



**Climate Smart  
Communities**

# **The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program**

*Part of the Environmental Protection Fund*

**Office of Climate Change  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
June 2016**

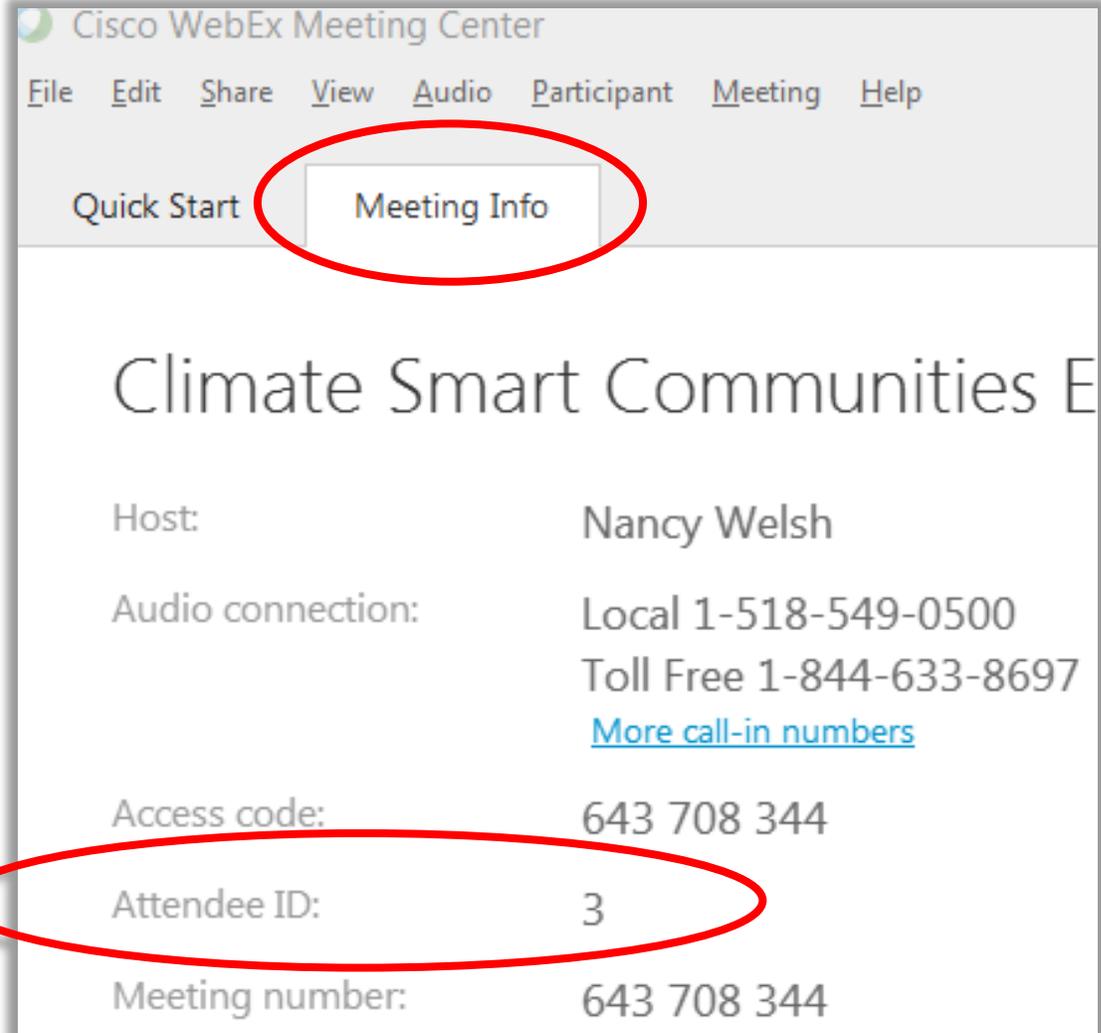
# Welcome!

Today's topic: *CSC Grants Program*

Connect to the audio with your phone using

**your unique attendee ID**

which is available on the “***Meeting Info***” tab:



The screenshot shows the Cisco WebEx Meeting Center interface. The 'Meeting Info' tab is highlighted with a red circle. Below the tab, the meeting title is 'Climate Smart Communities E'. The host is Nancy Welsh. The audio connection options are Local 1-518-549-0500 and Toll Free 1-844-633-8697, with a link for 'More call-in numbers'. The access code is 643 708 344. The attendee ID is 3, which is also circled in red. The meeting number is 643 708 344.

