

# Climate Smart Communities Profile



City of Kingston

May 2014

## 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 City of Kingston 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:** 10 out of 10

**Total Actions Completed:** 24

**Government Type:** City

**County:** Ulster County

**Region:** Mid-Hudson Region

**Population:** 23,893

### Climate Smart Communities 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 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
Hired Climate Analyst	Completed	Through a NYSERDA Grant, Kingston hired a Climate Analyst for a one year position to complete a GHG inventory and climate action plan.
Appointed a Climate Smart Community Coordinator	Completed	The City of Kingston formally appointed a Climate Smart Community Coordinator to oversee the task force and implementation of the climate action plan.
Adopted CSC Pledge	Completed	Kingston Adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009.
Climate Smart Kingston	Completed	The City formally adopted a resolution to establish a task force called Climate Smart Kingston to implement initiatives of the climate action plan.
Formed the Kingston Conservation Advisory Commission	Completed	The City formed the Kingston Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) in 2009.

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

Action	Status	Description
Government GHG Inventory	Completed	The City conducted a local government operations energy and greenhouse gas emissions report for the baseline year 2010.
Government Operations Climate Action Plan	Completed	The City completed a government operations and community Climate Action Plan in 2012, which was formally adopted on October 2, 2012.
Community GHG Inventory	Completed	A community GHG inventory was completed for a baseline year 2010.
Energy and Emissions Reduction Target	Completed	The City has adopted a target of reducing energy and GHG emissions 20% by 2020.
Community Climate Action Plan	Completed	The City completed a government operations and community Climate Action Plan in 2012, which was formally adopted on October 2, 2012.

## Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Waste Reduction Targets	Completed	The City has adopted goals to reduce municipal waste generated by 10% per year and reduce community waste by 20% before 2020, and to increase recycling rates by 20% before 2020.

### Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Paper Use Reduction Policy	Identified	The City would like to adopt a Local Government Paper Use Reduction Policy as part of goal of 10% reduction in annual paper use.
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	Identified	The City plans to adopt a Local Government Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy.
Employee Commute Reduction Target	Completed	The City has established a goal of a 20% reduction by 2020 in single occupancy vehicle commuting by City employees.
Green the City's Fleet	Identified	The City would like to implement green fleet strategies to meet City's fleet targets for 2020, such as transition 20% of the fleet to hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles and reduce fuel usage by 20%.

### Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

Action	Status	Description
Renewable Energy Target	Completed	The City has adopted a target to purchase at least 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.
Green Power and RECs	Identified	The City plans to explore Green Power options and the possible purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

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

Action	Status	Description
Pay-As-You Throw	Identified	The City is interested in developing a Pay-As-You-Throw program to incentivize recycling.
Big Belly Solar Compactors	Completed	The City has put in a number of Big Belly solar trash compactors, reducing the frequency of trash pickup, thus reducing energy used by refuse vehicles.
Compost Bin Sale	Completed	The Parks and Recreation Department hosted 3 educational seminars at the Public Library. The City provided compost bins to participants for a 6 month data collection project, to track waste reductions and help the City analyze cost benefits of developing a community-wide composting program.
Leaf/Yard Waste Collection	Completed	The City has a leaf/yard waste collection program.

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

Action	Status	Description
Leave it on the Lawn, Kingston!	Completed	Ongoing support of Leave it on the Lawn, Kingston program through Kingston Land Trust to promote yard waste reduction through mowing and composting strategies at home.
Single Stream Recycling	Completed	City has converted to single stream recycling to increase recycling rate among residents.

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

Action	Status	Description
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Identified	The City would like to explore feasibility of planning, permitting, zoning, infrastructure necessary to create EV infrastructure network in the City, including at government facilities.
Adopt a Complete Streets Policy	Completed	Kingston adopted a Complete Streets Policy and established the Complete Streets Advisory Council by a Resolution in November 2010. The 11 member Council serves as a resource to the City for active transportation and vital streets and to promote better access for all traffic (pedestrian, bicycle, transit, people with disabilities, and vehicles) in the City of Kingston.
Car-share Program	Identified	The City would like to establish a car-share program.
Safe Routes to School Program	In progress	The City has a \$489,000 grant to do streetscape and sidewalk improvements through the Department of Transportation.
Tree Commission and Land Trust	Completed	The Tree Commission is actively preserving open space through a land trust.
Rail Trails	In progress	The City is working on rail to trail conversion projects.
Updating Comprehensive Plan	In progress	The City is updating their 1961 Comprehensive Plan and working with Climate Smart Kingston to incorporate climate protection and sustainability elements.
Local Building Code	Identified	The City has identified two possible initiatives related to energy efficiency in buildings: adoption of a local energy conservation code and/or adoption of local green building standards. The City has also identified the need to provide training for such code enforcement.
Bicycle Master Plan	Identified	The City would like to develop a Bicycle Master Plan to promote bicycle use, improve infrastructure, and create bike friendly zones.

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

Action	Status	Description
Pedestrian Master Plan	Identified	Develop a Pedestrian Master Plan to improve sidewalks and other infrastructure.

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

Action	Status	Description
City of Kingston Climate Adaptation Plan	Identified	The City plans to prepare and adopt a Climate Adaptation Plan.
Climate Change Review Process for Capital Projects	Identified	The City would like to adopt a local policy to consider climate change as part of review process for capital projects.
Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force	Completed	The City has established the Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force.
Climate Impacts and Adaptation into Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Update	In progress	The City will integrate information on climate risks and adaptation planning and response into its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update currently underway.

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

Action	Status	Description
Brownfield Remediation	Completed	The City's Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan targets city-owned brownfield sites for redevelopment. The City supported the cleanup of 2 sites between 2008 and 2012.
Create a local financing program for energy retrofits	Identified	The City would like to create a PACE or similar program to promote energy retrofits in the city.

## Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Energy, Climate, and Green Jobs Conference	Identified	The City plans to organize a regional "Energy, Climate and Green Jobs Conference" to be held in Kingston.
Climate Smart Kingston Website	In progress	The Conservation Advisory Commission created a website called Climate Smart Kingston to promote the City's efforts to fulfill the 10 Pledge Elements.

## Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
Recycling Marketing Campaign	Identified	The City would like to develop a marketing campaign to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs.
Citizen Science Monitoring Program	Identified	The City would like to create a Citizen Science Monitoring Program to identify and monitor climate related impacts.
Rain Barrel Program	Completed	The City hosted an educational workshop to highlight best practices for residential stormwater management and supplied rain barrels to attendees.
Climate Smart Kingston Facebook	In progress	The Conservation Advisory Commission uses social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to promote Climate Smart Kingston and the climate action plan.
RUPCO Green Jobs/Green New York Campaign	In progress	The City is partnering with Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) to market opportunities for residential and commercial energy audits and renewable energy installations. The may involve door-to-door outreach to recruit and train community members to be energy advocates.

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

Action	Status	Description
Sustainable Hudson Valley Solarize Campaign	Completed	The City is partnering with Sustainable Hudson Valley to create a guide for residential solar panel installations and funding resources.

**For more information about the City of Kingston's climate protection efforts, please contact: Julie Noble at (845) 481-7339**



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.