



Taking the Next Step

Community Wide Climate
Action Plans (CCAPs)

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Community CAP Sector Review

Built Environment – Energy Use and Supply

Transportation

Waste – Solid and Sewage

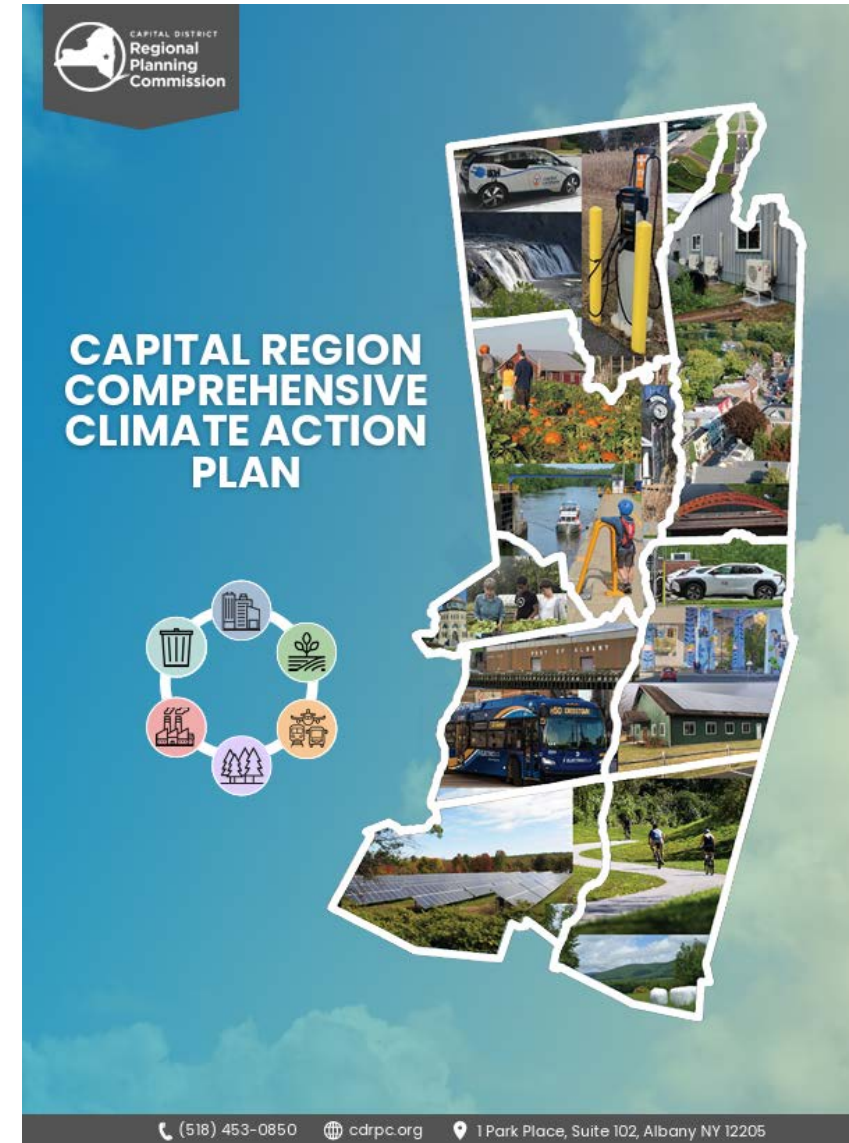
Agriculture

Industrial Process and Product Use

Land Use and Forestry - Sequestration

Capital Region Climate Action Plan

- Community-scale CAP for eight counties
- Establishes 67 climate measures across all sectors, and local GHG inventories to municipalities.
- Starting point for community CAPs
 - Local GHG inventories help communities understand key sources
 - Communities adopt relevant CCAP measures to fast track local policies, projects, strategies.
- Includes tools to help you build a local CAP.
 - GHG Inventory Template
 - Community CAP Template
 - NRI Template



Why Community Climate Action Matters?