Host:	Nancy Welsh
Audio connection:	Local 1-518-549-0500 Toll Free 1-844-633-8697 <a href="#">More call-in numbers</a>
Access code:	643 708 344
Attendee ID:	3
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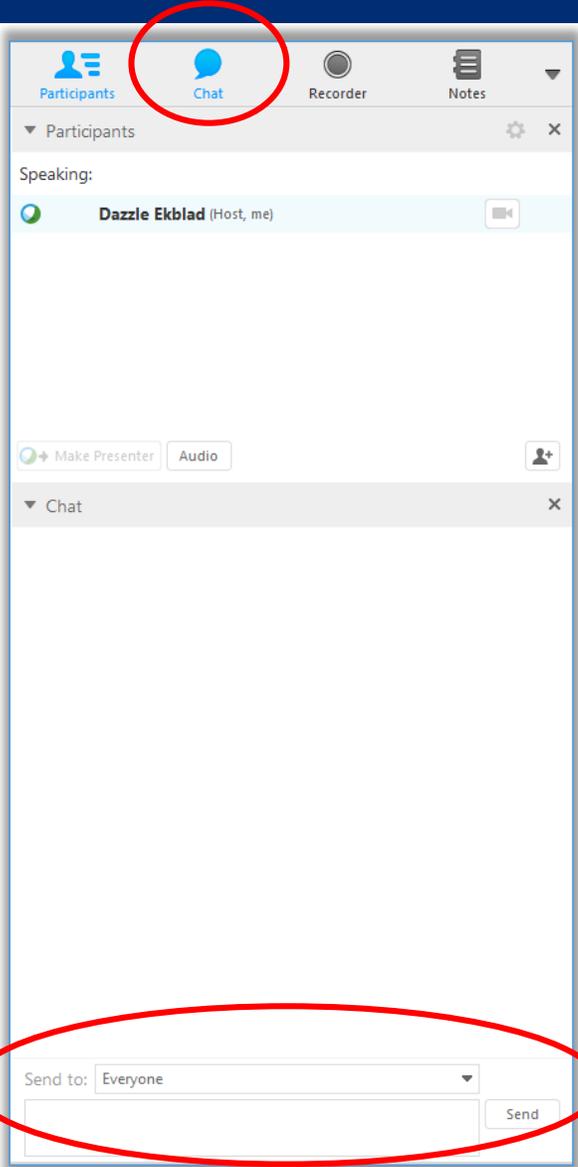
# Welcome!

Today's webinar topic:

*CSC Grants Program*

Questions?

*Use WebEx chat function*



# Aggregate Purchase Initiative

- Organized by DEC & OGS
- Open to any authorized user of state contracts
- Orders for Chevy Volts will be aggregated into one large bid to bring down purchase price
- Deadline EXTENDED: **June 15, 2016**
  - Vehicle deliveries in fall 2016
  - Contact Brendan Woodruff at [brendan.woodruff@dec.ny.gov](mailto:brendan.woodruff@dec.ny.gov) for more information



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Conservation

# Agenda

- I. **Intro to Climate Smart Communities and Certification – Dazzle Ekblad, NYS DEC**
- II. **Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Grants Program – Nancy Welsh, NYS DEC**
- III. **Using the CSC Certification Workbook to Navigate the CSC Certification Process – Dazzle Ekblad**
- IV. **Q & A – Dazzle Ekblad and Nancy Welsh**

# Intro to Climate Smart Communities & CSC Certification

Dazzle Ekblad



Ulster County



Town of East Hampton



**Climate Smart  
Communities**

## Support for Local Climate Action



**In the face of change, communities are looking for guidance:**

- Shifting energy prices, extreme weather, changing climate

**Climate Smart Communities offers local governments:**

- Free technical support on energy and climate
- Guidance tailored to New York State communities

