Schenectady County

A Climate Smart Community

at the Forefront of Knowledge and Innovation

Present by Jeff Edwards

at the

Climate Change: Adaptation & Building Resiliency

in our Communities Conference:

Climate Smart Communities Session

Union College

January 24, 2014

The Climate Smart Communities Pledge

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

County Climate Policy

- Schenectady County Legislature adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge April 14, 2009

- The Pledge Contains all 10 elements of the State Pledge

- The County Legislature had the previous year committed to a five point energy conservation policy.

County Five Point Energy Conservation Plan

- New Construction Be LEED Silver Certified
- Establish Energy Star Purchasing Program
- Implement an Employee Energy Conservation and Recycling Policy
- Promote Residential Energy Audits
- Develop a Proposal for an Audit of the County Fleet

Pledge Element #2

Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Pledge Element #2

The County utilized American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding to perform a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan, which was completed July of 2012
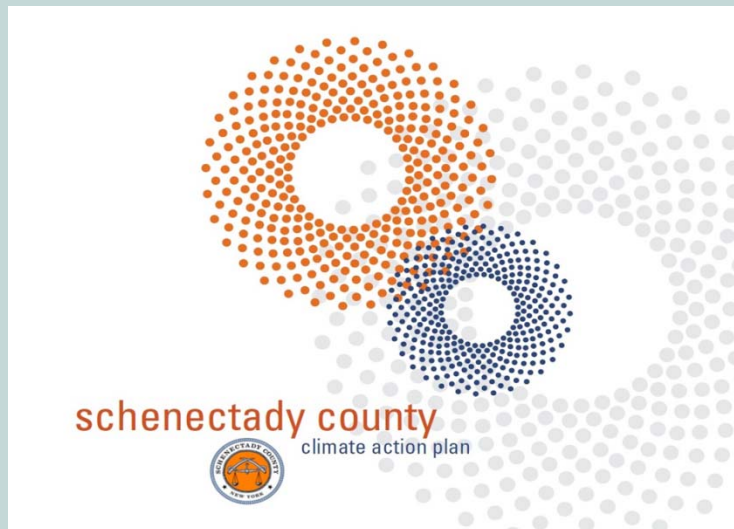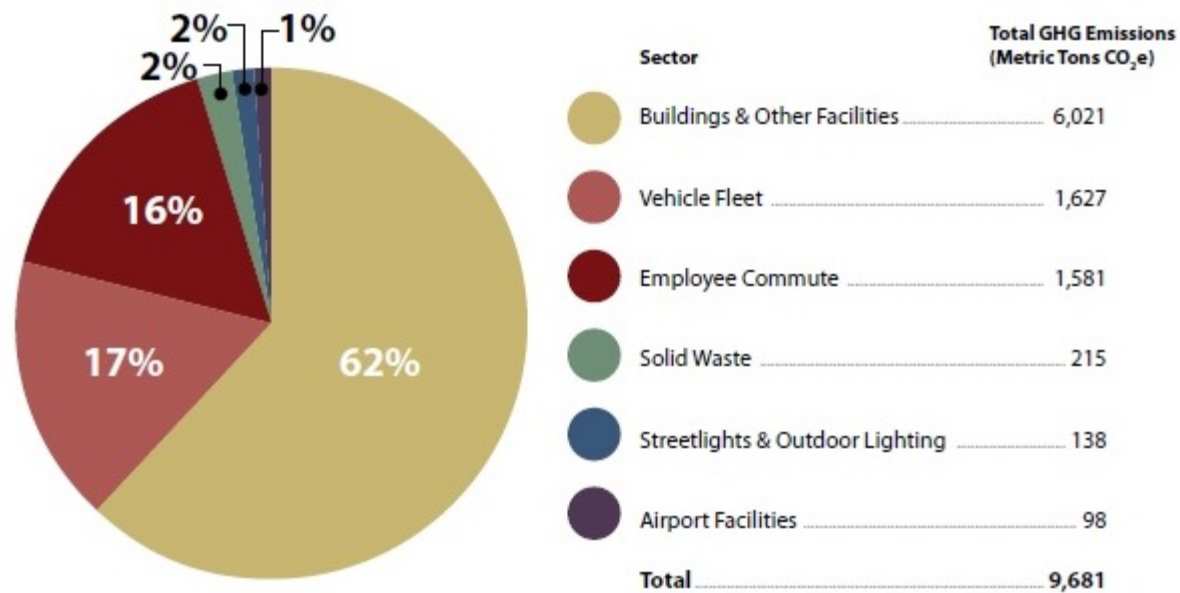
Four Components

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory for County Government Infrastructure and Operations

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Community Infrastructure and Activities

