We all share the same atmosphere.
CO2 level has never been this high, not in all of human history.
Human-caused GHGs have already led to 1.3°C increase in the annual mean temp. in NYS (since 1970).
State Support for Local Climate Action

- Assistance to local gov’t leaders to
  - Reduce greenhouse gas pollution
  - Build resiliency in the face of climate change
- Voluntary. No fees. Sponsored by 6 state agencies.
- Comprehensive. Flexible.
CSC By the Numbers

- **258 Registered** (since 2009)
  - Over 7.6 million people live in these “pledged” communities (39% of NY population)

- **24 Certified** (since 2014)
  - Leaders who have documented progress
  - 885 certification actions approved

Full list at [https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/)
Benefits of CSC

• Free technical assistance

• Guidance & tools:
  • Webinars, email list, website, workshops
  • Certification program: framework for local action, planning, priorities

• Networking: Learn with like-minded community leaders

• Leadership recognition: State-level attention for local leaders

• Funding: Better positioned to compete for funds; **CSC grants; EV rebates**
How are CSC & CEC related?

**Climate Smart Communities Certification**
- Interagency initiative; launched in 2014
- Comprehensive climate action program
- 100+ unique actions
- Improve score on CSC grant applications

**Clean Energy Communities (NYSERDA)**
- Launched 2016; focused on energy use
- 10 high-impact actions
  - 1 of 10 is becoming a Certified CSC
- Complete 4 actions to access CEC grants

- Earn points toward CSC Certification by doing CEC actions
- Do both!
Other funding programs related to climate change
Funding for Electric Vehicles

- **Municipal Clean Vehicle (ZEV) Rebates** from DEC OCC
  - No match; up to $5,000 per vehicle purchased or leased (36 mo.s)
  - Deadline: **July 26, 2019**

- **NYSERDA Drive Clean Rebates**: up to $2k for plug-in hybrids or battery-powered cars

- **NYSERDA Charge Ready NY**: $4,000 per port for qualified Level 2 EV charging equipment at locations that provide public charging, workplace charging, or charging at a multi-unit dwelling
Climate-adaptive Design: Using design to inspire

- Award-winning collaboration with Cornell University landscape architecture students
- Students engage stakeholders to reimagine their waterfront to year 2080
- 4 CaD communities & counting
- $250k awarded for design advancement post CaD
- www.tinyurl.com/CornellICAD
Become the next Climate-adaptive Design community!

• Upcoming Fall studio August-December 2019
• Submit a letter of interest by June 28, 2019 (Sample letter provided)
• Information webinar 10:30am-noon, Wednesday, June 12, 2019
• www.tinyurl.com/CornellCAD2019
CSC Grants
Climate Smart Communities Grants

Where do I apply?

• Apply online via Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) at https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm

• Register in the NYS Grants Gateway for contract mgmt.

When are applications due?

• Deadline to apply: July 26th, 2019 before 4 PM
CSC Grants: Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

- Local governments only
  - Counties, cities, towns, villages in NYS
  - Do NOT need to be a Registered CSC
  - Other entities (non-profits, etc.) can be partners, but not lead applicant
CSC Grants: Match

What is the match?

• Required local **match is 50%** of eligible project costs

• Eligible costs include: travel & equipment
  ➢ Salaries & fringe benefits
  ➢ Contractual services

• Match w/ in-kind municipal staff salaries

• No state or federal funds as match
CSC Grants: Funding Available

$11.7 Million for two project categories:

1. $11 million for Implementation Projects (climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation in the non-power sector)

2. $700,000 for Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Projects (planning, inventories, and assessments)
Implementation: Adaptation

Grant Amount - $10,000 to $2,000,000

Engineering/design max. of 15%

Adaptation project types

- Increasing/preserving natural resilience
- Reduction of future flood risks
- Replacing/right-sizing culverts and bridges
- Extreme heat preparation
- Emergency preparedness
- Completion of activities in FEMA Community Rating System
Implementation: GHG Mitigation

