



Climate Smart Communities

November 2015

Town of Clifton Park

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 Town of Clifton Park'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: 10 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 44

Government Type: Town

County: Saratoga County

Region: Capital District

Population: 36,705

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 Town of Clifton Park adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.
G.R.E.E.N. Committee	Completed	The Government Re-thinking Energy & Environment Now or G.R.E.E.N. Committee was formed in 2007 to help the town government reduce energy use and become greener. A resolution was passed to develop the committee and members are appointed. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Town Board.

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

Action	Status	Description
Government Operations GHG Inventory	Completed	Clifton Park completed a Local Government Operations GHG Inventory in 2014.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Town Hall HVAC Upgrade	Completed	The Town Hall HVAC system and chiller were upgraded. These efficiency upgrades were 100% funded by NYPA and NYSERDA rebates.
Actions from Energy Audits	Completed	The Town has completed a number of energy audit recommendations, including: upgrading to more efficient lighting fixtures, installing energy misers on vending machines, installing motion sensors to activate lights only when rooms are occupied, and adding reflective shades to south facing glass in front of Town Hall to reduce thermal burden on air conditioning.
Clifton Commons Energy Audit	Completed	After completion of the GHG Inventory, the Town identified that energy consumption and costs were high from the use of the lights at the ball fields at Clifton Commons. The Town has identified several strategies to reduce this energy use.
Main St. Streetlight Bulb Replacements	Completed	Streetlights on Main Street and Jonesville Street were replaced with higher efficiency bulbs.
Upgrade Lighting Technology and Reduced Demand	Completed	The Town upgraded to more efficient lighting fixtures, installed energy misers on vending machines, installed motion sensors to activate lights only when rooms are occupied, and added reflective shades to south facing glass in front of Town Hall to reduce thermal burden on air conditioning.
Ice Arena Efficiency Study	Completed	The Town completed an Ice Arena Efficiency Study in 2010.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Energy Efficiency Audit	Completed	An energy efficiency audit was scheduled for all of the buildings in 2011.
LED Streetlight Retrofit at Clifton Country Road	Completed	The Town retrofitted streetlights at key intersections on Clifton Country Road.
Lift Stations Efficiency Improvements	Completed	The Town will work with NYSERDA Technical Assistance to improve the efficiency of the lift stations. New variable frequency drive motors were installed which have resulted in 10-30% lower energy costs
Building and Grounds Garage Lighting Replacements	Completed	The Town replaced the old lighting in the Building and Grounds garage with high efficiency fixtures.
Upgrading Town-Owned Traffic Signals to LED Lights	Identified	According to the G.R.E.E.N. Committee website, this action has been identified by Town as a future consideration. They currently have 14 traffic signals.
Energy Star Benchmarking	Identified	The Town is considering Energy Star benchmarking for Town Hall and Highway Department buildings.
Ice Arena Efficiency Improvements	Identified	The Town will continue to explore options to improve efficiencies at the Ice Arena.
Upgraded Water Filtration Plant	Completed	The Town worked with NYSERDA to improve the efficiency of the lift stations and to install new variable frequency drive motors at the water filtration plant.

Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

Action	Status	Description
Solar Zoning Guide	In progress	The Town is working with Sustainable CUNY to create a guidance document for zoning for solar that can be used by communities across New York State.
Implement a Power Purchase Agreement for Solar on the landfill	Identified	The Town is applying for funding to implement a Power Purchase Agreement for solar on the closed landfill.
Solar on Garage	Completed	A 35kW solar PV installation on the Highway Garage operates off the grid. Funding support was provided by DOE & NYSERDA.

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

Action	Status	Description
Recycling for Town Residents	Completed	The Town offers free recycling for a variety of items. Items that can be recycled include: All recyclable materials, including clothing and shoes, common household trash, leaves and brush, flashlight and car batteries, used antifreeze in a non-reusable container, used motor oil and oil filters, fireplace ashes, and demolition/construction materials.
Shredding Days	Completed	The Town hosted two "Shredding Days", during which 15,000 pounds of paper were collected each day. Participants paid for shredding services by either donating to the local food pantry or to the local Hurricane Irene flood relief efforts of the American Red Cross.
Host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event	Completed	The Town hosts a household hazardous waste event every year. The Town also collects electronics and has experienced a revenue stream as a result of electronics. http://www.cliftonpark.org/hazardouswaste/index.asp
Yard Waste Curbside Collections	Completed	The Town offers yard waste curbside collections, Christmas tree pick-ups, and mulching. The compost from yard waste collection is provided (free of charge) to residents.
Clifton Park Recycles Logo	Completed	The Town designed a Clifton Park Recycles logo posted at the Transfer Station.
Recycling Bins on Common	Completed	The Town placed 35 recycling bins on the Common for cans, glass, and plastic bottles. The program is called, "It's a Common Thing".

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

Action	Status	Description
Bike Rack Program	Completed	The Bike Rack Program promotes walkability and its benefits within the Town community. The program includes the design and installation of bike racks around town, in addition to a bike safety education program for elementary schools, funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
Complete Streets Policy	Completed	In January 2011, the Town issued an RFP to evaluate greener design, water reuse, pedestrian and cyclist friendly designs, and overall integration of more efficient land use. This study was funded by the Town Center Complete Streets Study Grant. The zoning was updated in 2013 to include this policy and a form-based code.

