



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

IN-PERSON CONSULTATION DATE: January 28, 2013

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matt Miller - Deputy Town Attorney
Richard Pollock – Superintendent of Engineering
Kathy Matern – Town Planner

CSC REGIONAL COORDINATOR SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC
Angela Vincent, VHB

SUMMARY OF CLIMATE PROTECTION PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED DURING IN-PERSON CONSULTATION

- Managing climate protection actions with minimal staff and resources
- Maintenance of vehicles vs. purchasing more energy efficient vehicles
- Financing for renewable energy projects
- Continue upgrading equipment in Town facilities

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOMMENDATION

Expand the scope of Conservation Advisory Council to manage the Town’s climate protection actions as part of their mission to protect the overall quality of the environment in Niskayuna.

CLIMATE PROTECTION ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED

Conservation Advisory Councils (CAC) are established by the Town Board by ordinance or by local law under the statutory authority of Section 239-x of Article 12-F of the NYS General Municipal Law. CAC members are appointed by the Town Board. Their mission often includes: gathering and disseminating information, conducting research, and advising other town agencies in matters related to the conservation of natural resources.¹ Many CACs in New York have interpreted their mission to embark on climate-related projects such as conducting greenhouse gas emissions inventories, developing Climate Action Plans, implementing renewable energy projects, and creating Climate Adaptation Plans. This has led to a more streamlined process for identifying and implementing climate protection programs in local governments due to the connection with their existing mission. By expanding the scope of the Niskayuna CAC the Town will have an existing, consolidated “home” for its climate protection efforts. Much of the start-up work associated with establishing a new committee or task force would be eliminated.

PLEDGE ELEMENT TO BE ADDRESSED

Pledge Element 1: Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community

POTENTIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND FINAL DELIVERABLES

Resources:

- Internet research on CAC mission statements and projects in New York

¹ Hillsdale Conservation Advisory Council website: <http://hillsdaleny.com/committees/conservation-advisory-council/>



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- Climate Smart Communities database research to determine other expanded CAC models
- Discussions with Conservation Advisory Councils throughout New York State

Deliverable:

Report that outlines the process for helping the Town redefine the role of the Conservation Advisory Council as the primary vehicle for achieving their climate protection goals.

TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT

TASK	WHO	TIME				
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Research existing projects that the Niskayuna CAC is engaged in	Renee Guo					
Investigate other CACs that have expanded their mission to include work on climate protection actions. This will include calls to other local governments.	Renee Guo					
Draft recommendations for expanding the scope of the Niskayuna CAC to include climate and energy projects.	Renee Guo					
Deliver final report to the Town	Todd Fabozzi (CDRPC)					

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, Joe Landry (official/staff), hereby acknowledge receipt of this Climate Smart

Communities Custom Service Strategy (Strategy) for Niskayuna. The Town

is committed to working with VHB to implement this Strategy, which is being funded by

NYSERDA. We look forward to furthering our climate protection efforts through

the Climate Smart Communities Program.

Signed Joe Landry Date: 2-28-13

Local Government Primary Contact Person for this Strategy: _____