

Local Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning in Lake George

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Climate Crisis – local level impacts

- Most people understand Climate Change, but it is harder to grasp the impact of Climate Change at the local level
- Impacts range from big to small and near-term to long-term
- **Weather** – storm frequency/intensity, droughts/floods, heat waves, wildfire/smoke, severe weather impacts society,
- **Water/Hydrology** – changes in rainfall, stream flow, water elevations, and water quality
- **Nature** – invasive species (aquatic and land), deforestation



THE POST STAR

BREAKING NEW DETAILS

Man Rescued from Atop Truck in Flooded Motel Parking Lot
Lake George

NEWS 13
CHANNEL

Live

BREAKING NEWS

Flooding Damage
Lake George

NEWS 13
CHANNEL

Climate Crisis – local level impacts

- **Transportation** – roadway damage, bridge/culvert damage and failure, railway and airport impacts, freight impacts
- **Infrastructure** – Storm drainage damage/undersized, sewer overflows and inflow/infiltration or pump seizures, flood impact to potable water systems
- **Public Health** – illness/deaths, homelessness exacerbated, lack of proper food availability/nutrition
- **Government Operations** - insurance/costs and all types of properties, constant hazard/emergency response (result in lack of ability to address all)



Solutions Big and Small

- Education!!
- Campaigns and Programs – join a movement
- Plan for Mitigation – reduce/prevent GHG emissions
 - Power generation / use (Built environment)
 - Automobile emissions / use (Transportation)
 - Reduce/Reuse/Recycle! (Waste Management)
- Plan for Adaptation – adjusting to the impacts/effects
 - Alter behaviors and norms (Social)
 - Policy and Law (Regulatory)
 - Rightsizing! (Infrastructure)
 - Improve Capacity/Efficacy (Resiliency)

Solutions Big and Small

Avoid the unmanageable

Manage the unavoidable

MITIGATION

ACTION TO REDUCE EMISSIONS
THAT CAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable
transportation



Clean energy

Energy
efficiency



ADAPTATION

ACTION TO MANAGE THE RISKS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



Water
conservation



New energy
systems



Local food



Education



Complete
communities



Urban
forest

Disaster management
& business continuity



Flood
protection



Infrastructure
upgrades

Mitigation

Adaptation



Renewable
energy

More efficient
industrial processes



Eco-friendly
transportation

Seasonal eating
and less meat



Increase in urban
green areas



Awareness-raising



Water and energy
saving



More resilient
agricultural
species

Delimitation of
coastal risk areas



Entomological
surveillance

Flood barriers in
urban spaces



Lake George Climate Action Plan

- Developed in 2018-2020, with assistance from Climate Action Associates (CAA)
- Developed with assistance from a 2017 Climate Smart Communities Certification Grant (\$25,000)
- Joint effort between the Town of Lake George and the Village of Lake George
- Under guidance from the joint T/V Go Green Committee, which acts as the LG Climate Task Force
- Adopted by both communities in 2020
- Mitigation AND Adaptation/Resilience

Lake George CAP - Adaptation

Land Use and Zoning		
Priority	Action	Description
High	Enable Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)	Use CCA as a means of promoting sustainable electricity supply without need of large solar developments in community.
Low	Utilize Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations to Limit Fragmentation	Include review of open space linkages in subdivision and site plan evaluations.
Low	Formally Adopt Smart Growth Principles	Pass resolution formally endorsing Smart Growth principles, include community's desire to adhere to Smart Growth principles in comprehensive plan, and complete EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Toolkit.
Infrastructure		
Priority	Action	Description
High	Adopt Green Infrastructure Inclusion Requirement Policy	Pass resolution mandating inclusion of green infrastructure, where appropriate, in all municipal streetscape improvement, road reconfiguration and stormwater projects.
High	Adopt Policy Requiring Municipal Infrastructure Projects to Accommodate Climate Projections	Pass resolution that lists local climate projections for 2050 and mandates all infrastructure projects be designed to accommodate these parameters.
Environmental Monitoring and Intervention		
Priority	Action	Description
High	Gain Tree City USA Recognition	Meet the Arbor Day Foundation's four standards for recognition as a Tree City USA
Low	Implement Extreme Weather Event Tracking	Develop and maintain database of extreme weather events to establish "new normal" weather and identify locations of repetitive negative impacts.
Planning, Coordination & Outreach		
Priority	Action	Description
High	Update Town of Lake George Comprehensive Plan	Update comprehensive plan to comprehensively address the impacts of climate change, environmental conservation and community sustainability vision.
High	Include Climate Change in Planning Documents	Integrate climate vulnerability analysis data, as well as climate adaptation planning and funding, into existing emergency planning and funding documents.
Low	Create Flood Plain Management Plan	Leverage new FEMA flood plain data to create comprehensive floodplain management plan for community. Coordinate with County to combine knowledge, share resources, and create comprehensive floodplain management.

Adaptation and Land Use Policies

- Smart Growth Policies
 - Planned Unit Development ordinance 175-14
 - Commercial Design Guidelines and Regulations
- Green Infrastructure and LID Policies
 - Planned Unit Development ordinance 175-14
 - Stormwater Regulations Chapter 148
- Complete Streets Policy (under development)
 - To address Public transportation/roadway projects
 - To address Private development in commercial/mixed-use zones and areas with walkability
- Public Infrastructure Policy (2025)
 - To address rightsizing infrastructure for >100 year storms

Green Infrastructure – Route 9 Gateway



Tree City USA – Arbor Day Foundation

- The Tree City USA program provides communities with a **four-step framework** to maintain and grow their tree cover. It also gives them an avenue to celebrate their work, showing residents, visitors, and the entire country that they're committed to the mission of environmental change
- Publicly demonstrating your commitment to the environment is a great way to build pride among residents, as well as position your community as an attractive place to live. To help you share your award, Arbor Day Foundation sends signs, flags, press releases, and other materials after your acceptance.

Tree City USA – Town and Village

- **Tree Board or Department** – The T/V Go Green Committee also acts as both communities' Tree Board
- **Community Tree Ordinance** – Both T/V adopted “Tree Care” ordinances in 2020 (public/street/park trees), administered by Planning & Zoning
- **Spend \$2 per capita on urban Forestry** – Town spends roughly \$6-12 per capita and Village \$8-14 per capita (\$'s spent / population of community)
- **Celebrate Arbor Day** – each year the T/V do an Arbor Day Proclamation as well as a Tree Planting event

Tree City – T/V Event, 5/20/24



- 30 attendees
- NYS DEC
- Literature, handouts, etc.
- Tree Planting / Demo
- Tree Dedication



Future efforts

- Adopting pending policies under development, particularly the Complete Streets Policy
- Comp Plan updates – Sustainability/Resilience element
- Floodplain Management Plan – following FEMA flood zone mapping updates
- 2025/2026 CAP update
- Potential property acquisition (w/ LGLC) for watershed protection and/or ecosystem protection

Conclusion / Summary

- Local action is just as effective! Join “programs” for goal-setting
- Low – hanging fruit is always “there” you just need to find it, document it and keep it going
- Larger projects require a “champion” or a group to be effective and successful - Develop a Committee?
- Get buy-in from local legislators, and have them consider different forms of policy/regulation
- Go after funding sources. Spending dollars on Climate Action saves dollars in the long run.

THANK YOU!



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