

Please note: the information below is only an overview and it might not be the most current description of the CSC certification actions. For full details and the most current information, please visit this website: https://climatesmart.ny.gov				
CEC: These actions are related to the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) High Impact Actions.				
Under Review: These italicized actions are currently unavailable; they are being revised by the CSC interagency team.				
CSC Grants: These actions may be fundable under the certification category of the CSC Grant Program. For details see this webpage: http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC				
Cells highlighted in yellow are included in the first NRI draft				
Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name (version 2)	Points	Community Priority - H/L/NA
PE1: Build a climate-smart community.				
PE1 Action: CSC Task Force	1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	20	
PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator	1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	10	
PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program	1.5	Join a national or regional climate campaign or program	3	
PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities	10.3	Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies	3	
PE2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.				
PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory	2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	16	
PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory	2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	16	
PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan	2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	12 - 16	
PE2 Action: Community Climate Action Plan	2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	16	
PE3: Decrease energy use.				
PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits	3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8 - 16	
PE3 Action: Interior Lighting Upgrades	3.2	Upgrade interior lighting	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: HVAC Upgrades	3.3	Upgrade HVAC equipment	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: Water-efficient Fixtures	3.4	Install water-efficient fixtures	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Building Energy Management System	3.5	Install a building energy management system (EMS)	1 - 5	
PE3 Action: Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings	3.32	Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings	2 - 5	
PE3 Action: Clean Energy Upgrades	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	10	
PE3 Action: Green Building Standard for Government Buildings	3.7	Adopt a green building standard for local government buildings and facilities	2 - 4	
PE3 Action: Green Building Certification	3.8	Build a new green building	15	
PE3 Action: Fleet Inventory	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	4	
PE3 Action: Fleet Efficiency Policy	3.10	Adopt a vehicle fleet efficiency policy	2 - 3	
PE3 Action: Fleet Rightsizing	3.11	Right-size the local government fleet	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Advanced Vehicles	3.12	Replace traditional vehicles with advanced vehicles	2 - 10	
PE3 Action: LED Street Lights	3.15	Convert streetlights to LED	5 - 10	
PE3 Action: LED Traffic Signals	3.16	Convert traffic signals to LED	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Outdoor Lighting Reduction	3.17	Reduce number of outdoor lighting fixtures	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Outdoor Lighting Upgrades	3.18	Upgrade outdoor lighting (other than streetlights and traffic signals) to more efficient and/or solar technology	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	3.24	Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy	1 - 4	
PE3 Action: Financing Mechanism for Government Energy Projects	3.25	Establish a financing mechanism for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in government owned buildings	5	
PE3 Action: Waste & Energy Provisions in Government Contracts	3.26	Incorporate energy efficiency and waste handling provisions in standard specifications and government contracts	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Incentives for Employee Carpooling & Transit	3.28	Subsidize and incentivize employee alternative commuting	1 - 3	
PE3 Action: Energy Code Enforcement Training	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	5	
PE4: Shift to clean, renewable energy.				
PE4 Action: Green Power Procurement Policy	4.1	Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewables	2 - 4	
PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies	4.3	Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy installations	3 - 5	
PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Credits	4.4	Purchase renewable energy credits (RECs)	2 - 7	
Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name (version 2)	Points	Community Priority - H/L/NA
PE4 Action: Geothermal Installation	4.5	Install a geothermal heat pump or other geothermal technology at a new or existing public facility	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation	4.6	Install solar hot water and/or solar photovoltaic technology on public property	9 - 20	