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

Action	Status	Description
Linkage Exit 9 Land Use and Transportation Study	Completed	The Linkage Exit 9 Land Use and Transportation Study was conducted to look at better ways to connect living/working centers and destinations to reduce vehicle trips and encourage increased walkability by planning, design, and safe building. The Town of Clifton Park plans to adopt many of the study recommendations but is waiting for completion of the Town Center Code Revisions Study before doing so. The Town Center Code Revisions Study shares the same transportation goals as the Linkage Exit 9 study.
Open Space Committee and Environmental Conservation Commission	Completed	The G.R.E.E.N. Committee coordinates with the Open Space Committee and Environmental Conservation Commission.
Implement Traffic Demand Management Techniques	Identified	The Town is working to coordinate the traffic signals along Route 146 to reduce congestion. They are collaborating with NYDOT to conduct a feasibility study along the route.
Route 146 and Clifton Country Road Intersection Traffic Study	In progress	The Town of Clifton Park has funded a \$50,000 traffic study targeting the intersection area of Route 146 and Clifton Country Road to determine reasonable traffic calming measures and create a more aesthetic gateway to Clifton Park from Exit 9. Primary study recommendations include a reduction in the number of traffic lanes and an increase in pedestrian accommodations, such as pedestrian refuge center islands, improved strategic lighting, and smart ITS signalization. These will be constructed by Spring 2014.
NY Solar Smart SunShare Program	Identified	The Town submitted a letter of support for a grant application for the NY Solar Smart SunShare Program. NY Solar Smart SunShare is a solar customer aggregation or "group buy" program to targeted employers and municipalities in New York State. The NY Solar Smart SunShare program will provide education on solar to interested employees and will also offer a lower installed cost to employees of partner organizations and municipalities, making residential solar simple and affordable. For example, similar projects implemented by Vote Solar's partners in Arizona, Colorado and San Francisco have led to the installation of over 400 projects totaling nearly 2.2 MW of residential solar capacity at discounted rates of up to 20% below average market prices.
Install EV Charging Stations	Completed	The Town has four EV charging stations (as of September 2015) and has reduced the permitting to administrative review to install new EV charging stations.
Clifton Park Town Center - Form-Based Development Code	Completed	In March, 2015, the Town adopted the Clifton Park Town Center Form-Based Development Code to encourage attractive, mixed-use, pedestrian friendly development in the Exit 9 commercial area.

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

Action	Status	Description
Adopted New York State Unified Solar Permit	Completed	In 2014, the Town collaborated with Sustainable CUNY to implement a solar PV permitting process which removed extra steps and made it easier for residential installations. This process has been used by Sustainable CUNY as a model for other communities to adopt and follow.

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

Action	Status	Description
Town Senior Center Building Generator Addition	Completed	The Town installed a whole building generator in the Senior Center because it is used as a community shelter, and in the past two years, the Center has been opened to provide power, heat, and food during severe ice storms and dangerously low temperatures. The Center also is opened in the summer as a ?cooling station? during extreme heat days.
Sewer Lift Station Generator Additions	Completed	The Town added generators to their sewer lift stations to prevent failures that cause backflow and contamination during heavy rain events.

Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Restoration of Historic Pruyne Tavern	Identified	The Town applied for a grant through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The restoration of the Tavern could provide a new regional destination of interest as well as save energy that would have gone towards building a new structure.
Shop Local Promotion	Completed	The Town has posters in public areas promoting shopping locally to its residents. This campaign encourages community members to shop locally to spur economic growth and also as a way to reduce energy use from vehicles.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Nature Programs	Completed	The Town offers educational programs including interpretive walks and planting of monarch butterfly habitat at the Transfer Station by the Girl Scouts.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Energy Forum	Completed	The Town sponsored an Energy Forum at the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, which brought together utility companies, NYSERDA, and local energy efficiency and audit contractors for energy-related discussions.
Riverfront Clean-Up	Completed	The Town hosted a Fall Community Riverfront Clean-Up event.
2011 Town Environmental Advocacy Award	Completed	In recognition for local green advocacy and participation in town programs, the Town awarded Frank Berlin with the 2011 Town Environmental Advocacy Award.
Home Energy Savings Program Public Presentation	Completed	The Town sponsored a public presentation at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library by NYSERDA on the topic of Home Energy Savings programs.
New Transfer Station Website	Completed	The Town designed a new website for the Transfer Station to be more user-friendly.
Energy Education Program	Completed	In 2015, the Town partnered with National Grid to roll out a pilot education and outreach program aimed at decreasing community and residential energy use through promotion of products which aid in energy use tracking and energy savings.
Children's Energy Vampire Hunt	Completed	The Town conducted the Children's Energy Vampire Hunt during the Annual Halloween Parade. Free glow sticks, provided by an event sponsor, were distributed during the parade to children for safety, and the Trick-or-Treat bags distributed to children included family activity books that included actions to save energy in the home. This activity helped build greater energy impacts awareness, save money, and reduce greenhouse gases.
Tree Sapling Give Away	Completed	The Town hosted a tree sapling give away event on Earth Day. In total, 250 tree saplings were given away.
Online CFL Calculator	Completed	The G.R.E.E.N. Committee website has an online CFL Calculator to help visitors calculate savings from CFL bulbs.
Developer's Breakfast Forum	Completed	The Town sponsored a Developer's Breakfast Forum. The forum was a dialogue to introduce the Town's openness to sustainable building technologies.

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

Action	Status	Description
Participate in Capital Region Sustainability Plan	Completed	The Town participated on Technical Committees to create the Regional Sustainability Plan
Saratoga County Inter-Municipal Stormwater Management Program	Completed	The Town participates in this Inter-Municipal Program. To better manage water resources, and the comprehensive requirements of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Program, Saratoga County has implemented a regional approach through the Saratoga County Inter-Municipal Stormwater Management Program. http://saratogastormwater.org/about-stormwater-management.htm

For more information about the Town of Clifton Park’s climate protection efforts, please contact: Barbara McHugh at (518) 371-6651



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.