



# Climate Smart Communities

September 2016

Town of Lake George

## CSC 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 impacts of climate change and save taxpayer dollars. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas outlined in the [CSC 10 Pledge Elements](#) (see below).

This CSC profile outlines the Town of Lake George's progress through the 10 pledge elements. 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 pledge element.

The [CSC Certification](#) program provides local governments with a comprehensive framework to guide climate action and enables high performing communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. Each pledge element below is accompanied by a [CSC Certification Manual](#) that recommends initiatives and resources for getting started. Click on any of the pledge elements for additional information.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACTS :

**Adopted Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge:** 2015

**CSC Pledge Elements Addressed:** 9 out of 10

**Total Actions Completed:** 20

**Government Type:** Town

**County:** Warren County

**Region:** Capital Region

**Population:** 3,515

## Climate Smart Communities Pledge Elements [Click links to view CSC Certification Manual]

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 and Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Management Practices](#)
6. [Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools](#)
7. [Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change](#)
8. [Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy](#)
9. [Inform and Inspire the Public](#)
10. [Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action](#)

## Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community

Action	Status	Description
Adopted CSC Pledge	Completed	The Town of Lake George adopted the CSC Pledge in 2015.
Go Green Committee	Completed	In early 2016, the Town of Lake George partnered with the Village of Lake George to establish the Go Green Committee which includes staff from the Town and Village along with elected officials and community members. The Go Green Committee meets monthly to discuss current initiatives and future opportunities.
CSC Coordinator	Completed	The Town of Lake George has appointed Dan Barusch, the Director of Planning and Zoning, as the CSC Coordinator and the Chair of the Go Green Committee. Dan is responsible for coordinating meetings of the Go Green Committee, facilitating the Town's pursuit of Climate Smart Communities Certification, and overseeing many initiatives related to the CSC Program.
Internal Green Team	Completed	Within the Town's Go Green Committee, there is a Climate Smart Core Team consisting of staff from the Village and Town of Lake George. The Climate Smart Core Team ensures collaboration between the Town and the Village on their Climate Smart Communities efforts as well as sets targets for internal action.

## Pledge Element 2: Set goals, Inventory Emissions, Plan for Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Develop a Government Operations GHG Emissions Inventory	Identified	The Town of Lake George will complete a government operations greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory as a part of its upcoming Climate Action Plan. The Town partnered with the Village to submit a proposal for the development of this Climate Action Plan through the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program in Summer of 2016.
Establish a Government Operations Emissions Reductions Target	Identified	The Town of Lake George will be setting a government operations emissions reductions target as part of its upcoming Climate Action Plan. This will ultimately improve air quality, enhance ecosystem health, and save money.
Develop a Government Operations Climate Action Plan	Identified	The Town of Lake George will be developing a government operations Climate Action Plan starting in 2017. The Town, in partnership with the Village of Lake George, submitted a proposal for the development of this Climate Action Plan through the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program in Summer of 2016.

### Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Conduct Energy Audits of Local Government Buildings	Completed	In September of 2015, the Town of Lake George conducted ASHRAE Level 1 Audits for roughly 80% of the Town's buildings. The Audits included solutions for decreasing energy use and costs in the five buildings which use the most electricity.
Upgrade Interior Lighting	In Progress	The Town of Lake George has begun to replace their interior lighting in public buildings with light emitting diode (LED) technologies. As the Town Hall had the most lighting of any Town-owned buildings, the Town replaced all of its interior lighting with LEDs in 2016.
Upgrade Outdoor Lighting	In Progress	The Town of Lake George replaced the lights outside of Town Hall to LEDs in 2016, which represents a significant quantity of all of the outdoor lighting (outside of streetlights and traffic signals) within the Town.
Provide E-Waste Collection in Local Government Buildings	Completed	The Town of Lake George provides used cell phone/electronic recycling collection at the Town Hall, which are picked up periodically.
Convert Streetlights to LED	In Progress	The Town of Lake George has begun to replace their streetlights and other outdoor lighting to LEDs.

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

Action	Status	Description
Provide Recycling to Residents	Completed	The Town of Lake George provides recycling to its residents free of charge through its transfer station. Residents are able to voluntarily participate by dropping off their recyclables at the transfer station.
Provide Recycling to Commercial Entities	Completed	The Town of Lake George provides recycling to its commercial entities free of charge through its transfer station. Commercial entities are able to voluntarily participate by dropping off their recyclables at the transfer station.

### Pledge Element 6: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Preserve Natural Areas Through Zoning or Other Regulations	Completed	Within its zoning, the Town of Lake George has a number of sections intended to preserve the natural resources and ecosystems within its borders including guidelines for erosion, sedimentation, and stormwater runoff control, restoration, a shoreland overlay district, shoreland alteration controls, and stream protection.

## Pledge Element 6: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Adopt a Renewable Energy Ordinance	Completed	The Town of Lake George adopted the Unified Solar Permit in 2016 in order to streamline its solar permitting process.

## Pledge Element 7: Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change

Action	Status	Description
Adopt a Floodplain Management/Protection Ordinance	Completed	The Town of Lake George adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in 1996 which regulates and controls development in areas susceptible to flooding, maintains floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, and limits activities which may contribute to erosion and flood damages.

## Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Support Alternative Transportation Fuel Supply Infrastructure	Completed	In 2016, the Town of Lake George adopted a permitting process for the installation of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). This is meant to expedite the permitting process for these stations and therefore enable more widespread development of charging stations within the Town. The Town of Lake George is interested in pursuing opportunities related to providing public charging stations.

## Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Maintain a Website on Local Climate Protection Efforts	Completed	The Town of Lake George maintains a webpage on its website devoted to its efforts related to the Climate Smart Communities Program and of its Go Green Committees so that residents and visitors may be informed of its achievements and initiatives. The webpage also provides access to relevant plans, policies, and other documentation.

## Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Cooperate with Neighboring Communities and Partner Agencies	Completed	The Town of Lake George coordinates with the Village on implementing the Climate Smart Communities Pledge including conducting monthly Go Green Committee meetings, sharing best practices and initiatives, and collaborating on the upcoming Climate Action Plan.

**For more information about the Town of Lake George’s climate protection efforts, please contact: Dan Barusch at (518) 668-5131**



**Climate Smart  
Communities**

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.