PE4 Action: Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables	4.7	Serve as a host site for a renewable energy installation and enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA)	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Wind Energy Installation	4.8	Install a wind system on public property	9 - 20	
PE4 Action: Wood Pellet Installation	4.9	Install a wood pellet heating system on public property	6 - 17	
PE5: Use climate-smart materials management.				
PE5 Action: Organics Management Plan	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	2 - 16	
PE5 Action: Government Solid Waste Audit	3.23	Conduct a local government waste audit and track diversion rate over time	2	
PE5 Action: Recycling Bins in Government Buildings	3.20	Provide recycling bins next to all trash receptacles in local government buildings	3	
PE5 Action: Organic Waste Program for Government Buildings	3.21	Provide organic waste collection and composting in local government buildings	1 - 3	
PE5 Action: WasteWise Program	5.3	Participate in the EPA WasteWise program	1 - 2	
PE5 Action: Construction & Demolition Waste Policy	5.5	Adopt a construction and demolition waste reduction program or policy	2 - 6	
PE5 Action: Resource Recovery Center	5.6	Set up and manage a resource recovery center to encourage reuse of gently used or new materials that have been discarded	6	
PE5 Action: Recycling Program for Public Places & Events	5.9	Provide recycling bins in public places and events	1 - 3	
PE5 Action: Waste Reduction Education Campaign	5.13	Create an educational campaign to encourage recycling, composting and waste reduction	2	
PE5 Action: Community Repair	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	4	
PE5 Action: Compost Bins for Residents	5.10	Provide compost bins to residents (for sale or free)	2	
PE5 Action: Residential Organic Waste Program	5.11	Create an organics or yard waste collection program	2 - 22	
PE6: Implement climate-smart land use.				
PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements	6.1	Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements	3 - 21	
NA	6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations	1 - 8	
PE6 Action: Unified Solar Permit	6.3	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance	5	
NA	6.4	Establish green building codes	1 - 6	
PE6 Action: Resource-efficient Site Design	6.5	Create resource-efficient site design guidelines (non-reviewable)		
PE6 Action: Incentives for Renewable Energy & Efficiency Projects	6.6	Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects		
NA	6.7	Adopt land-use policies that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens and urban and rural agriculture	1 - 4	
PE6 Action: GreenLITES	3.27	Utilize a green or sustainability rating system for infrastructure improvement projects	6 - 15	
NA	6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards	1 - 4	
PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy	6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy	4	
PE6 Action: Planning & Infrastructure for Bicycling & Walking	6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking	2 - 15	
PE6 Action: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure	6.11	Install electric-vehicle infrastructure	4 - 18	
Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name (version 2)	Points	Community Priority - H/L/NA
NA	6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes	1 - 10	
NA	6.13	Implement a Safe Routes to School program	3	
PE6 Action: Traffic Calming	6.14	Implement traffic calming measures	3 - 10	
NA	6.15	Adopt and enforce an anti-idling ordinance	1 - 3	
PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory	6.17	Develop a natural resource inventory	8 - 10	
NA	6.18	Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program	1 - 10	
NA	6.19	Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations	2 - 6	
PE7: Enhance community resilience to climate change.				
PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment	7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	4 - 16	
PE7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience	7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability (v3: Climate Smart Resiliency Planning)	6	
PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan	7.2 & 7.4	7.2 Develop a climate resilience vision and goals (v3: Climate Resilience Vision) and 7.4 Develop climate adaptation strategies (v3: Climate Adaptation Strategies)	3 - 11	
PE7 Action: Hazard Mitigation Plan	7.6	Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards	3	
PE7 Action: Heat Emergency Plan	7.7	Develop and implement a heat emergency plan	6	
PE7 Action: Shade Structures Policy	7.8	Require shade structures and features in public spaces	4	
PE7 Action: Cooling Centers	7.9	Open new or expand existing cooling centers	1 - 9	

