

# Clean Energy Communities News

*Moving our communities toward sustainability.*



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## Director's Corner



By Todd Fabozzi / Director of Sustainability,  
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Welcome to the tenth edition of the Eastern Upstate New York Territory's (Territory) Clean Energy Communities (CEC) quarterly newsletter. [The CEC program](#), funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), is delivered within the Territory by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) through a unique partnership of regional agencies, which includes the Adirondack North Country Association, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, and the Hudson Valley Regional Council. The Partnership is also supported by Climate Action Associates, LLC and Courtney Strong Inc.

Communities across the Territory are receiving technical support from our team and actively completing "high impact" actions in their pursuit of CEC Designation. Communities must complete four actions to achieve CEC designation. Designated communities qualify for match-free grants to design and implement clean energy projects. Currently, 188 communities within the Territory have completed a total of 567 "high impact" actions, 95 communities are officially designated and advancing program funded projects, and many others are working through the designation process. Designated communities within the territory have qualified for \$6,685,020 in project funding to date.

Continue reading to learn about recent program activities and some of the exemplary actions local governments are taking to become sustainable and energy efficient. [Contact your regional outreach coordinator](#) if your community is interested in becoming a Clean Energy Community.

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## New Clean Energy Coordinator Joins Mohawk Valley Team

In June 2018, Amy Wyant joined the Mohawk Valley Clean Energy Communities team. Amy has an eclectic background that ranges from Microbial Ecology research to Systems Administration for a Social Justice Video Coalition in San Francisco, CA. Currently, Amy is the CEO of Total Geekery, a local small business consulting firm with branches in Syracuse and Richfield Springs, NY. In her free time, Amy has been an integral part of forming and building the Richfield Springs Community Food Cooperative, along with previous Mohawk Valley Clean Energy Coordinator, Dan Sullivan.



As the Mohawk Valley Clean Energy Coordinator, Amy's main focus is at the [Mohawk Valley Economic Development District](#) (MVEDD) is providing technical assistance to municipalities in the six county region, through the Clean Energy Communities Program. MVEDD also provides assistance to local businesses through gap lending. Cabryn Gurro administers the NYSERDA Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP) from the MVEDD office. CEEP assists residents as well as local businesses reduce their energy consumption and energy costs. MVEDD loan fund sources include the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (REDC), federal Rural Development Agricultural funds, as well as New York State Job Development Authority Agriculture Loan funds. MVEDD is also an arm of the federal EDA for infrastructure grants to local municipalities.

Amy can be reached at [awyant@mvedd.org](mailto:awyant@mvedd.org).

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## Village of Kinderhook Works Towards Clean Energy Communities Designation



*Front Row: Nicole Heeder, Village Treasurer and Village Clerk.  
Back Row Left to Right: Bill Mancini of the Village CSCTF, Janice Eisen the owner of the Prius (1st customer), Larry Eisen, her spouse and Captain in the Village Volunteer Fire Department, Rob Meehan of the Village DPW, Deputy Mayor and CSCTF liaison Rich Phillips, Nate Becker of the Village DPW and Mayor Jim Dunham. Photo Credit: Siobhan Connally*

In June 2016, the Village of Kinderhook (Village) approved a resolution to adopt the New York State Climate Smart Community Pledge (Pledge). The 10 elements of the Pledge commit the village to an evolving process of climate action in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Here's an update on the community's work to date.

### **What is the Kinderhook Climate Smart Task Force?**

The Task Force consists of community volunteers, Warren Applegate, Kim Gray, Aileen Leventon and Bill Mancini, invited by the village to consider various climate smart initiatives which might be suitable for Kinderhook. The Task Force exists solely as an advisory and informational committee. Mayor James Dunham and Deputy Mayor Rich Phillips are active participants at all meetings. Tara Donadio, NYSERDA CEC from the Capital District

Regional Planning Commission, also attends many meetings offering valuable suggestions and assistance.

### **What is the mission of the Climate Smart Task Force?**

- To listen, research and set goals for climate initiatives
- To inform and advise village officials and the public
- To assist with climate smart innovation projects

### **The Task Force at work:**

The Task Force is working to achieve a Clean Energy Community designation for the village. This designation will make the village eligible for grants from NYSERDA. In order to do so, the village must complete four impact actions.

[Read More](#)

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## **Town of Plattsburgh Invests Clean Energy Communities Award In Various Projects**

The Town of Plattsburgh (Town) received a \$100,000 award from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for completing at least four of the 10 High Impact Actions and qualifying as a Clean Energy Community.

- **[Benchmarking](#)** - Plattsburgh adopted a policy to record and report annual energy consumption at Town Hall, allowing it to be compared against other buildings and to better identify opportunities to cut energy waste.
- **[Clean Fleets](#)** - Installed an EVCS.
- **[Solarize](#)** - Joined the Solarize Adirondack Coast campaign. The town used a \$5,000 grant to work with two local companies to bring affordable residential solar to more than 20 households, for a total installation of 164 kilowatts.
- **[Unified Solar Permit](#)** - Adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction. The town received a \$2,500 incentive for this action.
- **[Energy Code Enforcement Training](#)** - Town of Plattsburgh code-enforcement officers and two other Town employees underwent training in best practices in energy code enforcement through collaborative plans reviews, and joint onsite inspections of local construction projects.



