

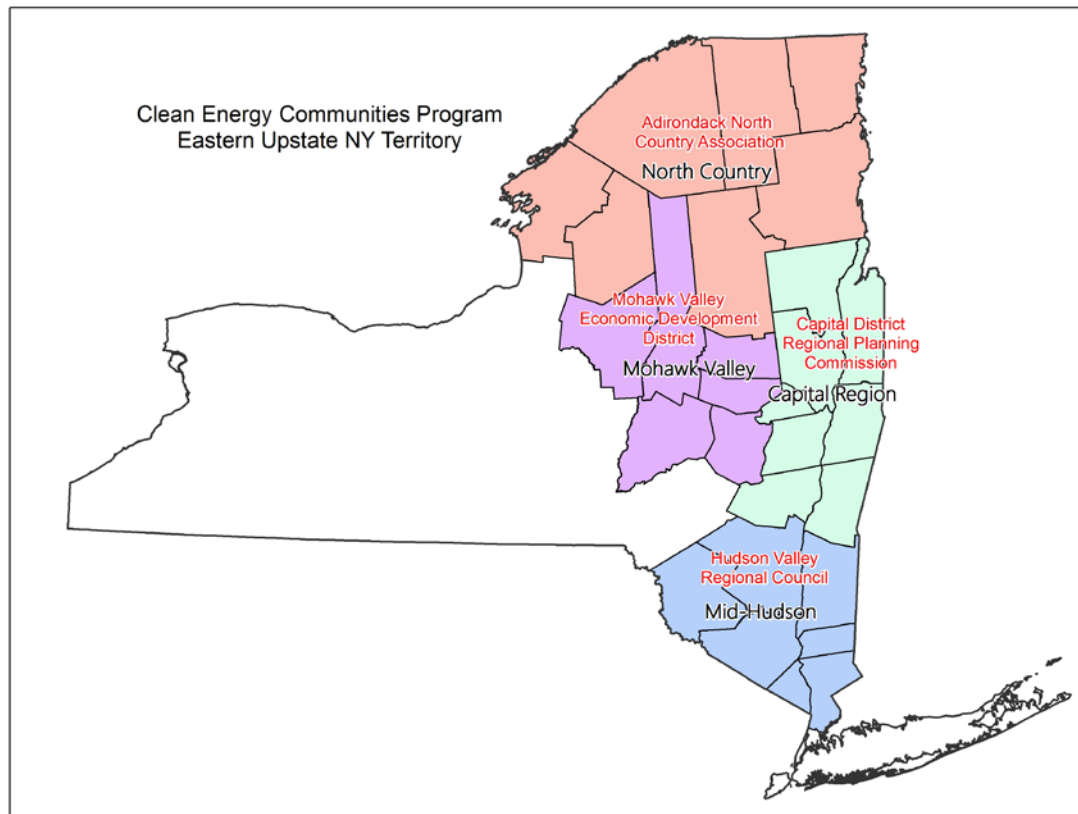
Clean Energy Communities Program

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Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Clean Energy Communities Program Overview



Introduction



What is the Clean Energy Communities Program?

- **Open enrollment** Program that provides **rewards and recognition** for communities that demonstrate clean energy leadership
- **Step 1: Become Designated a Clean Energy Community**
 - Complete **4 out of 10** High-Impact Actions with assistance from locally-based technical experts
- **Step 2: Receive Funding for Project Implementation**
 - Access up to **\$250,000** of funding with no cost share

A Program for all Communities

- Technical assistance available for all communities at no cost
- High-Impact Actions present options which reduce energy consumption, save money, and increase local economic development
- Each Region has funding for **18** projects – additional potential \$30,000 available for communities in Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties
- First come, first-served
- **No** local cost-share! Up to 25% advance available for projects

Municipality Size by Population	<u>Tier 1 Awards</u>		<u>Tier 2 Awards</u>	
	Number of Awards in each Economic Development Region and Amount		Number of Awards in each Economic Development Region and Amount	
Large (40,000+)	0	\$250,000	0	\$150,000
Small/Medium (0 – 39,999)	0	\$100,000	2	\$50,000

The 10 High-Impact Actions

- 1) Benchmarking
- 2) Clean Energy Upgrades
- 3) LED Street Lights
- 4) Clean Fleets
- 5) Solarize
- 6) Unified Solar Permit
- 7) Energy Code Enforcement Training
- 8) Climate Smart Communities Certification
- 9) Community Choice Aggregation
- 10) Energize NY Finance



Benchmarking



Adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings on an annual basis.

