



**Climate Smart
Communities**

The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

Part of the Environmental Protection Fund

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

Important!

- Read the **Request for Applications** for complete information
- Materials available through **Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)** at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm>
- Background materials available from NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/76910.html>



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 and 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
- 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.
- **Identify and develop climate adaptation strategies (7.3, 7.4)** - Self-evaluate local plans, policies and projects using the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool, and develop a Climate Action Plan or sustainability plan.

Eligible Certification Actions

- **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.



Review Process

- Convene a technical evaluation team of state agency personnel
- Technical reviewers score applications
- Reviewer scores for each application are averaged
- Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) scores are incorporated
- Final numerical score and ranking determined
- Funding recommended from highest to lowest rank in each category, within funding limits

Implementation – Scoring Overview

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

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!



Certification – Scoring Overview

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

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!



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>
- If the grant recipient develops, improves, restores or rehabilitates real property that it does not own as part of the funded project, they must obtain a **climate change mitigation easement**.

Thank You

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