*Left to Right: Meg LeFevre, Town Board Member and Deputy Supervisor; Michael Cashman, Town Supervisor; Trevor Cole, Senior Planner; Malana Tamer, Planning Technician*

The Town is utilizing the \$100,000 in grant money from NYSERDA to help fund four projects.

[Read More](#)

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## Mid-Hudson Region Communities Round Up

### LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION SUPPORT

- **Cost and Energy Savings:** Many communities are converting their streetlights to LEDs and capturing significant cost and energy savings by doing so! Communities are aggregating their streetlighting projects in partnership with NYPA to bring costs down in several of our counties.
- [Hudson Valley Regional Council \(HVRC\)](#) can provide significant assistance to your community, including provision of an LED Streetlighting Conversion Costs Analysis. This analysis outlines side-by-side the potential savings for LED conversion in both utility and municipally-owned conversion pathways, based on your community's current street lighting bills.
- Contact HVRC today at (845) 564-4075 to sign-up for your free LED Streetlighting Conversion Costs Analysis!

[Read More](#)

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## Municipal Street Light Conversion Opportunity for Communities in the North Country Region



Do you want to reduce energy costs for your community?

In December, ANCA's Clean Energy team and contractor partners [Troy & Banks](#) and [Wendel Energy](#) led a two-day workshop for municipal leaders focused on [aggregated LED street light design](#).

To learn more about LED street light aggregation, contact us at [energy@adirondack.org](mailto:energy@adirondack.org).

Photo: ANCA Energy Circuit Rider Nancy Bernstein presents at the two-day workshop at the [Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Clinton Community College](#).

[Learn More](#)

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## April 19th Workshop in the Capital Region: How Your Community Can Engage with the Climate Smart Communities Program

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program, one of 10 High Impact Actions communities can complete to become a Clean Energy Community, provides municipalities with a robust framework to guide their local climate action.

CSC Certification recognizes high-performing communities for their leadership in reducing emissions and adapting to a changing climate. Designed around 10 pledge elements, the CSC Certification program honors communities for their accomplishments through a rating system leading to four levels of award: Certified, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Communities can choose from more than 120 individual actions to earn points toward certification.

Attend the workshop at the Guilderland Library on April 19th to:

- Learn about the CSC program, greenhouse gas inventories, climate action planning and CSC grants available to municipalities
- Hear from local municipalities about their experience with the CSC program
- Identify the technical assistance your community can receive from a Clean Energy Community Coordinator

Register Here: <https://conta.cc/2XnHsN7>

[View Agenda](#)

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## Designated Eastern NY Clean Energy Communities

A total of **96 communities** have been named Clean Energy Communities in the Eastern NY Region.

The following communities demonstrated their commitment to clean energy by participating in the Clean Energy Communities Program. These communities completed at least four High Impact Actions to earn the Clean Energy Communities designation.

### Mid-Hudson

Ulster County  
Town of New Castle  
Village of Dobbs Ferry  
City of Kingston  
Town of Red Hook

### Capital Region

Albany County  
Town of Bethlehem  
Schenectady County  
City of Cohoes  
Town of Niskayuna

Town of Rosendale  
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson  
Village of Croton-on-Hudson  
City of White Plains  
City of Yonkers  
Town of Ossining  
Town of Somers  
Town of Marbletown  
City of New Rochelle  
City of Beacon  
Town of Mamaroneck  
City of Peekskill  
Village of Goshen  
Sullivan County  
Town of Bethel  
Orange County  
Town of Bedford  
Village of Mount Kisco  
Town of New Paltz  
Village of New Paltz  
Town of Warwick  
Village of Wappingers Falls  
Village of Port Chester  
Village of Brookville  
Town of Saugerties  
Town of Tusten  
City of Rye  
Village of Mamaroneck  
Town of Cortlandt

## **North Country**

Lewis County  
Town of Franklin  
Village of Canton  
Town of Plattsburgh  
Village of Champlain  
Village of Saranac Lake  
Town of Keene  
Town of Black Brook  
Town of Malone  
Town of Westport  
Town of Colton  
St. Lawrence County  
Town of Waddington  
Town of Leyden  
Town of St. Armand

Town of Knox  
City of Albany  
Town of Clifton Park  
City of Glens Falls  
Town of Hillsdale  
Town of Ancram  
City of Saratoga Springs  
City of WaterVliet  
City of Troy  
Village of Voorheesville  
Town of Queensbury  
Town of Edinburg  
Town of New Scotland  
Town of Catskill  
town of Chatham  
Town of Ghent  
Village of Altamont  
Town of Guilderland  
Village of Philmont  
City of Hudson  
Town of Nassau

## **Mohawk Valley**

City of Gloversville  
Village of Ilion  
City of Rome  
Village of Boonville  
Town of Charleston  
Village of West Winfield  
City of Amsterdam  
Village of Canajoharie  
City of Utica  
Town of Winfield  
Town of Northampton  
Village of Northville  
Village of Sharon Springs  
Village of Waterville  
City of Sherrill  
Village of Herkimer  
Otsego County  
Fulton County  
Village of Fort Plain  
City of Oneonta  
Village of Cherry Valley

For a full list of communities throughout New York State, visit the [NYSERDA website](#).

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