Grant Amount - $10,000 to $2,000,000
Engineering/design max. of 15%

Mitigation Project Types

- Reduction of vehicle miles travelled for daily needs & commuting
- Reduction of food scraps disposed
- Enhanced landfill gas capture
- Reduction of refrigerant use & leakage
CSC Grants: Certification

Award size: $10,000 to $100,000

- Up to 5 grants of between $2,500 and $9,999 each may be awarded to smaller municipalities < 40,000 people

Project types:

- Inventories, assessments
- Planning & strategy development
- In the areas of adaptation, land use, transportation, and solid waste
15 Certification Actions Eligible for Grants

- PE2 Action: Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- PE2 Action: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan
- PE2 Action: Community Climate Action Plan
- PE3 Action: Fleet Inventory
- PE3 Action: Fleet Efficiency Policy
- PE5 Action: Construction and Demolition Waste Policy
- PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements
- PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy
- PE6 Action: Planning and infrastructure for Bicycling and Walking (planning only)
- PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory
- PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- PE7 Action: Climate Smart Resilience Planning
- PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Strategies
- PE7 Action: Heat Emergency Plan

More info at https://climatesmart.ny.gov/
Pass/Fail Criteria

- Applicant is a **municipality** (county, NYC borough, city, town, village of NYS).
- A **municipal resolution** authorizing application submission and 50% local **match** is submitted with the application.
- Application addresses one of the **eligible project categories**.
- The **completed expenditure budget** itemizes costs and clearly articulates the requested funding amount and eligible match.
- The **work program** is detailed and outlines specific tasks to be undertaken from initiation through completion of the project.
- Documentation of **land ownership** or an agreement with the landowner for **land access and use** is provided, if necessary.
Criteria, Scoring, and Evaluation

- Financial hardship
- Climate Smart Communities status
- Readiness (for implementation or for certification)
- Project criticality
- Effectiveness of proposal
- Planning context
- Quality of application
- Reasonableness of cost
Information Sources

• National Climate Assessment (US) http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/
• ClimAid Report - Climate change projections and data for NY http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/climaid
• NY Climate Change Science Clearinghouse https://www.nyclimatescience.org/
• NYSDOH County Heat Health Profiles http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/
• Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines (but applicable elsewhere) https://www.hrnerr.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines/
Information Sources

• Regional/local greenhouse gas inventories
  http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/57170.html - Email climatechange@dec.ny.gov for GHG data from 2010

• NYSERDA: Benefit-Cost Analysis of Potential Food Waste Diversion

• Guide for Assessing Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in an EIS
  https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/56552.html

• List of Climate Change Adaptation Related Indicators
CSC Grants: Additional Info

Where do I get more info?

- Read full RFA at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC)
- Email [cscgrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:cscgrants@dec.ny.gov) or call 518-402-8448
- DEC webinar **Thursday, June 6 at 10:30 AM** – very detailed!
  - Watch for email via DEC Delivers for login info
    - Everyone signed up for CSC email list?
Visit the CFA homepage, https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm:

- Recording of similar presentation
- PDF of the slides with clickable links to other resources
Contact Info

• Office of Climate Change
• NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
• 625 Broadway
  Albany NY 12233-1030
• 518-402-8448
• cscgrants@dec.ny.gov

CSC Certification Portal:
https://climatesmart.ny.gov

CSC Funding Programs:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html

CSC Webinar slides & recordings:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html
Town & Village of Lake George

Dan Barusch
Director of Planning & Zoning
Town and Village of Lake George CSC Efforts

**Town of Lake George**
- Entered program in late 2015
- 87 point towards certification
- 24 completed action items
- 10 action items underway
- 9 out of 10 pledge elements
- Certification expected by end of CY 2019

**Village of Lake George**
- Adopted resolution in 2009, entered program in 2016
- 71 point towards certification
- 20 completed action items
- 8 out of 10 pledge elements
- Certification expected by end of CY 2019
Photos of projects completed

EV Station at Town Hall & Village lot – funded by DEC ZEV grant

LED streetlights – 20% of inventory

Stormwater and GI work – Part of Gateway Project
2016 Climate Smart Communities Grant