- Action Plan for County Government Infrastructure and Operations

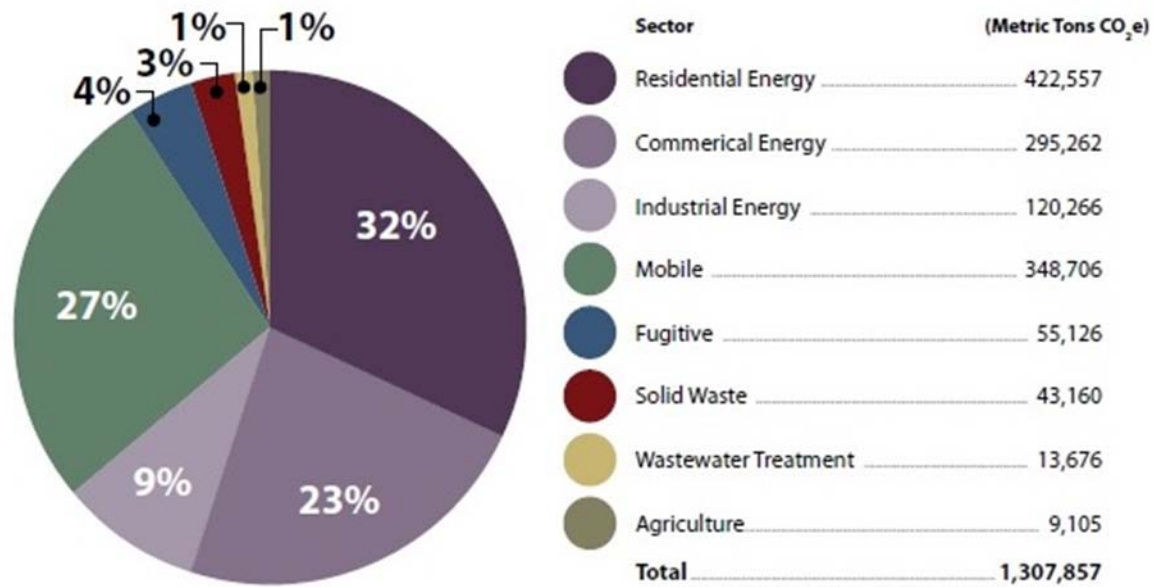- Action Plan for Community Infrastructure and Activities

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for County Government

FIGURE **1** 2010 County Government GHG Emissions by Sector

Sector	Total GHG Emissions (Metric Tons CO_2e)
Buildings & Other Facilities	6,021
Vehicle Fleet	1,627
Employee Commute	1,581
Solid Waste	215
Streetlights & Outdoor Lighting	138
Airport Facilities	98
Total	**9,681**

Pie chart values: 62%, 17%, 16%, 2%, 2%, 1%

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Community

FIGURE 2 Schenectady County GHG Emissions by Sector

Sector	(Metric Tons CO_2e)
Residential Energy	422,557
Commerical Energy	295,262
Industrial Energy	120,266
Mobile	348,706
Fugitive	55,126
Solid Waste	43,160
Wastewater Treatment	13,676
Agriculture	9,105
Total	1,307,857