Residents and businesses drive 98% of emissions

While Government Operations is a natural starting point for communities to manage what they own, most emissions are from residents and businesses.

Local levers are real

Zoning, building codes, fleets, transit, procurement and waste contracts sit squarely with local government.

Co-benefits are meaningful

Cleaner air, lower utility bills, safer streets and resilient infrastructure provide benefits to the community.



What is a Climate Action Plan?

A community-wide roadmap that sets a measurable emissions target, names the actions to reach it, and assigns owners, funding and a reporting cadence.

Scope / Inventory

All community emissions, not just municipal operations

Targets / Goals

Science-aligned, pragmatic, and adopted by council

Measures: Mitigation and Adaptation

Policies, laws, actions, strategies, and partnerships with named owners and timelines

Financing and Accountability

Annual inventory update and public progress report

Emphasis – Community Engagement is the plan.



Keep it continuous

Keep it visible on the website, send surveys, incorporate into routine communications from the community. Change takes sustained messaging over years.

Meet people where they already are

Libraries, faith groups, schools and markets — not only town hall on a Tuesday night.

Pay for the expertise you ask for, if needed

Stipend advisory members; provide childcare, and transit. Cast a wide net for experts.

Engage key partners early

Trade organizations, schools, agricultural cooperatives, key businesses and industries... many of these organizations will engage if invited.

Comprehensive Plans and CAPs?

Community Climate Action Plans

- Voluntary documents adopted by resolution
- Contains goals and community vision
- Details projects and budgets, and responsible parties
- Creates accountability of public officials
- Provide advantages for NYS funding

Comprehensive Plans, and updates

- Adopted by resolution with additional requirements and review
- Higher SEQRA review standards
- Binding on zoning law requiring consistency
- Less project specific, more community goals

Integrate them?

- It's a good idea if you are doing a Comp Plan update

THE CAP PLANNING PROCESS



8-16 months, 12-20 CSC Task Force Meetings, 3-4 public events

GETTING STARTED

Phase 1: Build the Foundation and Kickoff

2-3 months

1

Pass a Climate Smart Communities Resolution

Formal municipal commitment that unlocks CDRPC technical assistance and CSC grant eligibility.

2

Form a Climate Task Force

Bring together elected officials, department heads, and community volunteers to lead the effort. Develop a CAP workplan and determine if you need consultant support or can it be taken on in-house.

3

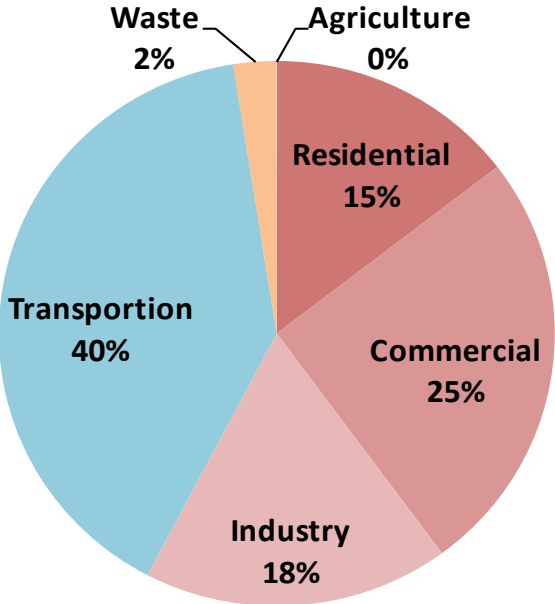
Announce the CAP and Start Community Engagement

Announce the effort widely. Publish the workplan and hold a public kickoff. Keep visibility high with positive messaging throughout.

