



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



**Climate Smart
Communities**

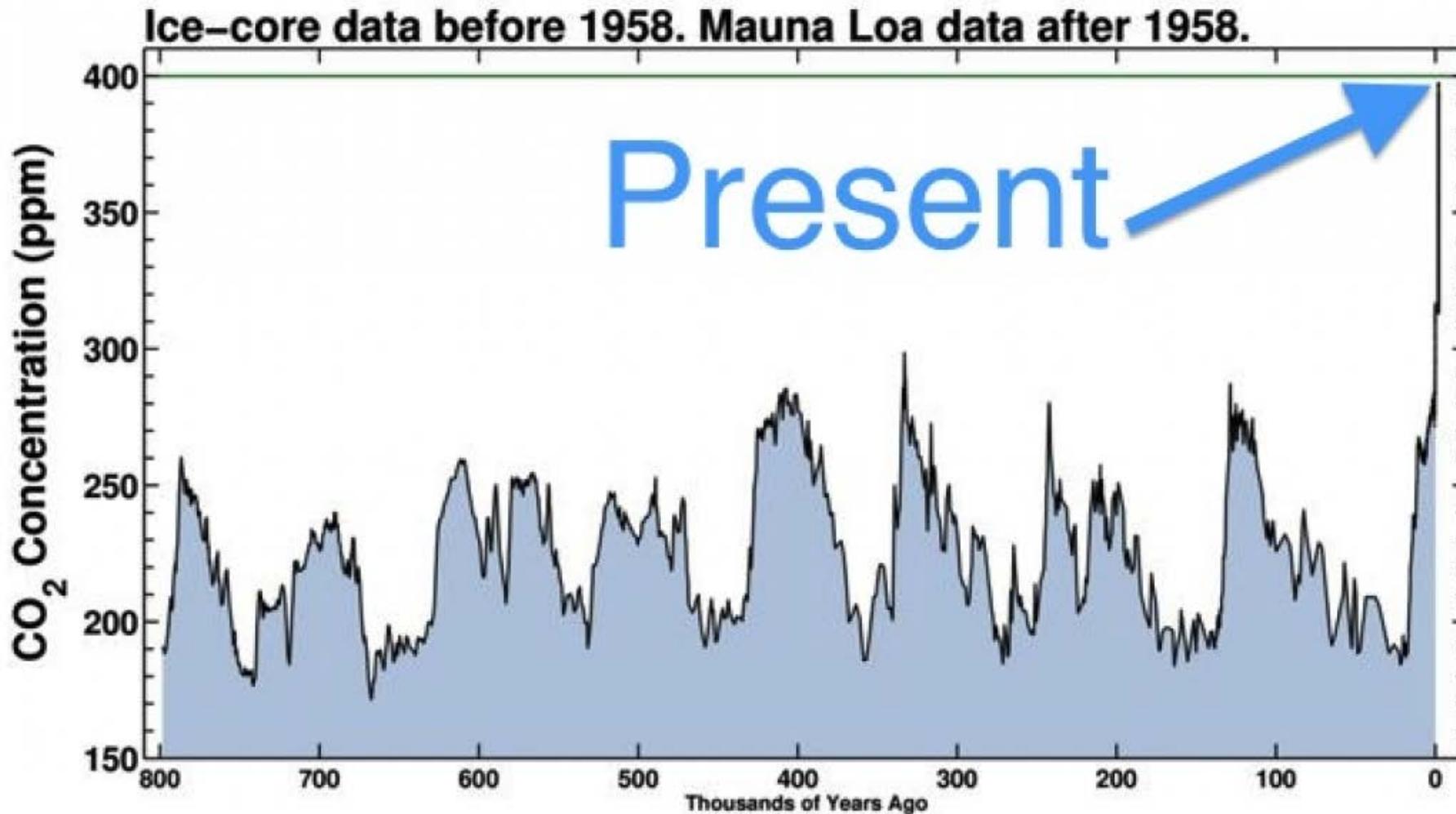
Climate Smart Communities

Grants & Support for Local Governments

**Dazzle Ekblad
DEC Office of Climate Change
February 27, 2019**

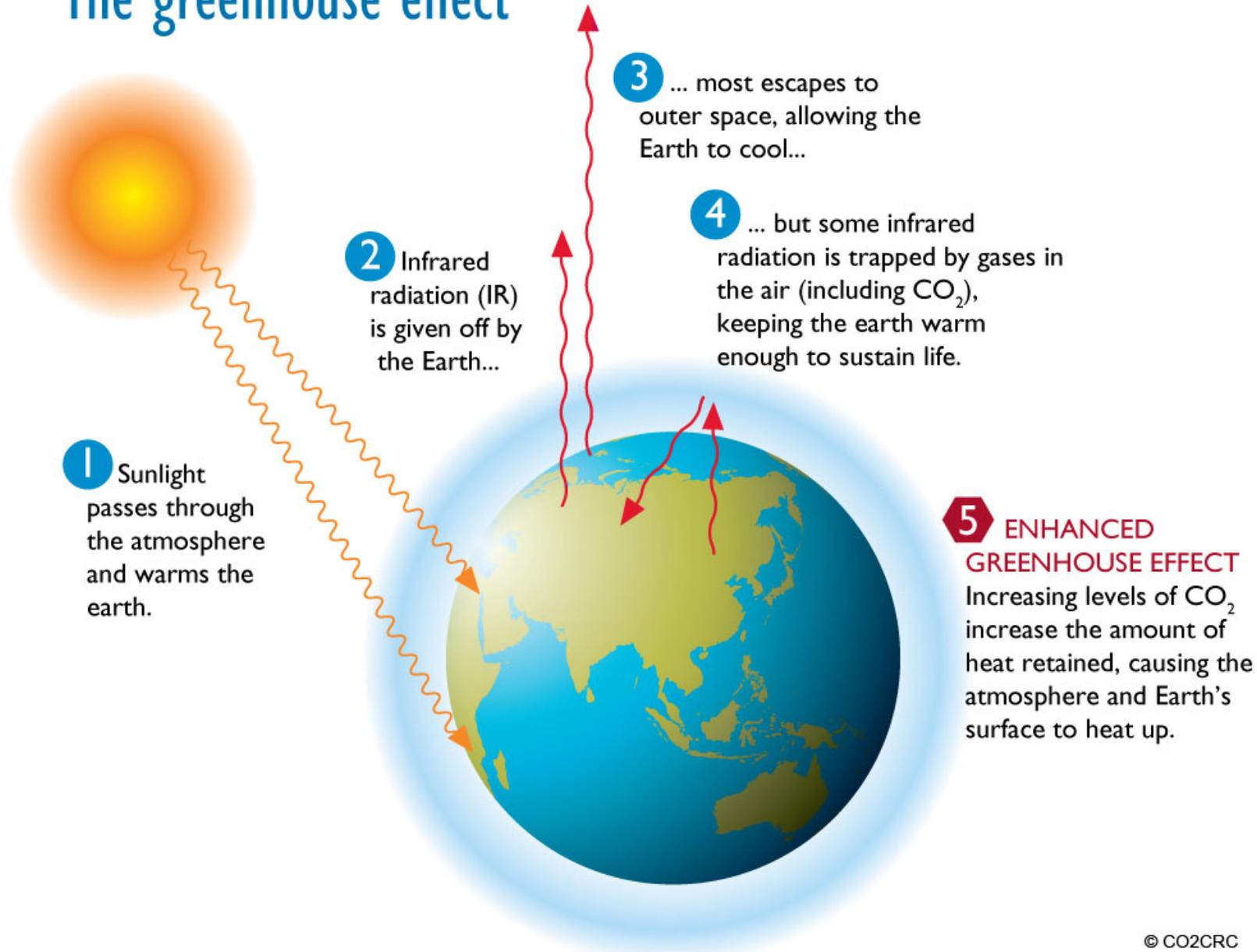
We all share the same atmosphere.





CO₂ level has never been this high, not in all of human history.

The greenhouse effect



Human-caused GHGs have already led to 1.3°C increase in the annual mean temp. in NYS (since 1970).