PE7 Action: Conserve Natural Areas	7.13	Conserve natural areas for species migration and ecosystem resilience (v3: Conservation of Natural Habitats)	1 - 21	
PE7 Action: Watershed-based Flood Mitigation Plan	7.10	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities (v3: Watershed Assessment)	2 - 5	
PE7 Action: Design Flood Elevation & Flood Maps	7.20	Require consideration of sea-level rise in planning coastal development	2 - 14	
PE7 Action: Freeboard Policies	7.19	Extend areas in which the two-foot freeboard requirement applies	4 - 19	
PE7 Action: Green Infrastructure	7.16	Use green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas	1 - 14	
PE7 Action: Culverts & Dams	7.21	Right-size bridges and culverts, and remove unnecessary and hazardous dams	2 - 24	
PE7 Action: Riparian Buffers	7.12	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas (v3: Restoration of Floodplain & Riparian Buffers)	2 - 14	
PE7 Action: Strategic Relocation	7.14	Facilitate a strategic relocation of uses that are not water dependent from flood prone areas	4 - 11	
PE7 Action: Nature-based Shorelines	7.18	Use natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection	2 - 12	
PE7 Action: National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	7.15	Promote community flood prevention strategies through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	3 - 9	
PE7 Action: Watershed Plan for Water Quality	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	4 - 8	
PE7 Action: Source Water Protection	7.25	Implement a source water protection program	6 - 10	
PE7 Action: Water Conservation & Reuse	7.23	Implement a water conservation and reuse program	2 - 6	
Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name (version 2)	Points	Community Priority - H/L/NA
PE7 Action: Water-smart Landscaping	7.24	Encourage xeriscaping	1 - 9	
PE7 Action: Early Warning Systems and Evacuation Plans	7.22	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans		
PE8: Support a green innovation economy.				
PE8 Action: Green Jobs Training	8.1	Create a green jobs training program	3	
PE8 Action: Green Vendor Fairs	8.2	Hold green vendor fairs	2	
PE8 Action: Green Economic Development Plans	8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans	4	
PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets	8.6	Create and promote local farmers' markets	3	
PE8 Action: Buy Local/Buy Green Campaign	8.7	Create a "buy local/buy green" campaign	2	
PE8 Action: Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment	8.8	Redevelop a brownfield site	1 - 18	
PE8 Action: Incentives for Green Businesses	8.9	Establish incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in community	4	
PE8 Action: Energy Benchmarking for Privately Owned Buildings	8.11	Adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings	4 - 10	
PE 8 Action: Financing Program for Building Energy Efficiency	8.12	Establish a residential energy efficiency financing program	2 - 7	
PE8 Action: Community Choice Aggregation	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	15 - 21	
PE8 Action: Solarize, Clean Heating & Cooling, or Solar for All Campaign	NA	NA (This is a new action, version 3.)	5	
PE9: Inform and inspire the public.				
PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement	9.1	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation	4 - 8	Priority
PE9 Action: Energy Reduction Campaign	9.2	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge	5	
PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events	9.3	Host climate-related educational seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs	3	
PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website	9.4	Maintain a website on local climate protection efforts	3	
PE9 Action: Social Media	9.5	Use social media to inform the community about the progress of local government's efforts	3	
PE10: Engage in an evolving process of climate action.				
PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System	3.31	Implement an energy or GHG management system	5	
PE10 Action: Annual Progress Report	10.1	Report on progress annually	4	
PE10 Action: Updates to Strategies & Plans	10.2	Update strategies and plan(s)	4	
Innovation				
Innovation: New Innovative Actions	11.1	Implement a new innovative action	3 - 18	
Innovation: Innovative Approaches to Existing CSC Actions	11.2	Implement an action using an innovative approach	5 - 10	
Performance				
Performance: Reduce GHGs from Government Facilities	12.1	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned facilities	15 - 45	
Performance: Reduce GHGs from Government Vehicles	12.2	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned vehicles	15 - 45	
Performance: Reduce Solid Waste from Government Operations	12.4	Reduce waste volume from local government operations	3 - 10	

City of Rensselaer – Public Meeting

Natural Resources Inventory, Final Public Feedback Session

Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 PM

Rensselaer City Hall

Additional information on future planning from: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/>

PE – Pledge Element

PE 1: Build a climate smart community

PE 2: Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action

PE 3: Decrease energy use

PE 4: Shift to clean, renewable energy

PE 5: Use climate-smart materials management

PE 6: Implement climate-smart land use

PE 7: Enhance community resiliency to climate change

PE 8: Support a green innovation economy

PE 9: Inform and inspire the public

PE 10: Engage in an evolving process of climate action

What is a Climate Action Plan?