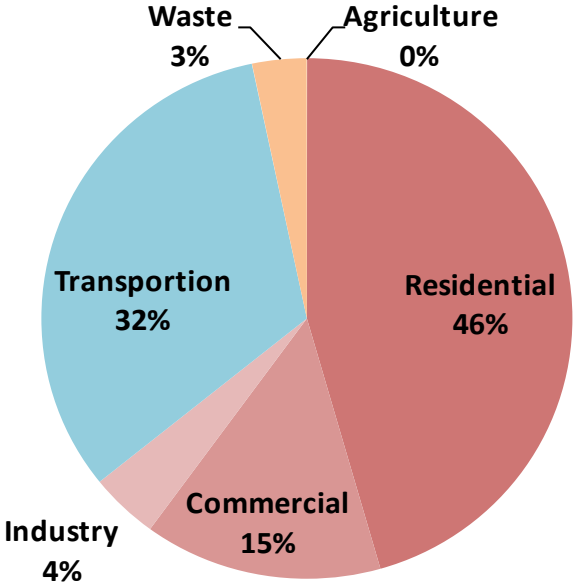
Phase 2: GHG Inventory & Baseline – 2022 or more recent.

2-3 months

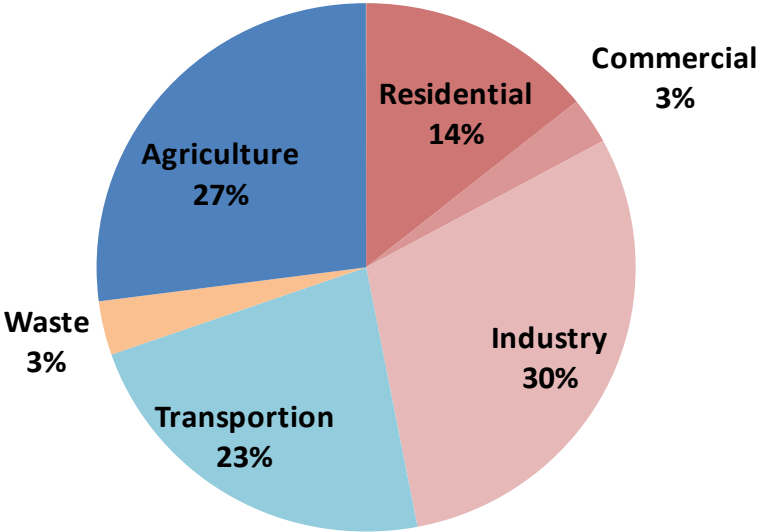
Review your inventory from CDRPC and modify it as needed. Develop a simple GHG inventory summary that identifies key sectors, actors, and partners. Present it to the CSC Taskforce and to the public.