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Climate Smart Communities

State Support for Local Climate Action

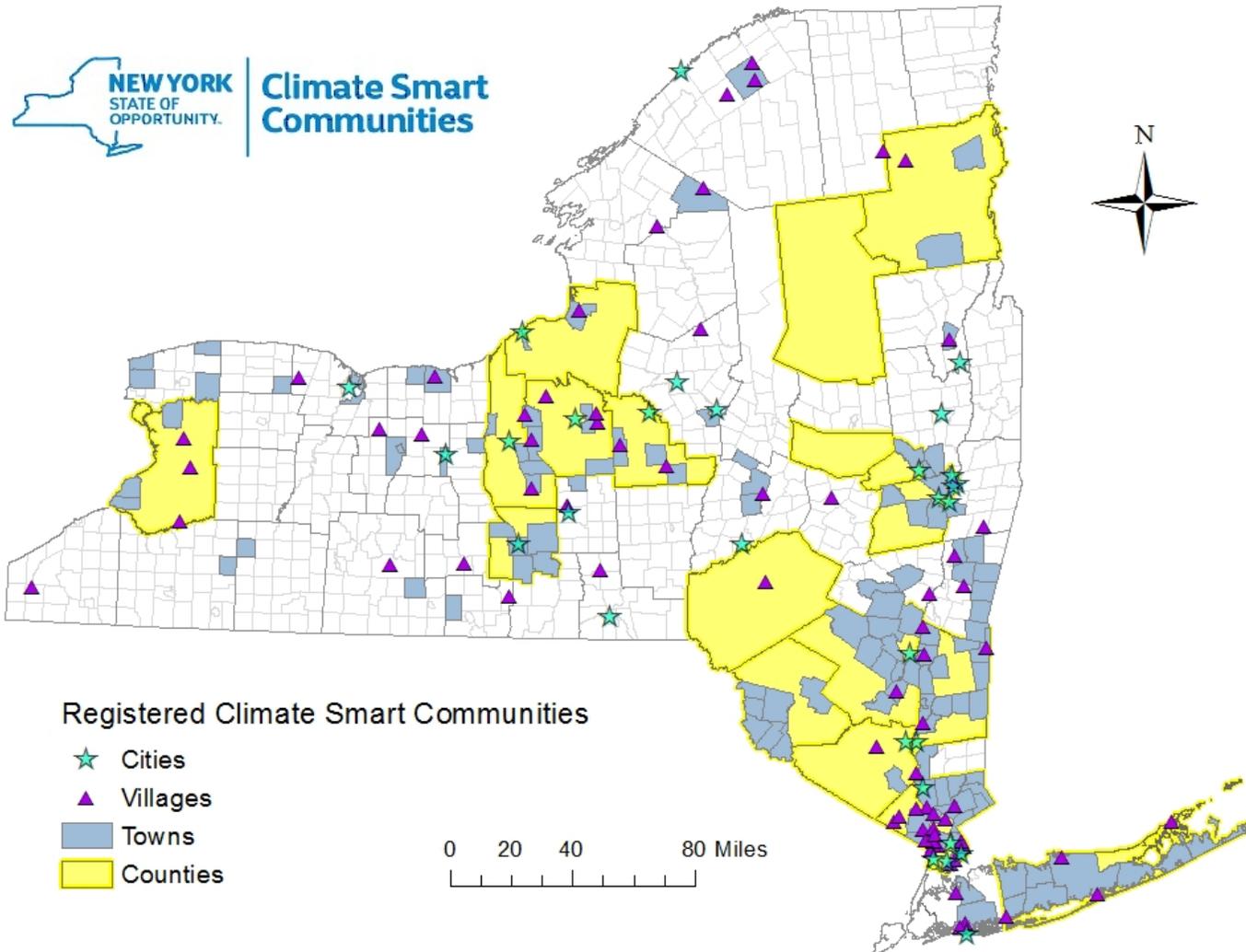


- Assistance to local gov't leaders to
 - Reduce greenhouse gas pollution
 - Build resiliency in the face of climate change
- **Voluntary. No fees. Sponsored by 6 state agencies.**
- **Comprehensive. Flexible.**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

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/>

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?

