

Climate Smart Communities Profile



City of Saratoga Springs

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 Saratoga Springs 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: 2011

CSC Pledge Elements Addressed: 8 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 20

Government Type: City

County: Saratoga County

Region: Capital District

Population: 26,586

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
ICLEI Member	Completed	Saratoga Springs has been an ICLEI member since 2006.
Sustainable Saratoga Task Force	Completed	Sustainable Saratoga was established as a not-for-profit organization in 2010 to promote sustainable practices and the protection of natural resources, through education, advocacy and action, for the benefit of current and future generations in the Saratoga Springs area.
Adopted CSC Pledge	Completed	Saratoga Springs adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2011.

Pledge Element 2: Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Action	Status	Description
Government GHG Inventory	Completed	Cool Cities Saratoga Springs completed a greenhouse gas inventory for Government Operations.
Community and Government GHG Reduction Target	Completed	Saratoga Springs adopted the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement target of reducing GHG emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Installed an Energy Management System	Completed	In 2007 the City installed an energy management system, which is monitored and managed by Johnson Controls.
Upgrading City Traffic Lights to LED Lamps	In progress	The City is in the process of upgrading existing traffic lights to LED lights. The City is also considering adopting an LED lighting policy.

Pledge Element 4: Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Geothermal at Recreation Center	Completed	In 2010 the City installed a geothermal system to meet the HVAC needs of the City Recreation Center.
Solar Panel Installations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant	Completed	In 2008, the City installed a 12.6 kW solar project to power its wastewater treatment facility. The City took the opportunity to install the latest in solar panels in the plant.

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

Action	Status	Description
City Hall Recycling Program	Completed	City Hall has instituted a comprehensive recycling of office paper, cans, glass and newspaper.

Pledge Element 6: Promote Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Open Space Bond Act	Completed	Extensive efforts have been made to build support for the protection of open space on a city-wide scale, culminating in voter approval of a \$5 million open space bond authorization in 2002. Key purchases include property acquisition to re-establish access to Saratoga Lake waterfront and the preservation of the Ten Spring Woods, and more than 130 acres in open space acquisition and preservation.
"10 Great Streets for 2012" APA Award	Completed	The American Planning Association designated Broadway Street in the City as one of the "10 Great Streets for 2012" under its Great Places in America program. Broadway was selected for its compatible new construction, revitalization efforts, and diversity of uses, among other elements. (http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/streets/2012/)
Transect Zone Design	Completed	The City incorporated Transect Zone Design as an overlay district in the City of Saratoga Springs Zoning Ordinance. Transect Zones are designed to be more flexible with a focus on sound architectural and site design elements to encourage creative and sustainable new and in-fill development. (http://www.saratoga-springs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=226&Itemid=130)
Complete Streets Policy and Implementation	Completed	The City Council has adopted a Complete Streets policy on May 1, 2012 and established an advisory board to provide input on new construction projects to ensure a thorough complete streets approach.
Urban Forestry Management Project	Completed	The City was awarded a matching grant from NYS DEC to complete an Urban Forest Management Plan. Sustainable Saratoga organized a volunteer effort to inventory the City's street and park trees, provide analysis and create a database of tree locations, species and conditions. The City has contracted for technical assistance to develop this information into an Urban Forest Management Plan for presentation to the City Council. http://www.sustainablesaratoga.org/about-us/initiatives/the-urban-forestry-project/
Develop a Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan	In progress	The City received a grant from the Capital District Transportation Committee to create a bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Pledge Element 6: Promote Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Adopt an Anti-Idling Policy	Completed	In 2013, the City passed an anti-idling law in 2013 in coordination with Skidmore College students. Their efforts are focused on the larger vehicles where they can see the largest GHG reductions.
Installed EV Charging Stations in City Garages	Completed	The City installed seven electric vehicle charging stations in City garages.

Pledge Element 7: Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

Action	Status	Description
Floodplain Protection Ordinance	Completed	Saratoga Springs passed a Floodplain Damage Prevention ordinance: http://www.ecode360.com/6519281?highlight=floodplains#6519280
Stormwater Management Program	Completed	In 2003, the City began work on a comprehensive program to preserve the local water quality of local water resources by focusing attention on stormwater pollution prevention. This is part of a state mandated initiative, known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Program. (http://www.saratoga-springs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=133)
Implementation of Green Infrastructure Practices	Completed	The City has implemented several green infrastructure projects including Saratoga Springs' first-ever application of a new porous road surface material that reduces stormwater runoff. In addition, the City has installed rain gardens and bio-retention areas within private approved subdivisions and installed a green-roof at a private downtown redevelopment project.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process

Action	Status	Description
Regional Sustainability Plan	Completed	The City (through the Planning Department office) participated on the Land Use and Livable Communities Technical Committee to develop the Capital Region Sustainability Plan.

For more information about the City of Saratoga Springs's climate protection efforts, please contact: Bradley Birge at (518) 587-3550 x2515



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.