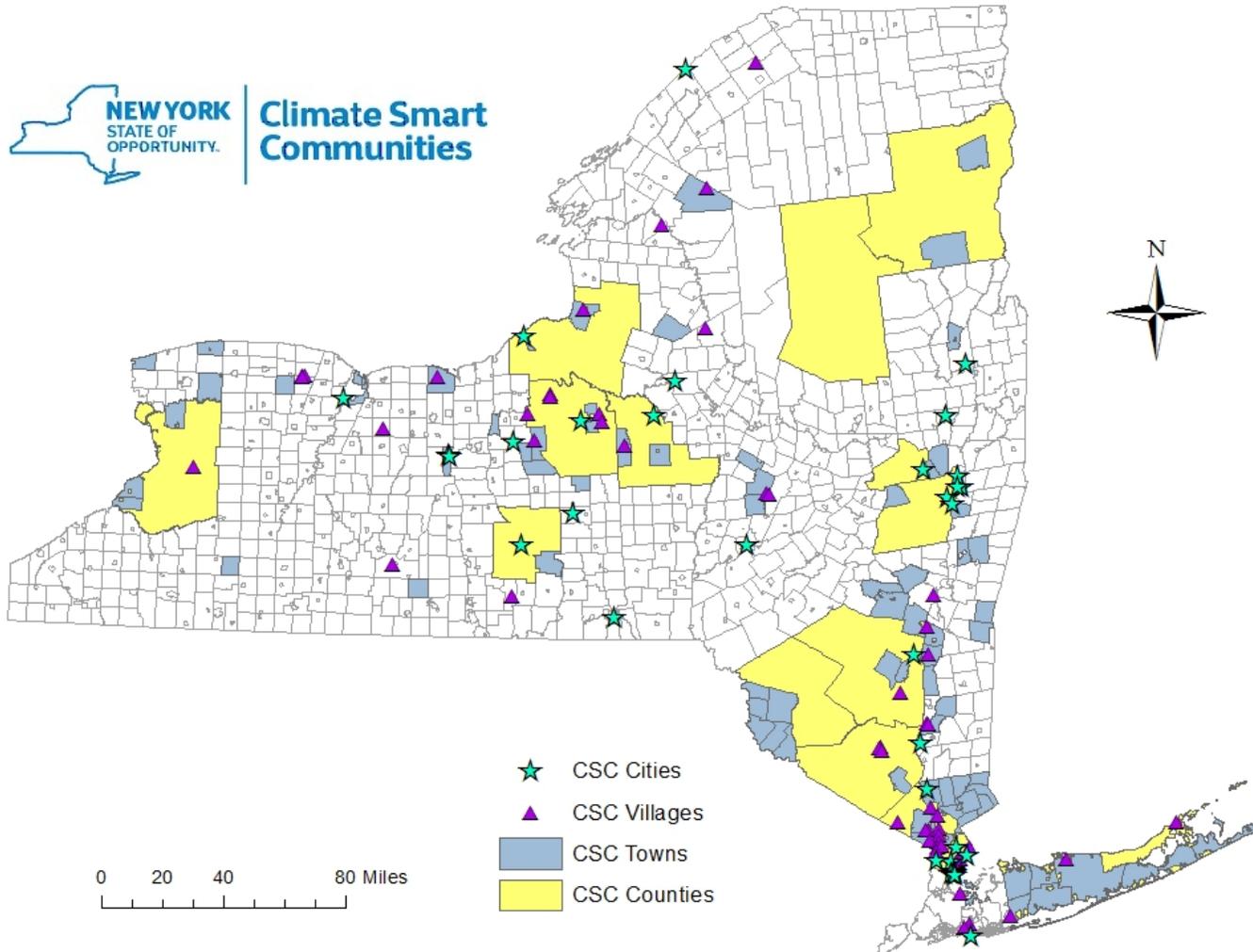


# Climate Smart Pledge Elements

- 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** and 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



# Where are the Climate Smart Communities?



- 175 registered CSCs
- List of CSCs at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html>
- 6.6 million New Yorkers
- Smallest: Village of Van Etten (Chemung Co.) at 537
- Largest: Suffolk Co. at 1,493,350
- 7 Certified CSCs

