

Climate Smart Communities Profile



City of Cohoes

March 2014

Program Overview

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare for effects of climate change and save taxpayers money. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas, or “pledge elements,” outlined in the CSC Pledge: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/53013.html>.

New York State is offering technical support to communities that have adopted the CSC Pledge. This profile provides a stepping stone for identifying a technical support service package to help the City of Cohoes progress through the 10 pledge elements (see below).

Detailed information on actions completed, in progress, and identified for future action is provided in the tables on the following pages. If a table is missing for a particular pledge element, it means that the CSC program does not have a record of actions taken to address that element.

Local Government Facts:

Adopted Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge: 2009

CSC Pledge Elements Addressed: 5 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 6

Government Type: City

County: Albany County

Region: Capital District

Population: 16,168

Climate Smart Communities Pledge Elements:

1. *Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community*
2. *Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action*
3. *Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations*
4. *Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations*
5. *Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices*
6. *Promote Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools*
7. *Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change*
8. *Support a Green Innovation Economy*
9. *Inform and Inspire the Public*
10. *Commit to an Evolving Process*

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

Action	Status	Description
Adopted the CSC Pledge	Completed	The City of Cohoes adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Design and Implement Energy Conservation Measures	Completed	NYPA funded an audit and retrofit project for Cohoes that included the design and implementation of energy conservation measures including: new chiller and cooling tower in Cohoes Public Library, new natural gas fired boiler in Senior Center, upgrades to switch gear and motor for the Cohoes Raw Water Pump station, replace heating system at DPW Garage, new control system at Cohoes Public Library, and install variable speed drives on filtration plant high lift pumps.

Pledge Element 4: Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Solar on Cohoes High School	Completed	In 2011, a 50 kW Solar PV system was installed at the Cohoes High School, which saves the school around \$9,000 per year in utility costs. The solar PV system includes a custom, public webpage to view the energy output of the entire system in real time. The school uses the solar PV system as a model example in student curriculum to teach children about the future of clean renewable energy in America.

Pledge Element 5: Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Action	Status	Description
Recycling Program	Completed	The City of Cohoes provides a community recycling program.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process

Action	Status	Description
Stormwater Coalition of Albany County	Completed	Cohoes is a member of the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County: http://www.stormwateralbanycounty.org/

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process

Action	Status	Description
Capital Regional Sustainability Plan	Completed	Mayor John MacDonald participated, on behalf of the City, on the Economic Development Technical Committee to assist in creating a Regional Sustainability Plan for the Capital District: http://sustainablecapitalregion.org/about/leadership

For more information about the City of Cohoes's climate protection efforts, please contact: George Primeau at (518) 233-2121



The Climate Smart Communities Program is jointly sponsored by six New York State Agencies: the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of State, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and Public Service Commission.