

Climate Smart Communities Profile



Village of New Paltz

December 2013

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 the Village of New Paltz 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: 6 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 10

Government Type: Village

County: Ulster County

Region: Mid-Hudson Region

Population: 6,818

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
Adopted CSC pledge	Completed	The Village adopted the Climate Smart Communities pledge in 2009.
Climate Action Coalition and Climate Smart Community Task Force	Completed	“The Climate Action Coalition of New Paltz works to alert people in our area to the changes they can expect from climate change, and to help them reduce the causes and adjust to the effects.” Their goals are: “Educate ourselves and other groups and individuals in the community about climate change science and psychology and about personal responses in order to mitigate and prepare for climate change; Support short and long-range planning to deal with local environmental and social consequences of climate change.; and Analyze and support legislation at local, state and national levels to reduce causes of climate change.”– Coalition website

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

Action	Status	Description
Community GHG Inventory	Completed	The Village of New Paltz's community wide inventory was conducted as a part of the Mid-Hudson's Regional GHG Inventory for baseline year 2010.

Pledge Element 4: Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Action	Status	Description
Solar Installation	Completed	In 2006, The Village installed a 15 kw solar panel system on the Village highway department garage which supplies electricity to the Village Hall, adjacent Fire Department, and Town Police Department.
Wind Offset	Completed	5% of the Village's energy is purchased from Wind power.

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

Action	Status	Description
Public Space Recycling	Completed	Recycling bins, which were installed in 2007-2008, are located along Main Street.
Pilot Composting Program	In progress	This is a joint program between the Town and Village of New Paltz. MORE INFO?
WasteWise Member	Completed	The Village is a WasteWise Partner: http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservesmm/wastewise/index.htm

Pledge Element 6: Promote Climate Protection Through Community Land Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Shade Tree Commission	Completed	The joint Town/Village Commission is addressing vulnerability of the area in terms of the impact on trees and food security.
Long-range planning	Completed	5-Year Joint Transportation Plan which helped them hire a planner to manage zoning changes and Master Plan update with climate change elements.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Climate Action Coalition Educational Events	Completed	The Coalition hosted Home Energy Fairs, had a booth at the Ulster County Fair, and hosted no-petrol events, and public outreach on energy issues via letters to the editor and other media outreach. It also made presentations on local food security issues to students.

For more information about the Village of New Paltz’s climate protection efforts, please contact: Joseph Bergstein at (212) 637-3890



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.