



Climate Smart Communities – Capital Region

Custom Service Strategy for Rensselaer

March 2013

IN-PERSON CONSULTATION DATE: January 29, 2013, follow up call on March 5, 2013

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Daniel Berheide, City Planner

Charles Moore, Community Development Director (on conference call)

CSC REGIONAL COORDINATOR SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC

Angela Vincent, VHB

CLIMATE PROTECTION PRIORITIES

1. Complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory
2. Green infrastructure projects – several are in the works, but they would like to continue implementing these around the city
3. Greening of their land use codes – how can they incorporate more energy efficient and “green” elements into their land use codes?
4. Climate Adaptation planning – Downtown Rensselaer is completely in the floodplain. The City would like to investigate how to make their facilities and services more resilient when there is more internal capacity to undertake such a project.
5. Economic Development – this is the Mayor’s highest priority. Frame all climate protection work through its benefit to economic development.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

Focus on the nexus between climate protection and economic development by investigating green business incentives that would attract companies to Rensselaer.

CLIMATE PROTECTION ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED

Rensselaer has a rich industrial history and is strategically located at a major railroad junction and along the Hudson River. Over the years, however, as industry has scaled back or left the area completely, Rensselaer’s economy has fallen on hard times. The Mayor’s highest priority is boosting economic development within Rensselaer. One way communities can boost economic development, is by providing incentives to businesses to set up shop in their community. The City recognizes that future development needs to be more sustainable and, considering their fragile location along the Hudson River, needs to plan for a changing climate. With this in mind, the City is looking for incentives that promote development that features low-impact, mixed-use, resource-efficient design, uses multi-modal transportation, sustainable infrastructure, and renewable energy.

PLEDGE ELEMENT TO BE ADDRESSED

Pledge Element 8: Support a Green Innovation Economy

POTENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND FINAL DELIVERABLES

Resources:

- Discussions with the Rensselaer staff and the IDA on current programs/incentives
- Research on other community green business incentives in the region, state and US



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Deliverable:

Summary of Green Business Incentives that can be implemented in Rensselaer to promote more sustainable economic development.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF STRATEGY

TASK	WHO	TIME					
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Investigate current economic development programs and strategies in Rensselaer	Owen Wells, VHB City staff						
Research green business incentives in NY and throughout the country	Owen Wells, VHB						
Compile research into summary of recommended strategies for Rensselaer	Owen Wells, VHB						
Deliver summary to City	Todd Fabozzi (CDRPC)						

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____, hereby acknowledge receipt of this Climate Smart
(elected official/staff)

Communities Custom Service Strategy (Strategy) for Rensselaer. The City

is committed to working with VHB to implement this Strategy. We look forward to

furthering our climate protection efforts through the Climate Smart Communities Program.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Primary Contact Person for this Project: _____