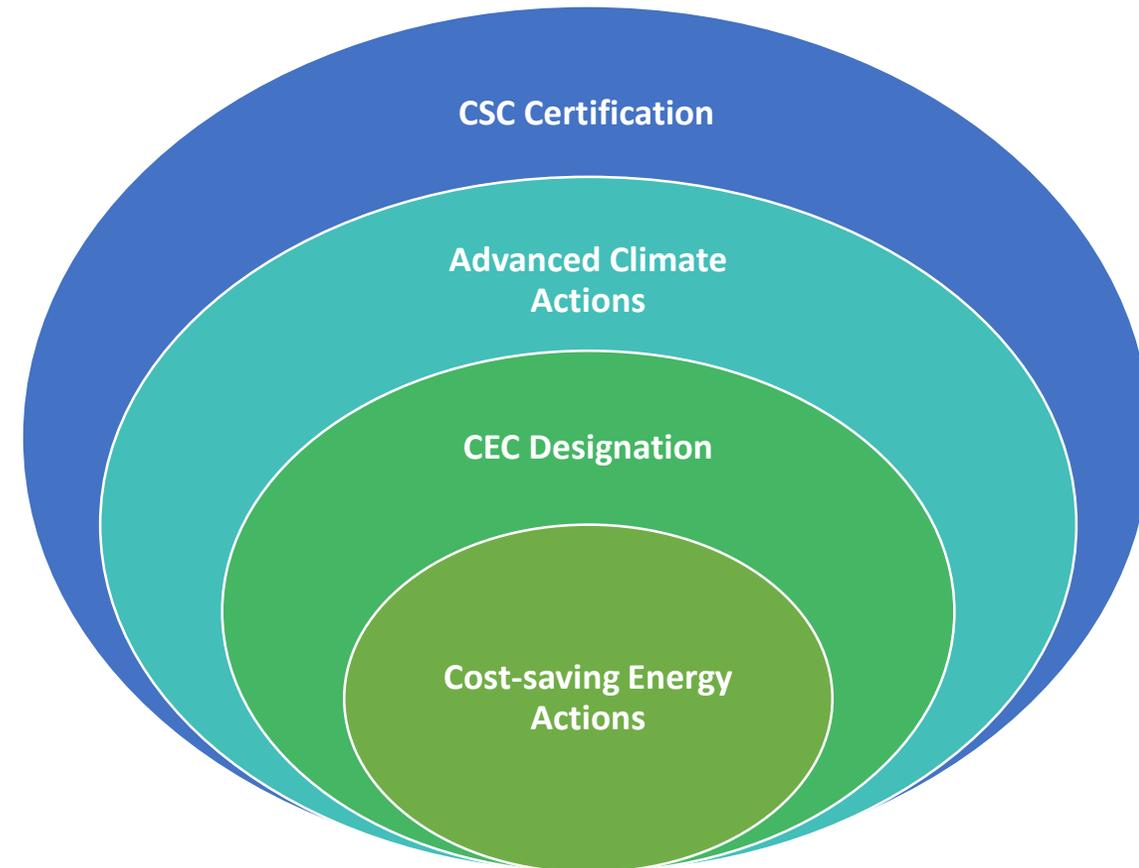
Climate Smart Communities Certification

- 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



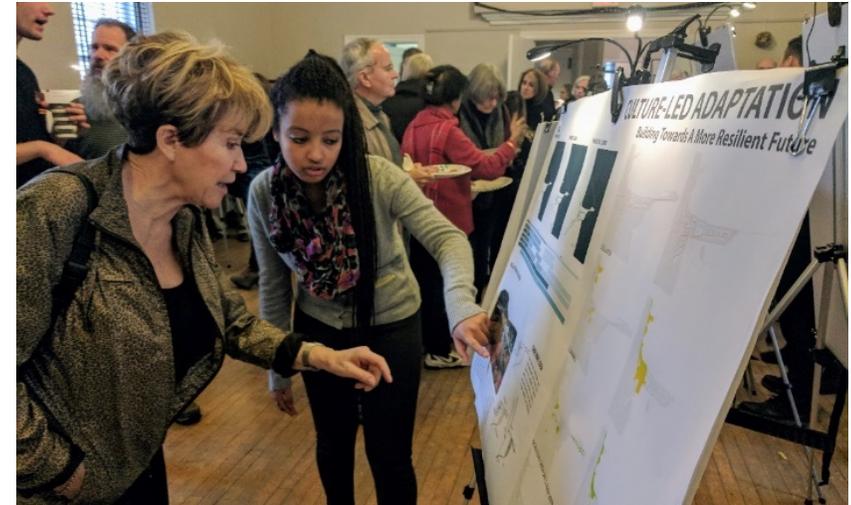
Climate-adaptive Design: Using design to inspire

- 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/CornellCAD



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



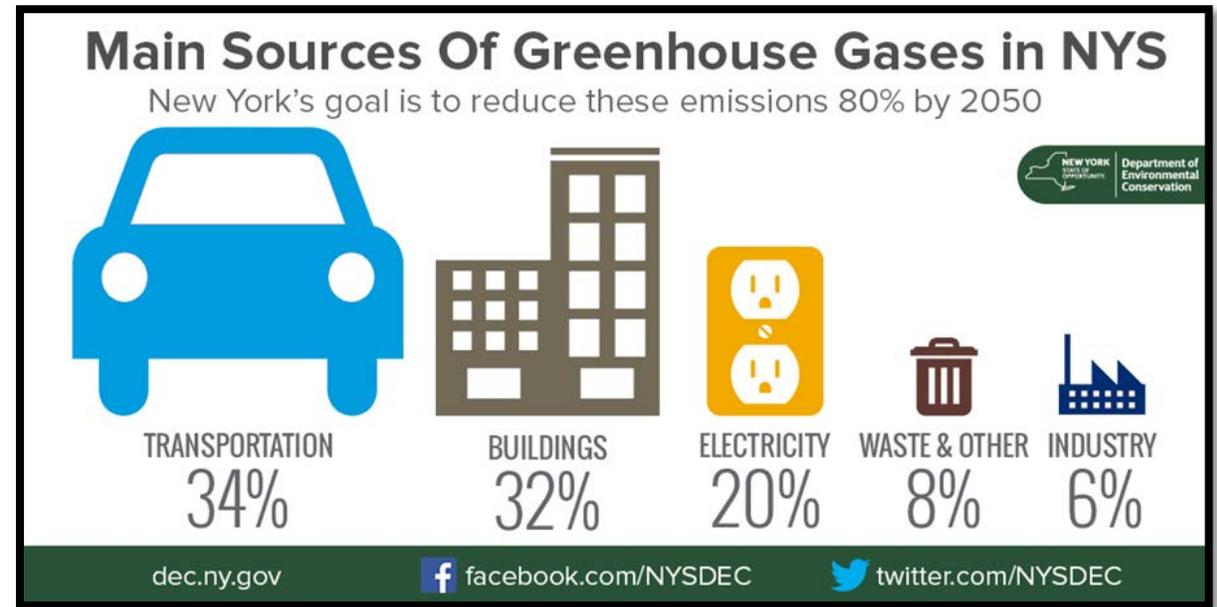
Implementation: GHG Mitigation

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/>



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

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.hrner.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines/>



**Climate Smart
Communities**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

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
<http://www.adaptationclearinghouse.org/resources/cleaner-greener-communities-program-sustainability-indicator-guidance-document.html>



Climate Smart
Communities



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

CSC Grants: Additional Info

Where do I get more info?

- Read full RFA at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC>
- Email 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?

As part of Governor Cuomo’s transformative plan to improve the state’s economic development model, a NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) has been created that will streamline and expedite the grant application process. The CFA process marks a fundamental shift in the way state resources are allocated, ensuring less bureaucracy and greater efficiency to fulfill local economic development needs.

Utilizing the CFA serving as the single entry point for access to economic development funding, applicants will no longer have to slowly navigate multiple agencies and sources without any mechanism for coordination. Now, economic development projects will use the CFA as a support mechanism to access multiple state funding sources through one application, making the process quicker, easier, and more productive.

The CFA system is also the mechanism for Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) project sponsors to submit applications.

To proceed with your CFA, please use the **Log In** or **Register** buttons.

New - Cloning an Application

To save time you can now Clone an application from the previous year. [Click here to learn how.](#)

Log In

Register

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

Links



Regional Council Guidebook

Learn more about the eighth round of REDC awards with up to \$750 million to fund regional priority projects.



