



Climate Smart Communities – Capital Region Custom Service Strategy for Albany County January 2013

IN-PERSON CONSULTATION DATE: January 29, 2013

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike McLaughlin, Policy Analyst
John Evers, Commissioner of Department of General Services
Brad Fischer, Director of Operations

CSC REGIONAL COORDINATOR SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC
Angela Vincent, VHB

CLIMATE PROTECTION PRIORITIES

1. Green measures are a priority of the County Executive
2. Financing options for capital improvements, specifically: the Ice Rink, County Prison, Times Union Center, and the HVAC in 112 State Street.
3. Economic development efforts are being ramped up with sustainability and green innovation as primary goals.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

The County is committed to incorporating energy efficient and other “green” components into the capital improvements plan. Investigating creative financing structures would uncover some options for funding their capital improvement “wish list”.

CLIMATE PROTECTION ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED

Installing more energy efficient technologies will have a return on its investment. Reducing energy use decreases energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the built environment. According to the International Energy Agency, “improved energy efficiency in buildings, industrial processes and transportation could reduce the world’s energy needs in 2050 by one third, and help control global emissions of greenhouse gases.”¹ Local governments throughout the nation have been developing financing structures to pay for the cost of upgrading or even replacing buildings and other infrastructure. This project will provide insight into the expectations in time, cost and payback of several financing options that could help Albany County fund future capital projects.

PLEDGE ELEMENT TO BE ADDRESSED

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

POTENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND FINAL DELIVERABLES

Resources:

- PACE-like programs
- Climate Smart Communities Database
- Federal financing options
- Best practices from across the U.S.
- Existing and future capital projects in Albany County

¹ <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/invest-in-clean-technology-says-iea-report.html>



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Deliverable:

A snapshot of creative financing options, including case studies from other local governments, highlighting up-front costs, payback, regulatory requirements, and effective financing structures. The final product will include various recommendations for financing energy efficiency projects in Albany County.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT

TASK	WHO	TIME			
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Schedule a call with County staff to confirm energy efficiency projects completed and priority capital improvement projects	Kari Hewitt (VHB) County Staff				
Research current financing options in the region, state, and nation-wide	Kari Hewitt (VHB)				
Draft recommendations and case studies which include funding source, payback, & up-front costs.	Kari Hewitt (VHB)				
Deliver final case studies and recommendations to the County	Todd Fabozzi (CDRPC)				

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Christine C. Quinn, hereby acknowledge receipt of this Climate Smart
(official/staff)

Communities Custom Service Strategy (Strategy) for Albany County. The County 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: 3/26/13

Primary Contact Person for this Project: Michael P. McLaughlin