Pie chart values: 32%, 23%, 9%, 27%, 4%, 3%, 1%, 1%

Emissions Breakdown by Municipality
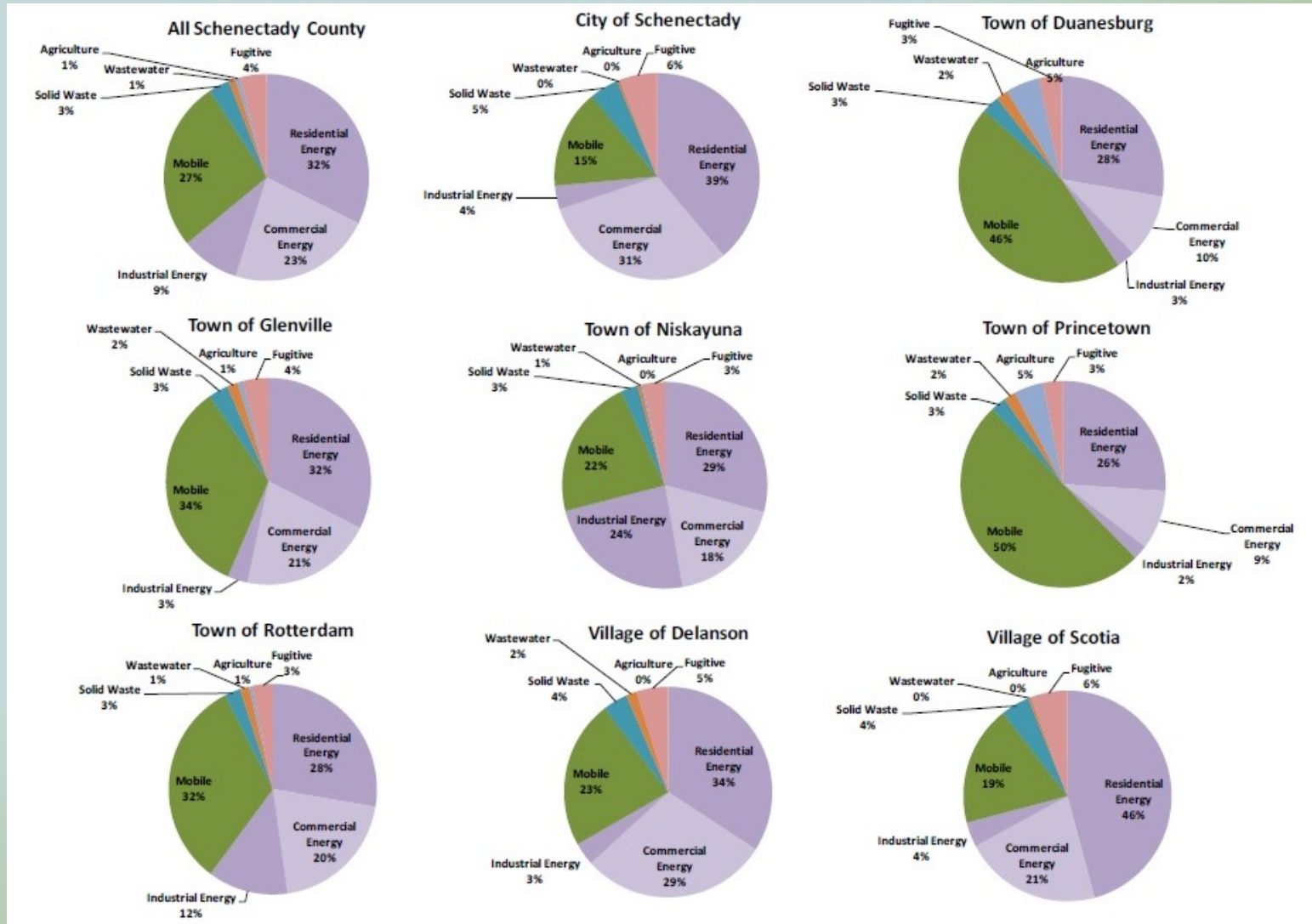
Rating of Potential GGE Reduction Strategies

- Timeframe
- Cost to implement
- Funding Feasibility
- GHG Reduction Potential

Action Strategies for GHG Reductions in County Operations

Key Components of County Operations Plan

- Computerized Maintenance Operating System Implementation

- Energy Efficiency integrated into Capital Budget Requests

- Solar Panels on County Buildings

- Green Fleet Implementation

- Greening of Employee Commute

Each of theses strategies had the top scores for GHG Reduction Feasibility, Cost to Implement and Funding Feasibility

Sample Components of Community GHG Reduction Strategy

- Work to Increase Waste Prevention, Reuse, Composting and Recycling throughout County
- Continue to Improve Biking Infrastructure Throughout County
- Perform Trainings on NYSERDA Energy Conservation Programs
- Perform Trainings on Renewable Energy Programs

Pledge Element #3

Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operation

County Key Accomplishments in Moving Toward Decreased Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

- Energy Audits and Implementation of Recommendations in Six County Buildings
- Flex Tech Study of Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy Recommendations for Ice Rink.

Pledge Element # 4

Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Buildings

Schenectady County and Local Government Renewable Energy Accomplishments

- Installation Solar Panels on Six County Buildings
- Installation of Solar Panels at Niskayuna Town Hall
- Installation of Solar Panels at Glenville Town Hall

Pledge Element #5

Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Schenectady County Recycling And Solid Waste Accomplishments

- Schenectady County has a Recycling Program at each of it's Facilities

- Schenectady County Provides a Recycling Transfer Station for Waste Haulers and Residents through a Lease Agreement with Sierra Processing at the Site of the County Highway Garage on Kellar Ave. in Rotterdam

- Schenectady County Provides a Recycling and Yard Waste Composting Facility on Hetcheltown Road in Glenville

Schenectady County Recycling And Solid Waste Accomplishments Continued

- Schenectady County is Piloting a Food Waste Composting Facility at the Hetcheltown Road Site.

- Schenectady County also Provides a Residential Hazardous Waste Program Monthly (Spring-Fall)

- The County also Provides a Hazardous Waste Program for Qualifying Businesses 3 times a year

Pledge Element # 6

Promote Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools

The County has an Informal Complete Streets Policy and is Currently Investigating Creating a Formal County Policy

Pledge Element #7

Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

The County has a Hazard Mitigation Plan that is being updated to Incorporate Climate Resiliency and Adaptation

Pledge Element #8

Support a Green Innovative Economy

Pledge Element #9

- Schenectady County's Successful Renaissance has focused on Downtown Development
- Infill Development, and
- Brownfield Development

Pledge Element #9

Inform and Inspire the Public

- SCEAC presented a forum on Solar Energy in October of 2013
- SCEAC presented a forum on Recycling in November of 2013

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