Available CFA Resources

For Round VIII, there are over 30 programs available through 11 state agencies.



CFA Application Manual

Online webinar of each program that is offered through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).



Program Recorded Webinars

An online recorded webinar applying through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).



Program Application Questions

A list of questions or the available programs in the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).



2019 CFA Workshops

Open House Workshops available to the public for the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).



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



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Town and Village of Lake George CSC Efforts

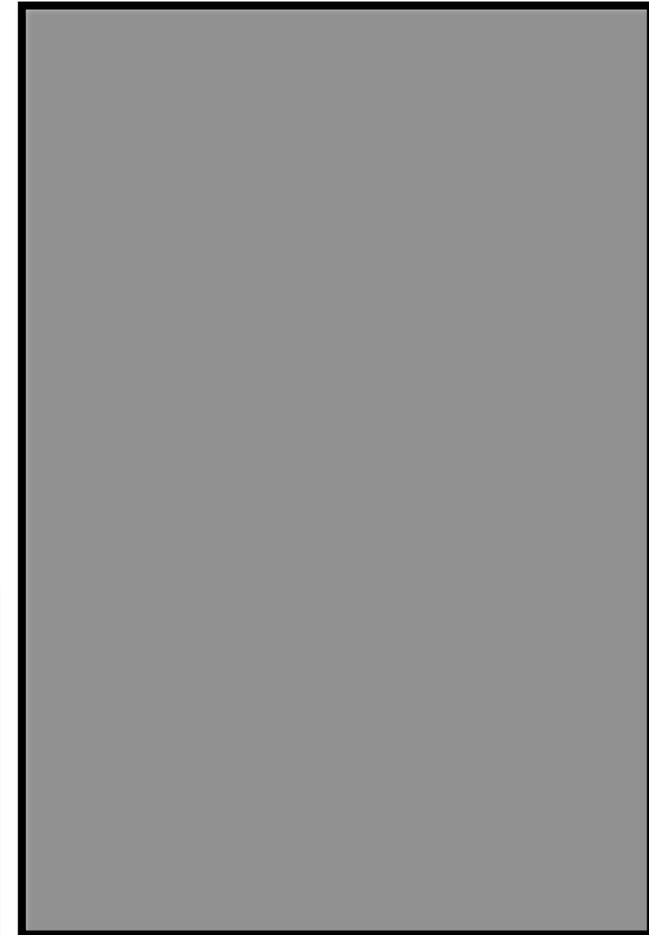
Town of Lake George

- 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



Stormwater and GI work – Part of Gateway Project

LED streetlights – 20% of inventory



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

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)