A climate action plan (CAP) is a strategy document that sets goals and outlines a set of initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Using a GHG emissions inventory as the foundation, a CAP defines GHG reduction targets and identifies priority actions.

- **The CSC Program identifies 2 CAPs**
 - A Government Operations CAP
 - Based on government operations GHG inventory
 - A Community CAP

- Based on community GHG inventory

The basic steps to create a local climate action plan (CAP) are as follows:

1. Determine leadership and CAP framework.
2. Develop communication and engagement strategy. (This CSC action requires public review of the draft community CAP.)
3. Complete and analyze baseline assessments.
4. Identify goals and GHG reduction targets.
5. Identify existing and potential initiatives.
6. Prioritize initiatives.
7. Create a plan for implementing the chosen initiatives.
8. Establish metrics.
9. Write the CAP, adopt it, and make it publicly available.

What is an Organics Management Plan?

An organics management plan can be a standalone document or be a section in an existing solid waste management plan, sustainability plan, or other related municipal planning document.

At minimum, to be eligible for CSC points, plans are required to include these four elements: **A record of community engagement***, **the goals of the program***, **a list of the proposed organics management strategies***, and **an implementation timeline***.

1. ***Community Engagement** - Identify strategies to engage interested parties in the planning process, provide education, market the program, and receive direct feedback from the community. A variety of methods may be employed, such as paper flyers, community meetings, public events, and/or surveys. Community feedback is valuable throughout the planning and implementation processes. More detail about community engagement tips is available in the 2016 US EPA Food Too Good to Waste Guide and the website Community-Based Social Marketing.
2. ***Goals** - Consider how the organics management plan may fit into the larger objectives of the community. Identify both short term and easily achievable goals as well as long term, big picture goals for the program.
3. **Research** - Review the information in Section G of this action and research material published by other community groups that have already developed plans and implemented organics management strategies.
4. **Team and Supporting Partners** - Provide information about the local management team and supporting partners (e.g., volunteer base, technical resources, funding partners). Research what neighboring communities are implementing and what resources are available in the region; there may be an opportunity to leverage existing educational materials or other resources (e.g., food rescue organizations, organics haulers).
5. ***Organics Management Strategies** - Examine the types of strategies in the table below in Section E. After gathering information and evaluating the options that best suit the

local context, the plan must list the strategies that will be implemented in the community to improve the management of organics and reduce GHG emissions.

6. **Expected Participants** - Describe who the intended audience or participants are for the various management strategies included in the plan and how they will be identified prior to implementation. For example, if a pilot food waste collection program will occur with a set number of households, where will the management team look to identify volunteers?
7. **Data Collection** - Gather appropriate data and information. Depending on what types of strategies are to be implemented, baseline data (e.g., estimates of food waste generation by residents) can be valuable when trying to right size a community-operated program or facility.
8. **Evaluation of Strategies** - If a feasibility study or other analysis is being performed as a part of the plan, summarize the process to evaluate the strategies and analyze outcomes. This type of evaluation can be crucial when assessing projects that require capital investment.
9. **Resource Needs and Budget** - Document potential resource needs (staff and volunteer time, equipment, and other material requirements) and corresponding budget for each management strategy element being addressed under the plan.
10. ***Implementation Steps and Timeline** - A plan is just a list of good ideas unless there are clear steps to that support action and the implementation of the plan. Describe the proposed timeline, who is responsible for execution, and how feedback will be gathered from the community during each step of the process.

How can we use sustainability in a Comprehensive Plan?

