

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Requirements



Level	Description	Minimum Points	Minimum Pledge Elements	Required Priority Actions	Minimum Additional* Priority Actions	Minimum Performance/ Innovation Points
Registered	Local gov'ts are recognized as being registered upon signing the CSC pledge.	4 points	PE1	Action 1.1	N/A	0
Certified	The initial level of certification - for local gov'ts that have demonstrated a commitment toward climate protection and have taken the initial steps to establish climate-smart policies and projects.	120 points	PE1, PE2, PE3, plus 2 more PEs completed	Actions 1.1, 1.3	4 of 13	0 points
Bronze	The second level of certification - for local gov'ts that have acted on their commitment and implemented a range of foundational climate actions.	250 points	PE1, PE2, PE3, plus 4 more PEs completed	Actions 1.1, 1.3	6 of 13	5 points
Silver	The third level of certification - for local gov'ts that have implemented a broad variety of climate protection actions for both gov't operations and the community.	350 points	PE1, PE2, PE3, plus 5 more PEs completed	Actions 1.1, 1.3	11 of 13	10 points
Gold	The highest level of certification - for local gov'ts that have successfully taken action to address all pledge elements and demonstrate tangible reductions in GHG emissions.	450 points	All PEs completed	Actions 1.1, 1.3	11 of 13	20 points
Definitions						
Minimum (Min.) Points	Applicants must earn at least the specified number of points for the rating level, along with achieving the other criteria listed in the rows above. Points are earned by completing actions listed in the <i>CSC Certification Manual</i> (there are over 130 possible actions to choose from; see link below) and submitting the required documentation to climatechange@dec.ny.gov .					
Min. Pledge Elements	Applicants must complete at least one action in each of the specified Pledge Elements (PEs).					
Required Priority Actions	Applicants must complete the required priority actions for each rating level.					
Min. Addt'l Priority Actions	Applicants may select which additional priority actions to complete, and must achieve at least the minimum specified for each rating level. *Additional priority actions include 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 7.1, and 7.3. See other side for a list of the 13 priority actions.					
Min. Perf./Innovation Points	Applicants must achieve at least the specified number of performance (perf.) or innovation points.					

To learn more and download the *Climate Smart Communities Certification Manual*, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html> .
 For questions, email climatechange@dec.ny.gov or call the DEC Office of Climate Change at 518-402-8448.

The 13 Priority Actions of the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program

(Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html> for the full list of over 130 CSC Certification actions.)

Action	Action Name	Points Possible	Point Descriptions
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge	4	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	8	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	8	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	8	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
2.3	Establish a government operations emissions reduction target	4	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
2.4	Establish a community emissions reduction target	4	Full points awarded upon evidence of completion
2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	8	4 PTS: Perform public outreach and public review of draft plan. 4 PTS: Develop and publicly release a government operations climate action plan.
2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	8	4 PTS: Perform public outreach and public review of draft plan. 4 PTS: Develop and publicly release a community climate action plan.
3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8	For ASHRAE Level 1 Audits: 1 PT: 10% of buildings 3 PTS: 25% of buildings 4 PTS: 50% of buildings 5 PTS: 75% of buildings 6 PTS: 90% of buildings For ASHRAE Level 2 Audits: 3 PTS: 10% of buildings 5 PTS: 25% of buildings 6 PTS: 50% of buildings 8 PTS: 75% of buildings
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	8	2 PTS: Vulnerability assessment for 1 climate hazard (scope may be limited to a geographic area or system of concern) 3 PTS: Vulnerability assessment for 2-3 climate hazards (scope may be limited to a geographic area or system of concern) 8 PTS: Comprehensive vulnerability assessment, covering the entire community and all relevant climate hazards
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability	4	3 PTS: Complete a review of existing plans and policies using the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool 1 PT: Identify deficiencies in local plans and develop specific recommendations to address them.