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

City of Cohoes

Robyn King

**Deputy Director of Economic
Development & Planning**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

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



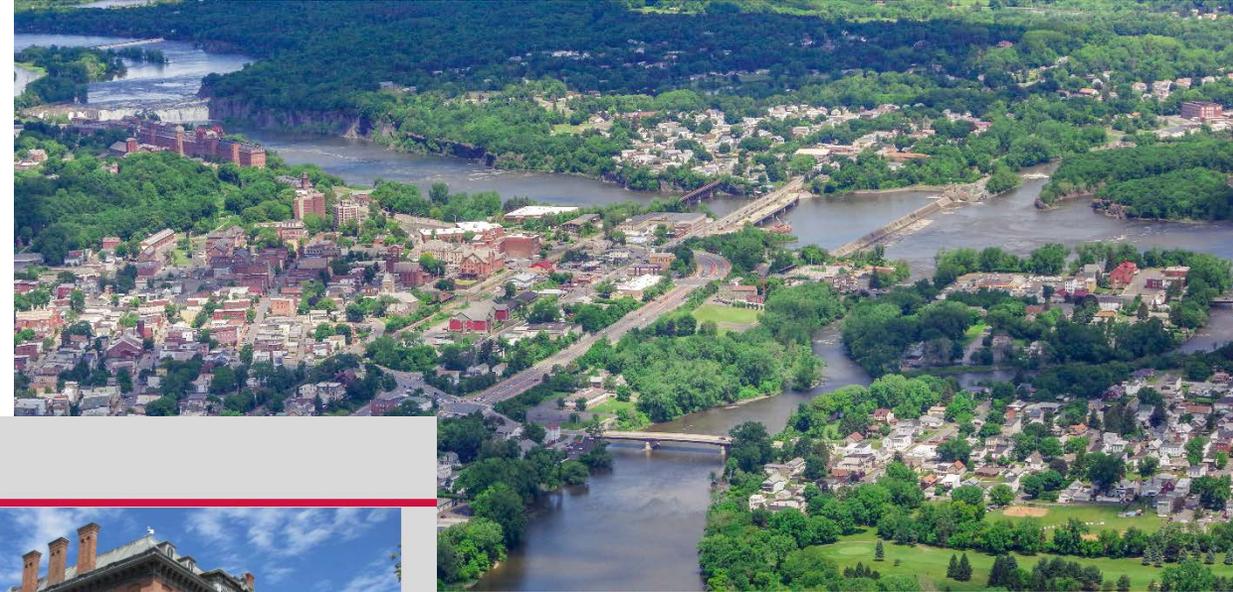
**Climate Smart
Communities**



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

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



**2017 Cohoes Proud
City of Cohoes Comprehensive Plan**

Adopted August 22, 2017

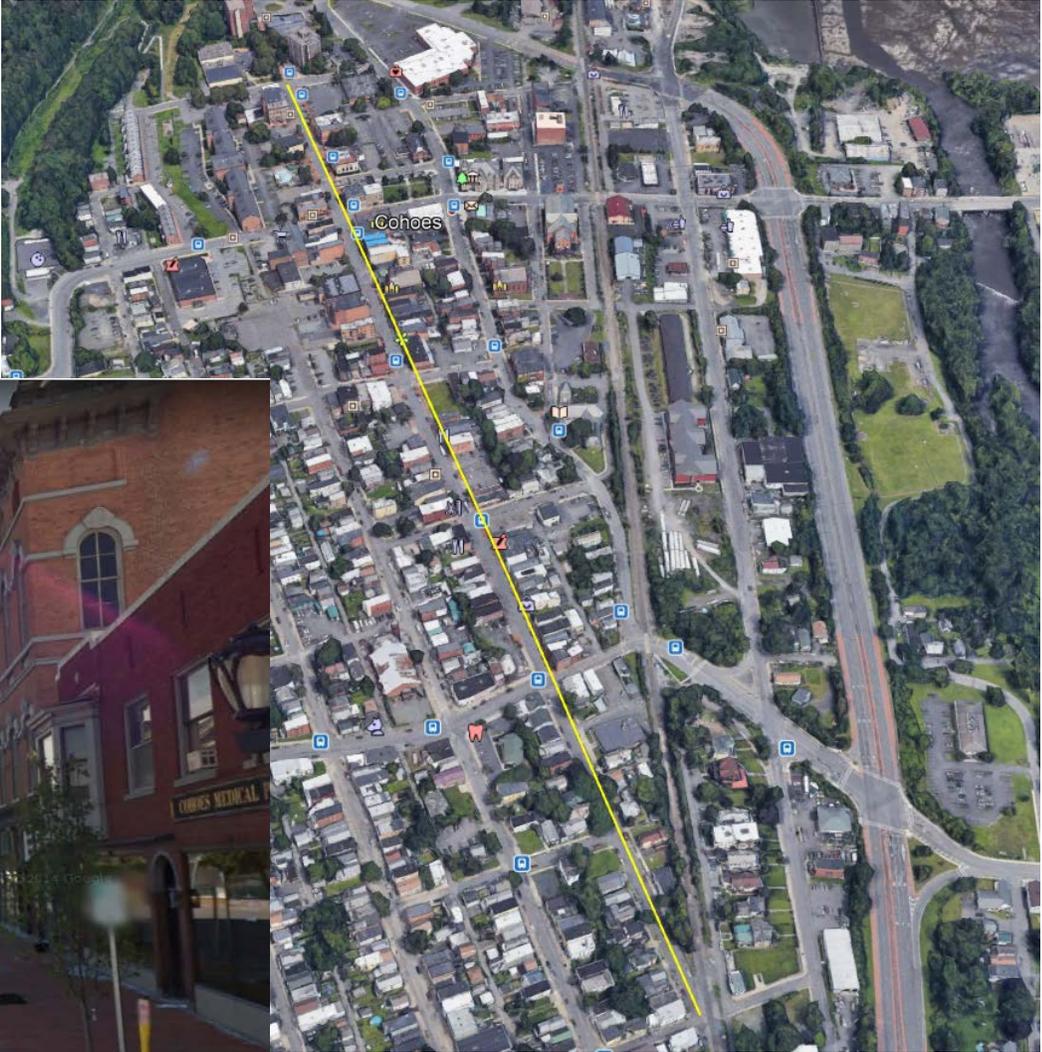
Laberge
ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
Group
SUSTAINABLE
PLANNING

A Computer Group Inc. - Albany, New York 12205
(518) 466-0112 - www.labergegroup.com

