



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



**Climate Smart
Communities**

Climate Smart Communities

**The Value and Process of Campus-Community
Partnerships in Advancing Climate Action**

Dazzle Ekblad, NYS DEC, climatechange@dec.ny.gov; 518-402-8448

Chris Carrick, CNY RPDB, ccarrick@cnyrpdb.org

Gaby Weiss, NYS DEC, Climate Outreach Specialist



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



**Climate Smart
Communities**

Climate Smart Communities

State Support for Local Climate Action

Dazzle Ekblad

Office of Climate Change

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

November 2016



Climate Smart Communities

Support for Local Climate Action



In the face of change, communities look for guidance:

- Shifting energy prices, extreme weather, a changing climate

Climate Smart Communities offers local governments:

- Free resources for reducing emissions & adapting to climate change
- Guidance tailored to New York State communities

Climate Smart Pledge Elements

- 1) **Pledge** to be a Climate Smart Community
- 2) Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, **Plan for Climate Action**
- 3) Decrease Community **Energy Use**
- 4) Increase Community Use of **Renewable Energy**
- 5) Realize Benefits of **Recycling** & Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Mgmt. Practices
- 6) Reduce GHG emissions Through Use of **Climate-Smart Land-Use** Tools
- 7) Enhance Community **Resilience** & Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change
- 8) Support Development of a **Green Innovation Economy**
- 9) **Inform & Inspire** the Public
- 10) Commit to an **Evolving Process** of Climate Action

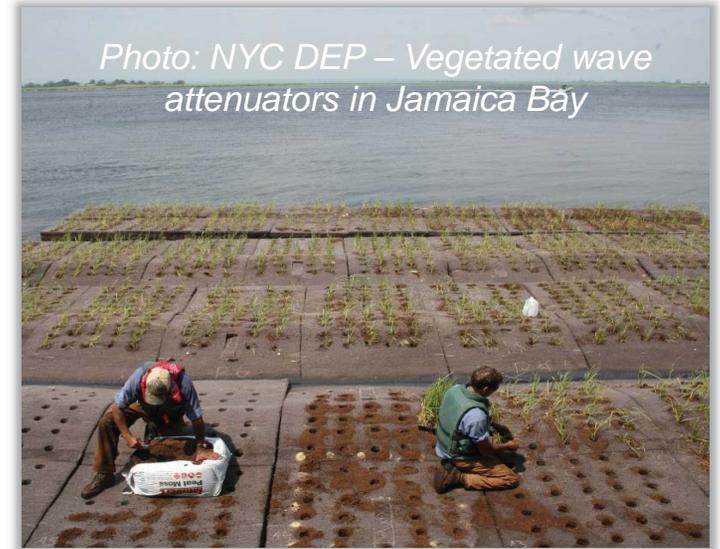


What are the benefits of being a CSC?

- Recognition as a climate leader
- Extensive online resources, decision-support tools
- Staying informed: monthly webinars & email listserv
- Funding: preference for funding in some cases and better positioned to compete for funds
- NYSERDA-funded regional coordinators: technical support on CSC certification, energy efficiency, clean energy, climate action planning, etc.



Climate Smart Communities Grant Program



CSC Grants: Eligibility & Match

- Apply through the **Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)** at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm>
 - Applications due in July; award announcements in December
- **Municipalities** are eligible (counties, cities, towns, villages)
 - ***Other partners (like colleges) may participate as long as there's a eligible lead applicant***
- **Local match of 50%** of eligible project costs



CSC Grants: 2016 Funding Categories

- **\$11 million available in 2016 for two project categories:**
 - **\$10.5 million for Climate Protection Implementation Projects**
 - Grant award size - **\$100,000 to \$2,000,000**
 - For construction; up to 15% of grant for design & engineering
 - E.g., food waste, active transportation, relocation of vulnerable facilities
 - **\$500,000 for Climate Smart Communities Certification Projects**
 - Grant award size - **\$25,000 to \$100,000**
 - E.g., fleet right-sizing, vulnerability assessments, inventories