# How do you become a registered CSC?

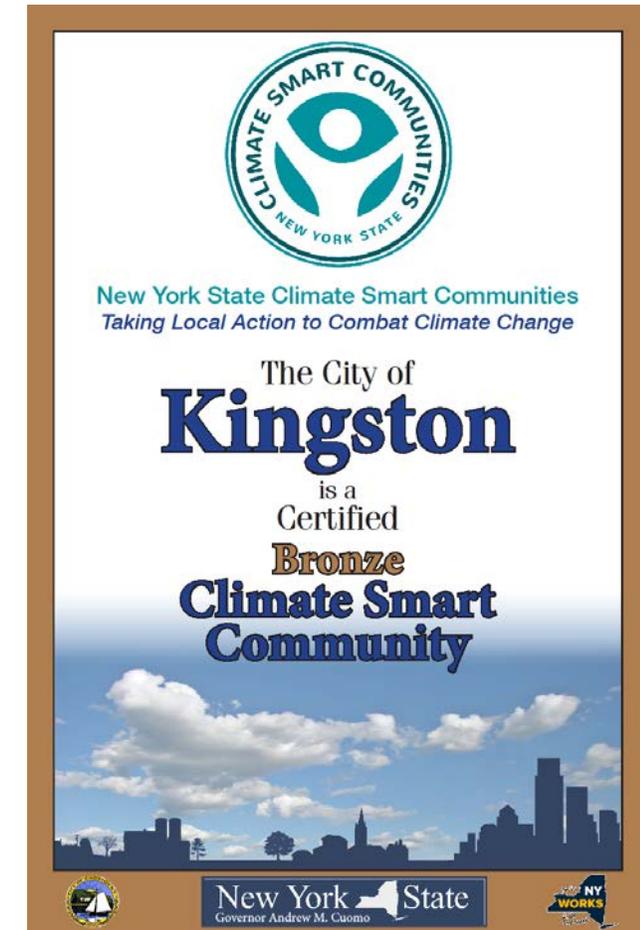
- Local gov't must pass a resolution with all 10 CSC Pledge Elements
- Model resolution at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/65494.html>
- Must be passed by full body of elected officials (e.g., town board)
  - Requires broad support: more than mayor or supervisor
- Includes county gov'ts



# How do you become a certified CSC?

Certification Program Goals:

- Robust framework of local climate actions
- Flexibility to allow all to be certified
- Encourage action by recognizing leaders



# How do you become a certified CSC?



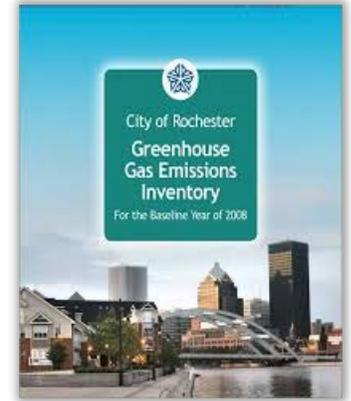
Solar campaigns build energy independence.

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

# Certification Priority Actions



- 1.1 Pass a resolution adopting the **CSC Pledge**
- 1.2 Create a community **CSC task force** focused on climate mitigation & adaptation
- 1.3 Appoint a **CSC coordinator**
- 1.4 Create an **internal green team** focused on climate mitigation & adaptation
  - 2.1 Develop a government operations **GHG emissions inventory**
  - 2.2 Develop a community **GHG emissions inventory**
  - 2.3 Establish a government operations **emissions reduction target**
  - 2.4 Establish a community **emissions reduction target**
  - 2.5 Develop a government operations **climate action plan**
  - 2.6 Develop a community **climate action plan**
- 3.1 Conduct **energy audits** of local government buildings
- 7.1 Conduct a **vulnerability assessment**
- 7.3 Review existing community plans & projects to identify **climate adaptation strategies** & policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability



# Certification Levels

Award Level	Points (Out of 875 possible)	Logo
<u>Registered</u> CSC	N/A (4)	
Certified CSC	120	
Bronze	250	
Silver	350	
Gold	450	

# Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

Nancy Welsh

# Important!

- Read the **Request for Applications** for complete program information
- Materials available through **Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)** at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm>
- Deadline for applications via the CFA:
  - July 29, 2016 at 4 PM

# About the 2016 Grant Program

# Funding & Eligibility

- \$11 million for two major project categories:
  - \$10.5 million for *Climate Protection Implementation Projects*
  - \$500,000 for *Climate Smart Communities Certification Projects*
- **Municipalities** are eligible (Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages)
- Other partners may participate as part of a **partnership project** with a designated, eligible lead applicant.
  - *Submit letters of partnership and/or partnership agreements.*

