



# Climate Smart Communities

November 2015

Village of Green Island

## 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 Village of Green Island'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:** 2014

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

**Total Actions Completed:** 16

**Government Type:** Village

**County:** Albany County

**Region:** Capital District

**Population:** 2,620

## 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 Village adopted the Climate Smart Communities pledge in 2014.

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

Action	Status	Description
Local Government Operations GHG Inventory	Completed	Green Island completed a local government operations for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

## Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Conducted Feasibility Study for LED Street Lights	Completed	The Village conducted an in-house feasibility study for LED street light installations and then received a grant and upgraded traffic light signals. To save energy, the Village also decommissioned flashing lights at seven (7) intersections and added stop signs instead.
Upgraded Traffic Light Signals	Completed	The Village conducted an in-house feasibility study for LED street light installations and upgraded traffic light signals through a grant.
Purchased a Hybrid Vehicle	Completed	The Green Island Power Authority purchased a hybrid vehicle for shared use with the Village.
Replaced Flashing Lights with Stop Signs	Completed	To save energy, the Village also decommissioned flashing lights at seven (7) intersections and added stop signs instead.
Energy Audits of Local Government Buildings	Completed	The Village worked with National Grid to conduct energy audits of the Village offices, the firehouse, and the Town and Green Island Power Authority (GIPA) offices. National Grid compiled the information in a report for the Village and identified financial incentives for energy saving projects through National Grid energy efficiency programs.

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

Action	Status	Description
Green Island Power Authority Hydroelectric Facility	Completed	Green Island Power Authority (GIPA) is a public power authority that owns and operates a hydroelectric facility on the Hudson River. GIPA is a leader in New York State's efforts to develop more renewable and cleaner sources of power, such as hydropower, which is a renewable energy source that is also reliable and low cost.

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

Action	Status	Description
Hazardous Household Waste Collection Days	Completed	The Village contracts with an approved NYS DEC vendor to collect household hazardous waste for Green Island every 1-2 years.
Offer Single Stream Recycling to Residents	Completed	The Village offers curbside, single-stream recycling to residents.
Government Composting Pilot Program	Identified	The Village is interested in developing a composting program for local government operations. The pilot would rely on the Department of Public Works to collect 20-30 composting bins from local government operations and transfer it to Watervliet's composting center.

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

Action	Status	Description
Increase Bike & Pedestrian Access	Completed	The Village received a Community Development Block Grant to install bike and pedestrian paths through part of the Village. Efforts are being made to connect these paths to the bike trails in the neighboring community of Cohoes. New developments in Green Island are required to install sidewalks as part of the permitting process.

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

Action	Status	Description
Implement Green Infrastructure	Completed	The Village completed two green infrastructure projects that increased impervious surfaces and separated sewage and stormwater systems.
First Call Notification System	Completed	The Village uses First Call Emergency Notification system to keep citizens informed during an emergency event.

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

Action	Status	Description
Support Local Green Businesses	In progress	The Village supports local green businesses such as Ecovative, a sustainable materials manufacturer, and Terra Green Packaging, an eco-friendly packaging, labeling, and printing company by providing a business directory on their website and company profiles for those located in the industrial park.

## Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Monthly Newsletter	Completed	The Village highlights green initiatives and achievements in the Green Island Power Authority's monthly newsletter and on their website located at <a href="http://www.villageofgreenisland.com">www.villageofgreenisland.com</a> .

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

Action	Status	Description
Participation in Albany County Stormwater Coalition	Completed	The Village participates in the Albany County Stormwater Coalition to maintain standards set by the Federal Clean Water Act. <a href="http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/">http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/</a>
Participated in Capital Region Sustainability Plan	Completed	Kristin Swinton of Green Island Power Authority participated in Capital Region Sustainability Plan.

**For more information about the Village of Green Island's climate protection efforts, please contact: Sean Ward at (518) 273-2201**



**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.