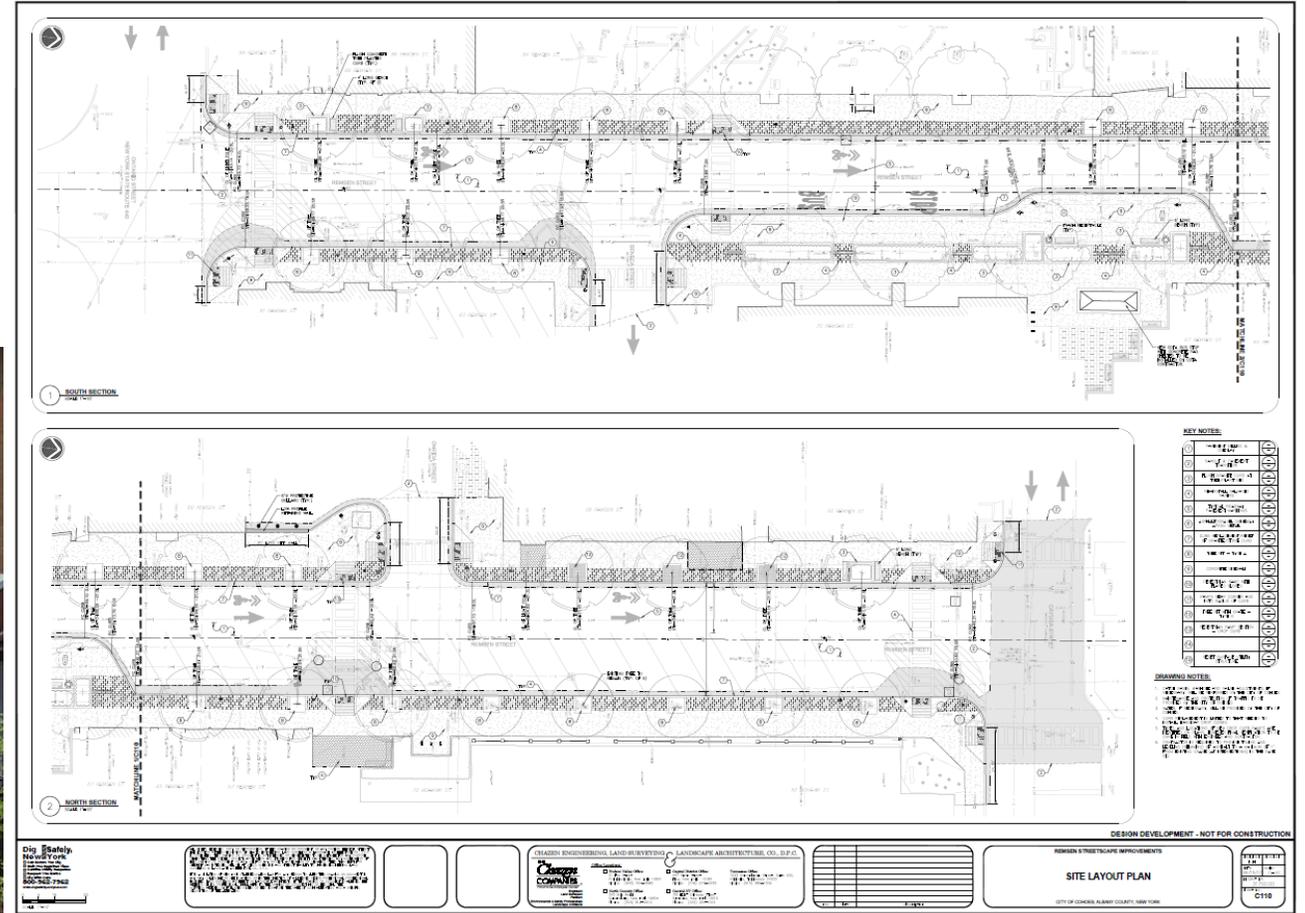


**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Remsen Street



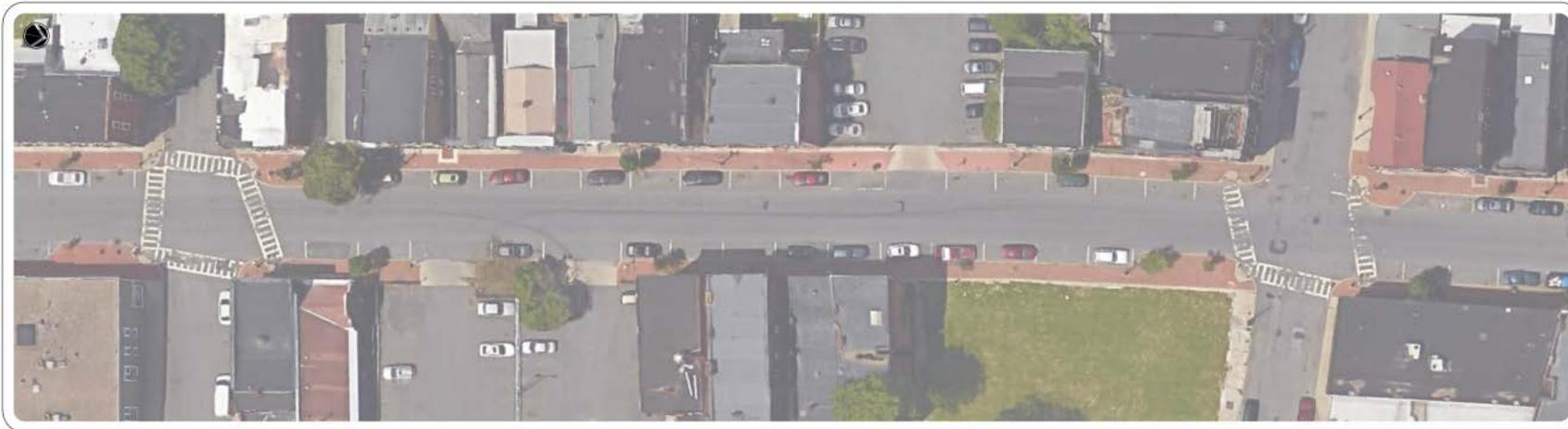
Phase I



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





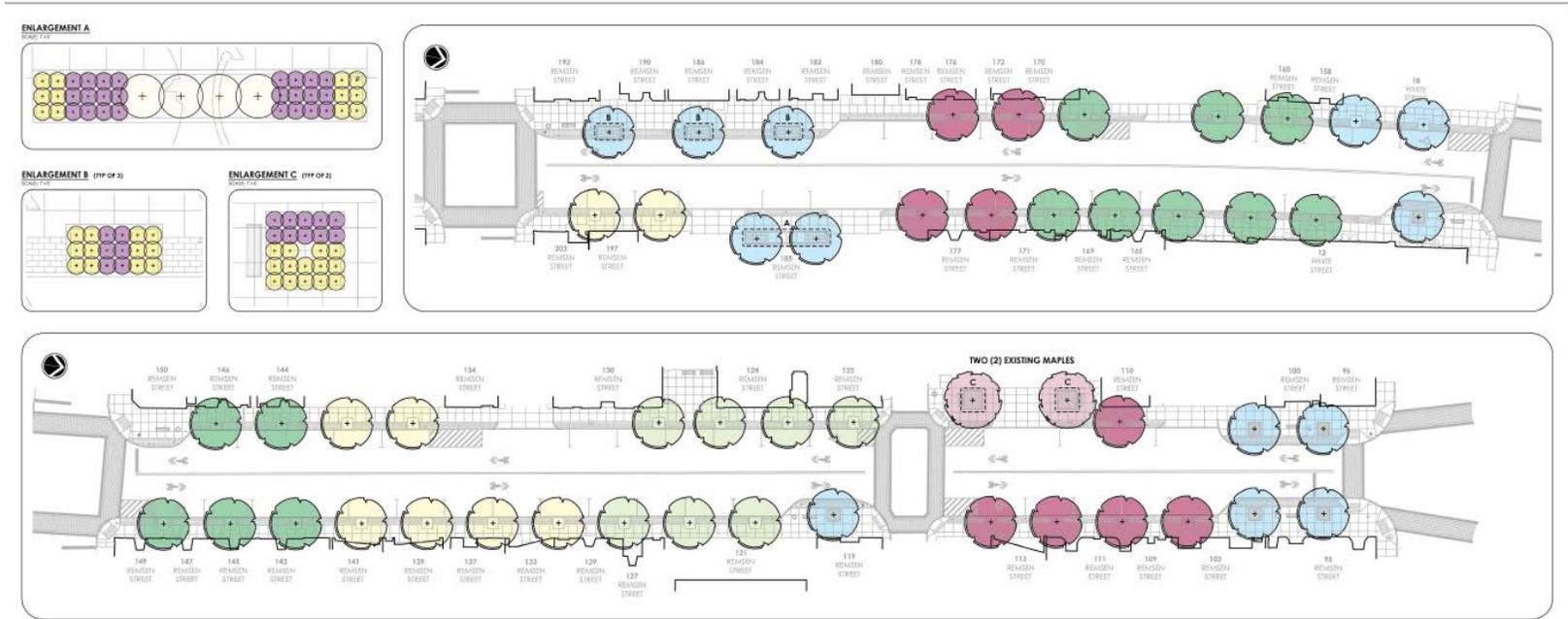
CITY OF COHOES, NY
AUGUST 10, 2018



REMSEN STREET
BUSINESS DISTRICT
EXISTING CONDITIONS
DOWNTOWN COHOES



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Acer x Freemanii 'Senna'
Senna Glen Maple



Gleditsia triacanthos 'Skyline'
Skyline Honey Locust



Liriodendron tulipifera 'Emerald City'
Emerald City Tulip Tree



Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood'
London Plane Tree



Tilia x mongolica 'Harvest Gold'
Harvest Gold Linden



Hydrangea arborescens 'Anabelle'
Smooth Hydrangea



Echinacea purpurea 'Ruby Star'
Ruby Star Coneflower



Rudbeckia fulgida var. *fulgida*
Black-Eyed Susan



Narcissus 'Mount Hood'
White Trumpet Daffodil