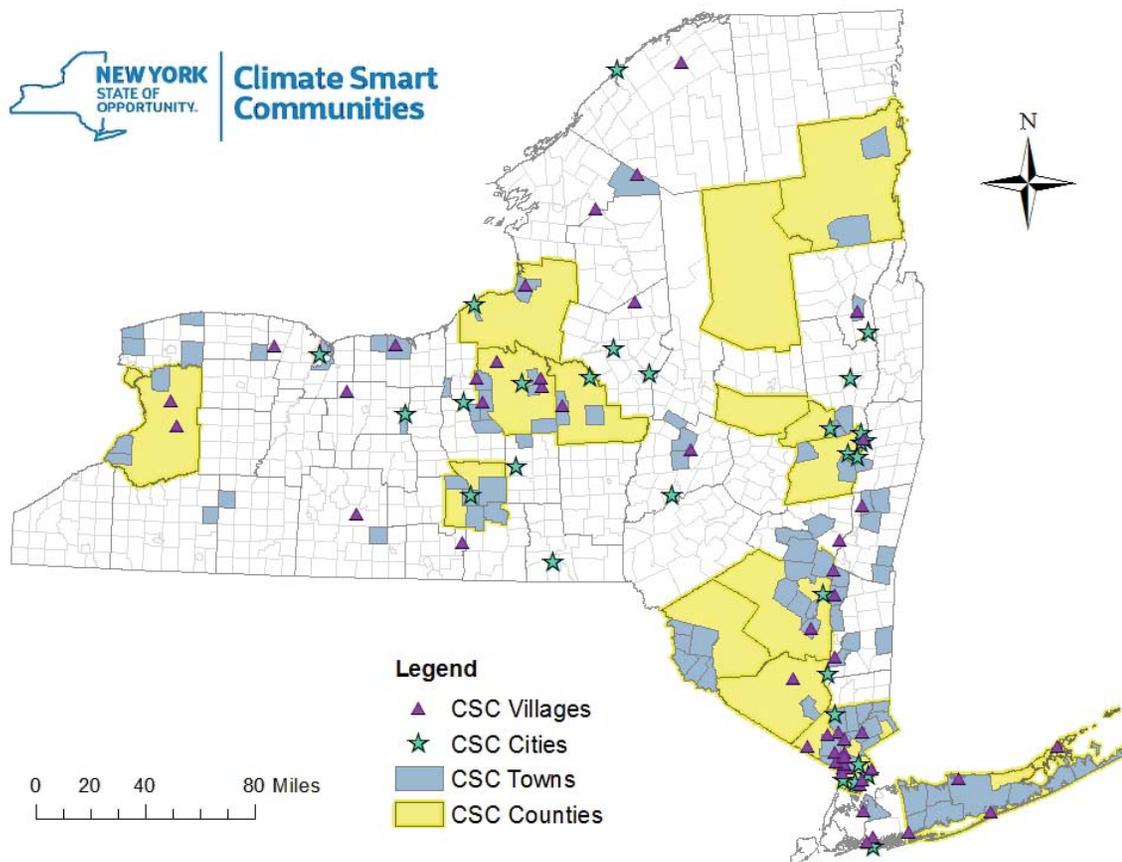
Participating in Climate Smart Communities



James Clayton, NYSDEC



Climate Smart
Communities



Since 2009:

- 190 registered CSCs
- 6.6 million New Yorkers
- 9 certified CSCs
- Smallest: 537 - Village of Van Etten (Chemung County)
- Largest: 1,493,350 - Suffolk County



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

How do you become a registered CSC?

- Local gov't must pass a resolution with all 10 CSC Pledge Elements
- Model resolution at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/65494.html>
- Must be passed by full body of elected officials (e.g., town board)
- Includes county gov'ts



How do you become a certified CSC?

- Submit documentation & earn points
- 1-10 points per action
- Over 130 total possible actions
- Organized by the 10 CSC Pledge Elements
- Wide range of action types:
 - Planning, policies, outreach, implementation, etc.

