Climate Smart Communities
Grants & Support for Local Governments

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We all share the same atmosphere.
CO₂ level has never been this high, not in all of human history.

Human-caused GHGs have already led to a 1.3°C increase in the annual mean temp. in NYS (since 1970).
State Support for Local Climate Action

- Assistance to local gov’t leaders to
  - Reduce greenhouse gas pollution
  - Build resiliency in the face of climate change

- Voluntary. No fees. Sponsored by 7 state agencies.

- Comprehensive. Flexible.
CSC By the Numbers

- **297 Registered** (since 2009)
  - Over 8.7 million people live in these “pledged” communities (45% of NY population)
- **49 Certified** (since 2014)
  - Leaders who have documented progress
  - 8 certification actions approved

Full list at [https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/)
Benefits of CSC

• Free technical assistance

• Guidance & tools:
  • Webinars, email list, website, workshops
  • **Certification program**: framework for local action, planning, priorities

• **Networking**: Learn with like-minded community leaders

• **Leadership recognition**: State-level attention for local leaders

• **Funding**: Better positioned to compete for funds; [CSC grants; EV rebates](#)
How are CSC & CEC related?

**Climate Smart Communities Certification**
- Interagency initiative; launched in 2014
- Comprehensive climate action program
- 100+ unique actions
- Improve score on CSC grant applications

**Clean Energy Communities (NYSERDA)**
- Launched 2016; focused on energy use
- 10 high-impact actions
  - 1 of 10 is becoming a Certified CSC
  - Complete 4 actions to access CEC grants

➢ Earn points toward CSC Certification by doing CEC actions
➢ Do both!
Funding for Electric Vehicles

- **Municipal Zero Emission Vehicle Program** from DEC OCC
  - EVs: no match; up to $5,000 per vehicle; apply by July 24, 2020.
  - EV Chargers: 20% match; apply by May 29, 2020.

- **NYSERDA Drive Clean Rebates**: up to $2k for plug-in hybrids or battery-powered cars

- **NYSERDA Charge Ready NY**: $4,000 per port for qualified Level 2 EV charging equipment at locations that provide public charging, workplace charging, or charging at a multi-unit dwelling
CSC Grants
Application Process for CSC Grants

• Apply online via Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) at https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm

• Register in the NYS Grants Gateway for contract mgmt.

Timeline

• TBD for 2020, but RFA probably released in May

• Deadline to apply probably in July

• Awards announced in the fall
CSC Grants: Eligibility

- Local governments only
  - Counties, cities, towns, villages in NYS
  - Do NOT need to be a Registered CSC
  - Other entities (non-profits, etc.) can be partners, but not lead applicant
CSC Grants: Match

• Required local **match is 50%** of eligible project costs

• Eligible costs include
  - Travel & equipment
  - Salaries & fringe benefits
  - Contractual services

• Match w/ in-kind municipal staff salaries

• No state or federal funds as match
CSC Grants: Categories

Two broad categories:

1. Implementation Projects (climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation in the non-power sector)

2. CSC Certification Projects (planning, inventories, and assessments)
Implementation: GHG Mitigation

Grant Amount - $10,000 to $2,000,000

Mitigation Project Types

• Reduction of vehicle miles travelled (VMT) for daily needs & commuting
• Reduction of food scraps disposed
• Refrigerant mgmt

Engineering/design max. 15% of grant

Main Sources Of Greenhouse Gases in NYS
New York’s goal is to reduce these emissions 80% by 2050

- Transportation: 34%
- Buildings: 32%
- Electricity: 20%
- Waste & Other: 8%
- Industry: 6%

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Implementation: Adaptation

Grant Amount - $10,000 to $2,000,000

Engineering/design max. 15% of grant

Adaptation Project Types

- Increasing/preserving natural resilience
- Reduction of future flood risks
  - E.g., relocating vulnerable facilities
- Replacing/right-sizing culverts and bridges
- Extreme heat preparation
- Emergency preparedness
- Completion of activities in FEMA Community Rating System (CRS)
CSC Grants: Certification

Award size: $10,000 to $100,000

Project Types:

- Inventories, assessments
- Planning & strategy development
  - In the areas of GHG mitigation, climate adaptation, land use, transportation, and solid waste
- To inform the design of implementation projects
In 2019, 15 certification actions were eligible for CSC grants; see list below. The 2020 list will be made available in the RFA in May; the list will likely be similar.

- PE2 Action: Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- PE2 Action: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan
- PE2 Action: Community Climate Action Plan
- PE3 Action: Fleet Inventory
- PE3 Action: Fleet Efficiency Policy
- PE5 Action: Construction and Demolition Waste Policy
- PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements
- PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy
- PE6 Action: Planning and infrastructure for Bicycling and Walking (Bike/Ped. Master Plan only)
- PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory
- PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- PE7 Action: Climate Smart Resilience Planning
- PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Strategies
- PE7 Action: Heat Emergency Plan

More info at [https://climatesmart.ny.gov/](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/)
Examples of Pass/Fail Criteria

- Applicant is a municipality (county, NYC borough, city, town, village of NYS).
- A municipal resolution authorizing application submission and 50% local match is submitted with the application.
- Application addresses one of the eligible project categories.
- The completed expenditure budget itemizes costs and clearly articulates the requested funding amount and eligible match.
- The work program is detailed and outlines specific tasks to be undertaken from initiation through completion of the project.
- Documentation of land ownership or an agreement with the landowner for land access and use is provided, if necessary.
Examples of Scoring Criteria

- Financial hardship
- Climate Smart Communities status
- Readiness (for implementation or for certification)
- Project criticality
- Effectiveness of proposal
- Planning context
- Quality of application
- Reasonableness of cost
Information Sources

- NY Climate Change Science Clearinghouse [https://www.nyclimatescience.org/](https://www.nyclimatescience.org/)
- Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines (applicable in other locations) [https://www.hrnerr.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines/](https://www.hrnerr.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines/)
Information Sources

• Regional/local greenhouse gas inventories  
  http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/57170.html -  
  • Email climatesmart@dec.ny.gov for your GHG data from 2010!

• NYSERDA: Benefit-Cost Analysis of Potential Food Waste Diversion

• Guide for Assessing Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in an EIS  
  https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/56552.html

• List of Climate Change Adaptation Related Indicators  
CSC Grants: Additional Info

• View lists of past awards and (in early May 2020) read full RFA at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC

• To get grant announcements, sign up for the CSC email list via DEC Delivers at https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76483.html

• Attend DEC webinar Thurs., May 14, 2020 at 10:30 AM

• Listen to June 9, 2019 DEC CSC Grants webinar at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html
Visit the CFA homepage, https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm:

- Recording of short presentation from 2019
- PDF of the 2019 slides with clickable links to other resources
Contact Info

- Office of Climate Change
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  Albany NY 12233-1030
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- cscgrants@dec.ny.gov

CSC Certification Portal:
https://climatesmart.ny.gov

CSC Funding Programs:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html

CSC Webinar slides & recordings:
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html