage program for a Bicycle Master Plan.
Green Building Principle Incentives in Planned Development Districts	Completed	The City has incorporated language into its code that provides incentives in Planned Development Districts if developers adhere to LEED platinum certified construction and site development standards.
Green Infrastructure Incentive Zoning	Completed	The City has included language in its zoning code to allow for development incentives with the use of green infrastructure practices.
Comprehensive Plan	Completed	The City adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2010 to become a more green community and to make major energy improvements to the built environment and produce significant energy savings as well as improve the livability and quality of the aging residential and commercial structures in the City. The Comprehensive Plan includes an action plan to implement these goals which includes the development of a citywide energy savings program. The Comprehensive Plan is featured on the Homepage of the City Website along with their Climate Action Plan (PE #2).

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

Action	Status	Description
NY Prize Feasibility Study	In progress	The City was awarded a grant under NYSERDA's NY Prize Program to conduct a feasibility study to examine the viability of constructing a microgrid. If successful, they will move along with the remaining three phases of the competition and install a microgrid.

## Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Energy Efficiency Requirements for CDBG Funding	Completed	The City requires energy efficiency components to be integrated into capital projects that are funded by the city's allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds.

## Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Promote 10% Challenge on YouTube	Completed	Watervliet launched its 10% Challenge in May 2012 with a YouTube video that was played on the City's Cable Access channel.

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

Action	Status	Description
Capital Region Sustainability Plan	Completed	City of Watervliet 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. <a href="http://sustainablecapitalregion.org/">http://sustainablecapitalregion.org/</a>
Stormwater Coalition of Albany County	Completed	Watervliet is a member of the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County: <a href="http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/">http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/</a>
IOWI Management Plan	In progress	In 2014, the City of Watervliet was awarded a grant by NYSERDA through the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program to complete an Inter-Municipal Organics Waste Initiative Management Plan, which will detail ways in which different municipalities in the Capital Region can effectively manage their organic waste streams and divert organics from landfill disposal.

**For more information about the City of Watervliet's climate protection efforts, please contact: Chris Chartrand at (518) 270-3800 ext. 113**



**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.