City of Albany



Town of Kinderhook



Town of Fort Anne

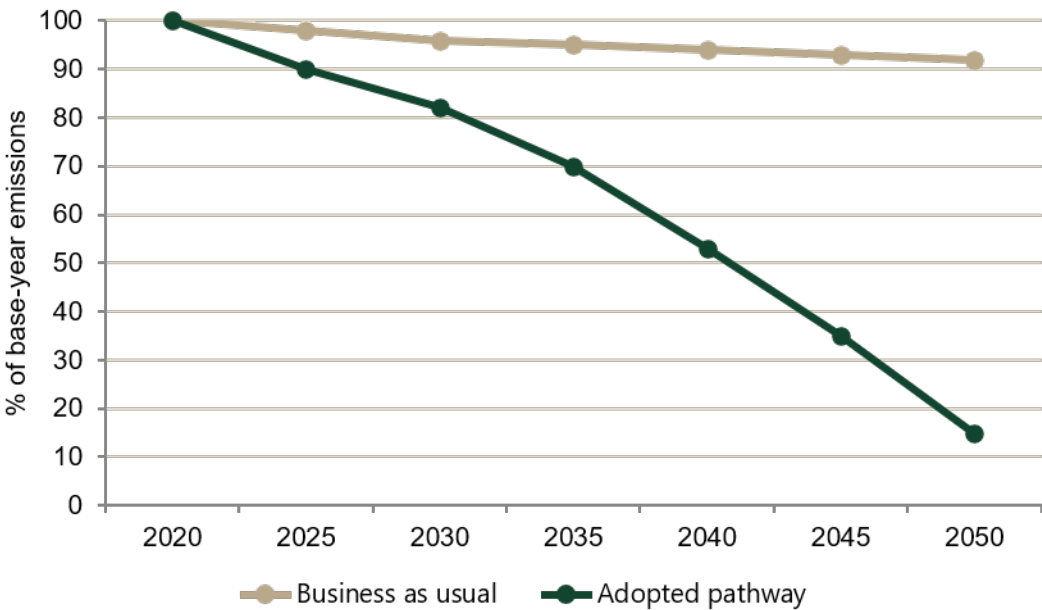
Phase 3: Set Vision, Goals and Targets

1-2 months

Community Vision on Climate

Reflects the tone of the community’s stance on climate, sustainability, and related issues. This statement may emphasize assertive goals and targets as a call-to-action, or it may adopt emphasis on finding pragmatic, market-driven solutions that create practical benefits for citizens.

Set Medium (2035) and Long Term (2050) GHG Targets and Related Goals



Phase 4: Select Sector Measures, and related Local Actions

4-10 months



Buildings & Clean Energy

Benchmark municipal buildings, adopt energy codes, support weatherization and heat pump incentives. Encourage renewables and the NY All Electric building Act



Transportation

Expand EV charging, complete streets, transit access, and municipal fleet electrification.



Agriculture

Promote sustainable practices to increase carbon in soils. Reduce and capture methane from livestock operations, etc.



Waste & Materials

Expand organics/composting programs and improve recycling diversion rates, and, energy recovery from WWTPs, etc.



Land Use and Forestry

Enable solar and storage siting, join Community Choice Aggregation for renewable power.

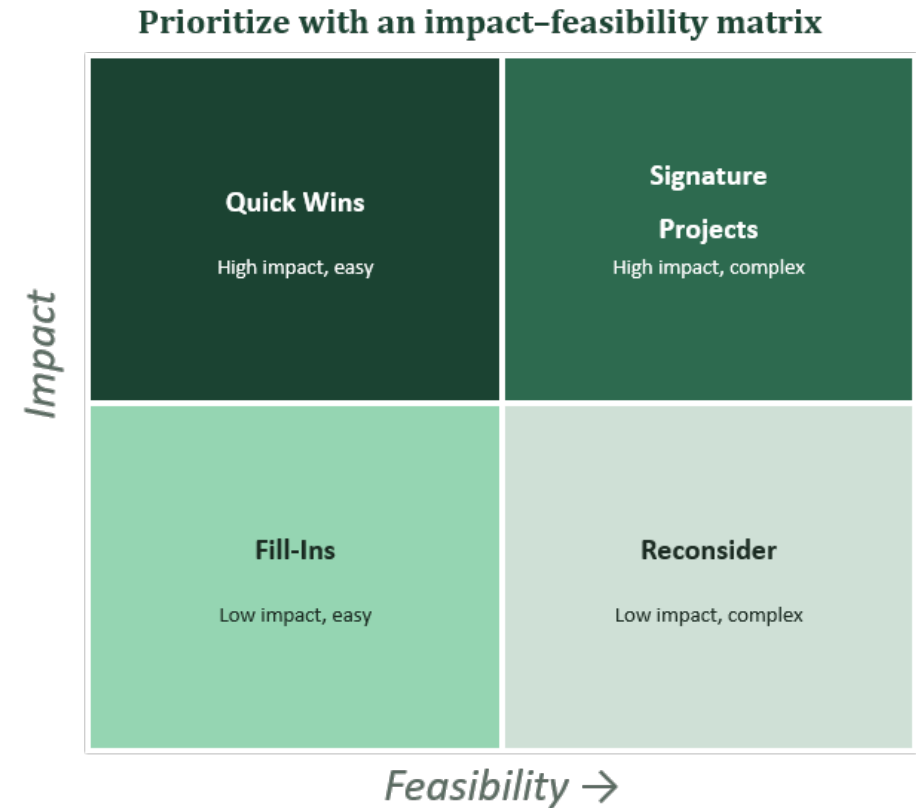


Industrial Process / Product use

Develop refrigerant recycling programs, promote use of low GWP refrigerants in projects brought to planning board, etc.