CITY OF COHOES, NY
AUGUST 10, 2016
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

REMSEN STREET
BUSINESS DISTRICT
LANDSCAPE IMAGERY BOARD
DOWNTOWN COHOES



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



CONCEPT DESIGN

NOTE: THE SITE ELEMENTS AS SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE, COMPILED FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES, & SUBJECT TO ANY STATE OF FACTS A CURRENT SURVEY WOULD DISCLOSE

CITY OF COHOES, NY
JULY 28, 2017

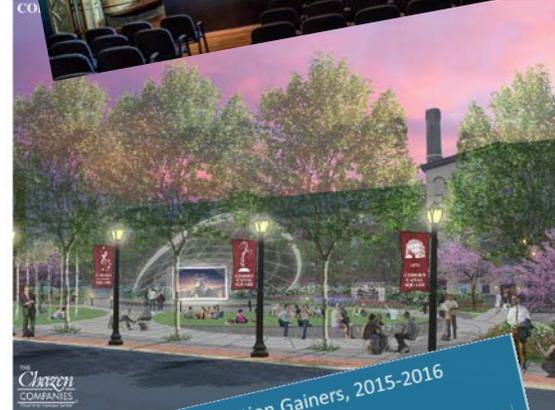


REMSEN STREETScape
BUSINESS DISTRICT
RE-IMAGINED
STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS PLAN



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



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Questions?

Robyn King

Deputy Director of Economic Development and Planning

Email: rking@ci.cohoes.ny.us

Phone: (518) 233-2130



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**