Local governments should incorporate sustainability elements throughout the comprehensive plan. Alternatively, they may add sustainability as a standalone chapter to the plan or as a separate plan incorporated by reference, though integration is preferable. These approaches may be taken for a new plan or adopted as an amendment to the existing comprehensive plan.

The steps listed below can be followed to incorporate sustainability into the comprehensive plan, whether as a new plan or as a plan amendment (though the scope of an amendment might be focused on a particular topic, such as a bike and pedestrian plan).

1. **Public Outreach and Engagement:** Develop communications strategy. Identify stakeholders from all segments of the community. Launch outreach (i.e., social media, public meetings). Define what sustainability means to the community.
2. **Baseline Assessment:** Analyze existing conditions for land use, economic development, housing, energy, transportation, and natural, cultural, and historic resources.
3. **Develop Goals:** Use media and survey tools to capture the community's vision. Set goals with stakeholders and subcommittees. Ensure goals address the three "Es" of sustainability: environment, economy, and equity. Determine goals to address the community's sustainability definition.
4. **Identify and Evaluate Strategies and Actions:** Conduct research on national best practices. Facilitate strategy and action identification process. Develop evaluation criteria and evaluate strategies. Prioritize strategies and actions. Determine strategies to achieve sustainability goals and detail implementation actions.

5. **Integration:** Develop draft plan for review by the community. Integrate comments from community. Assign implementation responsibilities. Finalize the plan.

How can we plan for reduced vehicle GHG emissions?

Local governments have a range of strategies they can implement to improve the infrastructure for biking and walking in their communities. This Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action focuses on the following five strategies:

- Develop a bicycle and pedestrian master plan (or similar plan)
- Expand and improve bike and walking paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks
- Improve bike parking
- Improve bike and pedestrian signage
- Develop a bike share program*

What is a Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

Developing a vulnerability assessment involves identifying, analyzing and prioritizing the effects of climate hazards and risks, like flooding, heat stress or short-term drought. A climate hazard is a physical event or trend that could affect a population segment or the entire community, specific areas, assets, or entire systems (for example, transportation or energy infrastructure) including the local economy and industries. A vulnerability assessment process should consider diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) from start to finish since vulnerabilities will likely lead to varying risks across the diverse populations in your community.

1. **Research relevant studies of climate change projections** to identify hazards that apply to your community. Review and summarize state and regional studies, including ClimAID (2011 and 2014) and the NYS 2100 Commission Report (2012).
2. **Assess the potential impacts** to assets and systems in your community. Alternatively, another way to identify and assess the vulnerabilities of each asset or system uses three criteria: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. These terms are defined below.
 - a. **Exposure** refers to whether an asset or system is located in an area that is likely to experience the effects of a climate change hazard now or in the future.
 - b. **Sensitivity** refers to how an asset or system fares when exposed to a climate hazard.
 - c. **Adaptive capacity** refers to the ability of an asset or system to adjust to actual or expected climate stresses.
3. **Identify vulnerable populations** and assess how they will be affected by current and future climate hazards.
4. **Share a summary of climate hazards, community assets, systems and vulnerabilities with community residents** and other stakeholders via public meetings, surveys, and/or other means. Conduct outreach to confirm findings and identify additional vulnerabilities. Plan public meetings to be accessible in terms of location and

transportation options, and, where possible, provide food, childcare, and/or other incentives to support participation.

5. **Prioritize assets** and systems based on the following factors:
 - a. Their exposure and sensitivity to the effects of climate hazards and their adaptive capacity
 - b. How critical they are in respect to the functioning and prosperity of the community
 - c. Their ability to reduce vulnerabilities and risks in the community, and to vulnerable populations in particular
6. **Develop a report of vulnerability assessment findings.**
7. **Establish a timeline for re-assessing vulnerabilities.**
 - a. Updates should occur at least every 10 years or when a new understanding of hazards occurs (like a major storm) or when updated state climate projections become available.