# Grant Match

- Required local match is 50% of eligible project costs.
  - *These can include personal services (salary and fringe), non-personal services (contractual), travel, equipment, and other eligible costs.*
- No state or federal funds.
- Land acquisition as MATCH ONLY.
  - *Submit map, current appraisal report, and copy of the recorded deed conveying title.*

# Ineligible Costs

- Indirect or overhead costs of the municipality.
- Salaries and other expenses of elected officials.
- Fund raising events/expenses.
- Taxes, insurance, fines, deficit funding, bond interest and fees.
- Contingency costs.
- Costs for purchase and installation of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) and associated infrastructure that are eligible for funding under the 2016 EPF ZEV Municipal Rebate Program.

# Climate Protection Implementation Projects

# Up to \$10.5 million for adaptation & mitigation:

- Construction of natural resiliency measures
- Relocation or retrofit of climate-vulnerable facilities
- Conservation or restoration of riparian areas or tidal marsh migration areas
- Reduction of flood risk
- Clean transportation
- Reduction or recycling of food waste
- **Grant size** - \$100,000 to \$2,000,000

# Eligible Climate Adaptation Actions

- Use of natural resources and nature-based processes (green infrastructure) to decrease vulnerability to climate change.
- Strategic relocation of vulnerable municipal facilities or infrastructure and/or installation of measures to reduce climate risks.
- Projects to conserve or restore floodplains or to allow migration of tidal marsh systems as sea level rises.
- Measures such as right-sizing of bridges and culverts, reducing surge, or stormwater capacity management for flood risk reduction.

# Eligible Climate Mitigation Actions

- Projects that enhance or showcase alternatives to driving for the purpose of decreasing vehicle trips and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing food waste and increasing the volume of food scraps diverted to local composting or anaerobic digester facilities.

# Climate Smart Communities Certification Projects

# Up to \$500,000 for certification:

- Right-sizing of government fleets
- Developing a natural resource inventory
- Conducting vulnerability assessments
- Reviewing existing community plans & projects to identify climate adaptation strategies
- Developing climate adaptation strategies
- Updating hazard mitigation plans to address climate change
- **Grant size** - \$25,000 to \$100,000



# Eligible Certification Actions

- **Right-size the local government fleet (3.11)** - reduce the total number of vehicles and optimize the usage of existing vehicles to ensure the most efficient vehicles are used as much as possible.
- **Develop a natural resource inventory (6.17)** - inventory the natural resources of an area, both physical and biological, to provide a foundation for municipal land-use and conservation planning.

# Eligible Certification Actions

- **Conduct a vulnerability assessment (7.1)** - identify, analyze and prioritize the effects of climate hazards to help understand where to target staff and funding resources.
- **Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability (7.3)** - using the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool

# Eligible Certification Actions

- **Develop climate adaptation strategies (7.4)** – based on, e.g., a vulnerability assessment.
- **Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan (7.6)** - integrate projected future changes in precipitation, sea-level rise, and extreme weather into the multi-hazard mitigation plan, and identify specific mitigation and vulnerability reduction actions.

# Application Review and Scoring

# Pass/Fail Criteria - for all projects

- Must be an eligible applicant, and if applicable, letters of partnership are provided.
- Must implement an eligible project type.
- Must indicate completion within a five-year contract term.
- All costs must be eligible for grant funding and match.
- Must document land ownership and/or the necessary access agreement(s), if applicable.
- Must have submitted a registration for NYS Grants Gateway.

# Implementation – Scoring Overview

	Maximum Points			Minimum Points
<b>CSC Status (5)</b>	5	3	-	0
<b>Project Readiness (10)</b>	10	8	4	2
<b>Financial Hardship (5)</b>	5	-	-	0
<b>Effectiveness of Response to Climate Change (30)</b>	30	<i>-see RFA for breakdown-</i>		1
<b>Consistency with Local Plans (5)</b>	5	2	-	0
<b>Community Health (5)</b>	5	2	-	0
<b>Reasonableness of Cost (20)</b>	20	12	6	1
<b>Regional Economic Development Priority (20)</b>	<i>To be awarded by REDC</i>			
<b>Total Available Points</b>	<b>100</b>			

## SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Has municipality taken CSC pledge?
- Is the project ready to go?
- MHI of municipality <\$58,687?
- Is project supported by climate science and planning?
- Will project have a meaningful impact on identified problem?
- Are the costs necessary and logical for the proposed work?

