

Climate Smart Communities Profile



Schenectady County

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 Schenectady County 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: 7 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 15

Government Type: County

County: Schenectady County

Region: Capital District

Population: 154,727

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
Environmental Advisory Committee	Completed	The Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Committee (SCEAC) has an Air, Energy and Climate Change Committee.
ICLEI Member	Completed	Schenectady County has been an ICLEI member since 2011.
Adopted CSC Pledge	Completed	Schenectady County adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.

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

Action	Status	Description
County Climate Action Plan	Completed	Schenectady County completed its climate action plan in 2012.
Government GHG Inventory	Completed	Schenectady County completed its 2010 municipal and community GHG inventory in 2012.
Community GHG Inventory	Completed	Schenectady County completed its 2010 municipal and community GHG inventory in 2012.
Government GHG Reduction Target	In progress	Schenectady County set an emissions reduction target of 20% by 2020.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
County Resolution	Completed	The County adopted a resolution establishing a LEED standard for all new construction.
Energy Smart Purchasing Program	Completed	The County has adopted an Energy Smart purchasing program.
Improvements to DPW Garages and Airport	Completed	Schenectady County used an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, administered by NYSERDA, to install wall insulation in the Airport Tower at the Schenectady County Airport. The grant also provided funds that allowed the County to install roofing insulation in one of the County garages at the Kellar Avenue Highway Facility.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
NYSERDA Energy Audits	Completed	The County conducted Energy Audits of the following municipal buildings through NYSERDA funding: libraries in three communities, two DPW garages, the Airport tower, and the Ice Rink.

Pledge Element 4: Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Solar Panels on County Buildings	In progress	The County has entered into a solar lease agreement for the installation of solar panels on certain County buildings.

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

Action	Status	Description
Recycling Program	Completed	The County has a community recycling program.
Pilot Composting Program	In progress	The County is participating in a pilot composting program with the local colleges, hospitals and Water Conservation District to offer composting.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	Completed	The County holds household hazardous waste collection days.

Pledge Element 7: Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

Action	Status	Description
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	In progress	The County has a Hazard Mitigation Plan that will be updated to incorporate Climate Adaptation.

Pledge Element 8: Support a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Brownfields Redevelopment	Completed	The County Metroplex Development Authority has assisted developers with acquiring tax credits through the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program to develop in previously undevelopable urban spaces. Metroplex and the County have also pressed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to clean up State Superfund sites and accelerated those cleanups significantly in recent years. The County and Metroplex have also pushed the Federal government to clean up the old Scotia Naval Depot and make that site available for new infill and brownfield development.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Sustainability Outreach Website	Completed	The website www.gogreenschenectadycounty.com has information on resources for the community to reduce energy use.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process

Action	Status	Description
Regional Sustainability Plan	Completed	Schenectady County is participating in the Cleaner, Greener Communities regional sustainability planning process.
Capital Region Sustainability Plan	In progress	Schenectady County is participating in the Cleaner, Greener Communities regional sustainability planning process.

For more information about the Schenectady County’s climate protection efforts, please contact: Jaclyn Agostino at jaclyn.agostino@schenectadycounty.com



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.