• 2016 Application was through the CFA system = very simple
• Submitted for CSC Certification Grant category to complete a Climate Action Plan for the Town & Village of Lake George
  ▪ Joint partnership between two communities was critical
• Awarded $25,000 (50/50 grant) based on a $50,000 project
  ▪ 50% of the “match” is from in-kind salary time (T & V)
  ▪ 50% of match is from Town and Village cash
• Contractual expenses planned = $40,000
Certification Actions proposed for completion under the Joint Climate Action Plan

**Pledge Element 2**
- Action 2.1: Develop a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Action 2.3: Establish a Government Operations Emissions Reduction Target
- Action 2.5: Develop a Government Operations Climate Action Plan

**Pledge Element 6**
- Action 6.17: Develop a Natural Resources Inventory

**Pledge Element 7**
- Action 7.1: Conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Action 7.2: Develop Climate Smart Resilience Vision and Associated Goals
- Action 7.3: Review of Existing Plans/Projects to identify “Sustainability gaps”
- Action 7.4: Develop Climate Adaptation Strategies
Joint Lake George Climate Action Plan

- Retained Climate Action Associates to complete the CAP work w/ municipal staff
- Project timeframe 2017-2019
- Part of Work Plan to submit for 30 +/- Certification points
- Once complete, Lake George (T&V) will be the 1st two CSC ‘Bronze’ communities in ADK Park

Progress:
- Overall project at roughly 75% complete as of today
- GHG Inventories completed
- Emissions Reduction Target
- NRI underway (at 50%)-GIS
- CAP strategies / goals and report writing
After Certification – Then What?

- Use CSC certification as 4th High-Impact Clean Energy Communities (CEC) action item and get CEC-certified
- Additional grant funding / project opportunities!!
  - CSC “Implementation” Grant! Big projects??
  - Certified = bonus points
- Continue implementing CAP strategies and goals
- Keep working towards Silver by completing more actions
- Work on a Warren County-wide CSC effort
Photos of future projects to be funded

LED Streetlight Conversion – National Grid Program

Water/Sewer Pump Station Upgrades (highest energy user)

Complete Streets Projects

Alternative Energy Facility (Solar Farm)
Contact Info

Dan Barusch
Director of Planning and Zoning
Town and Village of Lake George
dbarusch@lakegeorgetown.org
(518) 668-5131 (x5)
City of Cohoes

Robyn King
Deputy Director of Economic Development & Planning
City of Cohoes

- Registered Climate Smart Community since 2009
- Designated Clean Energy Community since 2017
- DEC ZEV Rebate Program Awardee
  - 2 Charging stations on Remsen Street, 1 on VanSchaick Island
- Received NYSERDA funding for Comprehensive Plan update and Zoning Code Update
- Priorities
  - Decrease energy use & transition to renewables
  - Encourage walkability – infrastructure & services
  - Infill development & preservation of open space
  - Stormwater management through design
Grants Strategy

• Vision for Cohoes to be a “quality of life” city
• Focus on strategies, services, developments that highlight our assets and rebuild critical infrastructure
• Sustainability and resiliency are critical to our revitalization
• Project ideation is consistent – funding sources are not
Phase I
Phase II

• Combination of funding sources
  • $464,100 from Climate Smart Communities Grants
  • $300,000 from Community Development Block Grants
  • $400,000 of bond money (approved by the Cohoes Common Council)
  • $250,000 (for Phases I and II) from National Grid
• City utilized consultant to submit grant through CFA process
• 50/50 match being supported through municipal bond
Holistic Approach

- Sustainability is a **lens** in the City
- Planning for additional projects to compliment growing portfolio
- Remsen Street reconstruction is tied to other projects:
  - Canal Square Park
  - CDPHP Cycle!
  - DEC ZEV Rebate Program
  - **Private Developments** - Remsen Place, Mosaic Village, Remsen Street Rehab Properties
- Historic Center Re-opening
- Music Hall Investments
Questions?

Robyn King

Deputy Director of Economic Development and Planning

Email: rking@ci.cohoes.ny.us

Phone: (518) 233-2130