**Read the Request for Applications!**



## Sources of climate change information and projections

- ClimAid Report (NY) – <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/climaid>
- National Climate Assessment (US) – <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>



# Certification – Scoring Overview

	Maximum Points			Minimum Points
<b>CSC Status (10)</b>	10	-	-	0
<b>Project Readiness (10)</b>	10	8	4	2
<b>Financial Hardship (5)</b>	5	-	-	0
<b>Foundation for Implementation (15)</b>	15	10	5	2
<b>CSC Priority Actions (20)</b>	20	15	10	5
<b>Reasonableness of Cost (20)</b>	20	12	6	1
<b>Regional Economic Development Priority (20)</b>	<i>To be awarded by REDC</i>			
<b>Total Available Points</b>	<b>100</b>			

## SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Has municipality taken CSC pledge?
- Is the project ready to go?
- MHI of municipality <\$58,687?
- Will project lead directly to implementation actions?
- Is project part of a comprehensive certification strategy?
- Are the costs necessary and logical for the proposed work?

**Read the Request for Applications!**



Certification documentation should be submitted using the **CSC Workbook!**

**NOTE:** *Remember to submit your documentation to the Office of Climate Change by **July 15** for consideration as part of a grant application*

The screenshot shows the 'CSC\_Certification\_Workbook\_v2.xlsx' spreadsheet. The table below is a representation of the data visible in the spreadsheet.

Priority Action	Action	Action Name	Key Departments	Documentation Status	Points Possible	Tiered Points	Point Descriptions	Anticipated Points
Pledge Element 1: Pledges to be Climate Smart Communities					31	0		
★	1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge	Town Clerk		4	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	
★	1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	Sustainability Collaborative		8	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	
★	1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	Office of the highest elected official		8	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	
★	1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	Representatives from participating departments		8	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	
	1.5	Join a national or regional climate campaign or program	CSC Coordinator or the green team		3	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	
Pledge Element 2: Set goals, inventory emissions					40	0		
Establish a baseline					16	0		
★	2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	Office of Sustainability; Office of the highest elected official; Planning or environmental departments		8	N/A	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion	

# Program-Specific Terms & Conditions

- If they have not yet done so, grant recipients must take the **Climate Smart Communities Pledge** within the term of their grant contract.
- For climate mitigation projects, grant recipients must provide a report of **estimates of emissions reduction**.
- Certification actions must adhere to the requirements and standards described in the **Climate Smart Communities Certification Manual** - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html>
- For implementation projects involving property (construction, improvements, restoration, rehabilitation) – if the property is not owned by the grant recipient, they must obtain a **climate change mitigation easement**.

# CSC Certification Workbook

Dazzle Ekblad



Village of Dobbs Ferry

# CSC Certification: Getting Started

- 1) Designate a local project coordinator and engage regional coordinator.
- 2) Review the “First Steps” guide at [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html)
  - Start with 13 priority actions.
- 3) Collect documentation and track your progress with the “Certification Workbook”
- 4) Submit documentation to [climatechange@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climatechange@dec.ny.gov).



# CSC Certification Workbook

Same tool, different names:

- “Scoring Worksheet” = “Roadmap” = “Certification Workbook”

Tool is useful for:

- Summary of requirements
- Self-assessment
- Organizing documentation
- Submitting documentation
- Tracking progress toward certification (if submitting documentation incrementally)

It’s a work-in-progress!

# Live Demo: Certification Workbook

- Go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html> to download the First Steps Guide, checklist and the Certification Manual
- Email [climatechange@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climatechange@dec.ny.gov) for a copy of:
  - Certification Workbook
  - Folders to keep your documents organized



**Climate Smart  
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Certified



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# Questions?

- Office of Climate Change
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- 625 Broadway  
Albany NY 12233-1030
- [climatechange@dec.ny.gov](mailto:climatechange@dec.ny.gov)
- 518-402-8448

**Webinar slides and recordings will be posted at**

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html>

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