Sample CSC Task Force Process for a Sector

- For each sector set up two or three CSC meetings.
- Meeting 1: Review sector inventory and select relevant measures from the CDRPC regional CCAP. Set sector goals.
- Meetings 2/3: Under each measure, brainstorm **local** policies, laws, projects, and initiatives for each.
 - Describe it
 - Characterize GHG benefits (low, med, high)
 - Identify implementation lead
 - Set budget needs and funding sources
 - Define metrics needed to track progress
- Rank action and adopt a final list, with emphasis on quick wins and signature projects in each sector.



What are Local CAP Actions in a Measure?

- **Planning and Zoning, Local Ordinances** – e.g., Public EV charging, rental energy codes, energy storage and solar zoning laws, gasoline lawn equipment ordinances, etc.
- **Projects** – Investments in community infrastructure, public/private partnerships, advanced pilots (TENS), charging infrastructure development.
- **Policies/Plans** – Procurement policies, decarbonization roadmaps for HVAC systems, public EV charging plans, or simple outreach practices like, “distribute heat pump pamphlets to building permit applicants”.
- **Partnerships and Initiatives** – partnerships with CBOs, schools, utilities, and businesses that support the effort or lead related efforts.

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Draft the Plan

Basic Components

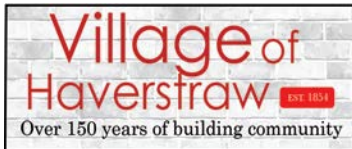
- History of climate action
- Review process and outreach
- Goals and vision, and targets
- GHG inventory review
- Summary of sectors: measures, actions, benefits, and tracking metrics
- CAP management process, including updates and ongoing outreach

Adoption

- Present draft CAP for public comments and official review
- Present for final adoption

Be Flexible – Keep it Living Project

- Content is dynamic, plan for it.
 - Empower the CSC Task Force to make changes routinely to projects
 - Avoid legacy programs or references, encourage new items



Strategy E-1.2: Facilitate renewable energy sourcing and installation for residents & businesses.

E-1.2.1	Offer community solar program for residents.	Management, Policy	Village Hall	Community solar program launched, number of participants tracked.
E-1.2.2	Procure renewable energy for eligible households and businesses by starting/joining a Community Choice Aggregation Program.	Management, Policy	Village Hall	CCA Program launched, number of participants tracked.
E-1.2.3	Adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit for expedited solar installations.	Management, Policy	Village Hall	NYS Unified Solar Permit adopted.
E-1.2.4	Create educational campaign about renewable energy options for households and businesses.	Education/Information	Climate TF	Educational campaign launched.

Length of CAPs?

- Comprehensive CAPs can be 100+ pages
 - Common for large communities requiring consultant support
 - Extensive quantification, analysis, and policy modeling
 - Detailed description of each measure and related actions
- Simplified CAPs can 15-20 pages
 - Use CDRPC Inventory as is
 - Less analysis, focusing qualitative goals and less GHG benefits modeling
 - Setting sector targets, without quantifying every subordinate action that supports it
 - More concise writeup of local actions, but still enough to ensure transparency, trackability, and accountability

Next Steps for Your Municipality

1 Bring a Climate Smart Communities resolution to your governing board

2 Identify a staff lead or task force to champion the process

3 Reach out to your CDRPC CSC regional contact for technical assistance

4 Start learning about your local GHG inventory

Every plan starts with a single resolution. The tools and funding exist — the next move is local.

Back to Haley 😊