Clean Energy Upgrades



City of Schenectady CHP Project



Town of Niskayuna Solar Installation



City of Watervliet Solar Installation

Achieve a 10 percent reduction in GHG emissions from municipal buildings through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy.

LED Street Lights



City of Yonkers LED street light conversion



Convert at least half of the municipal cobra-head-style street lights within the jurisdiction to energy-efficient LED technology.

Clean Fleets



City of Cohoes Plug-In Hybrid



American Natural Gas Fueling Station, City of Saratoga Springs

Install an EV charging station and/or other alternative fuel infrastructure or deploy alternative fuel vehicles in the municipal fleet.

Solarize



Undertake a Solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops in the jurisdiction through group purchasing, locally-organized community education and outreach, and a limited time offer.

Unified Solar Permit

PERMIT APPLICATION
NY State Unified Solar Permit

Unified solar permitting is available statewide for eligible solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Municipal authorities that accept the unified permit observation then process and provide consistent and thorough review of solar PV permitting applications and installations. Upon approval of this application and supporting documentation, the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) will issue a building and/or electrical permit for the solar PV installation described herein.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT

By submitting this application, the applicant attests that the proposed project meets the established eligibility criteria for the unified permitting process (subject to verification by the AHJ). The proposed solar PV system installation:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No 1. Has a rated DC capacity of 75 kW or less.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No 2. Is not subject to review by an Architectural or Historical Review Board, (if review has already been issued at least 180 and attach a copy)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No 3. Does not involve a zoning violation or special use permit.
(If violation or permit has already been issued, attach a copy)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No 4. Is mounted on a permitted roof structure, on a legal accessory structure, or ground-mounted on the applicant's property, if on a legal accessory structure, a diagram showing existing electrical connection to structure is attached.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No 5. The solar installation Contractor complies with all licensing and other requirements of the jurisdiction and the State.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No 6. If the structure is a detached roof, solar panels are mounted parallel to the roof surface.

For solar PV systems not meeting these eligibility criteria, the applicant is not eligible for the Unified Solar Permit and must submit conventional permit application. Permit applications may be considered here: [BUILDING DEPARTMENT WEBSITE] or delivered in person at [BUILDING DEPARTMENT ADDRESS] during business hours [CONTACT BUSINESS HOURS].

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

For projects meeting the eligibility criteria, this application and the following attachments will constitute the Unified Solar Permitting package:

- This application form, with all fields completed and bearing relevant signatures.
- Permitting fee of [ENTER FEE HERE], payable to [ENTER VALID PAYMENT METHOD], if checks are allowed INCLUDING FIVE CHECKS AND A R-1000 PAYABLE TO []
- Required Construction Documents for the solar PV system type being installed, including required attachments. Completed permit applications can be submitted electronically to [EMAIL ADDRESS] or in person at [BUILDING DEPARTMENT ADDRESS] during business hours [CONTACT BUSINESS HOURS].

ALLOWANCE OF SOLAR INSTALLATION

Permit determinations will be issued within [TIMELINE] calendar days upon receipt of complete and accurate applications. The municipality will provide feedback within [TIMELINE] calendar days of receiving incomplete or inaccurate applications.

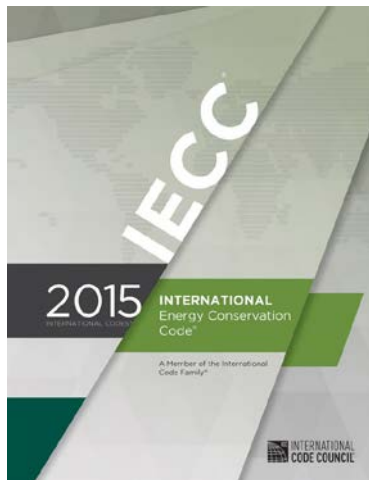
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions about this permitting process may be directed to [MUNICIPAL CONTACT INFORMATION].



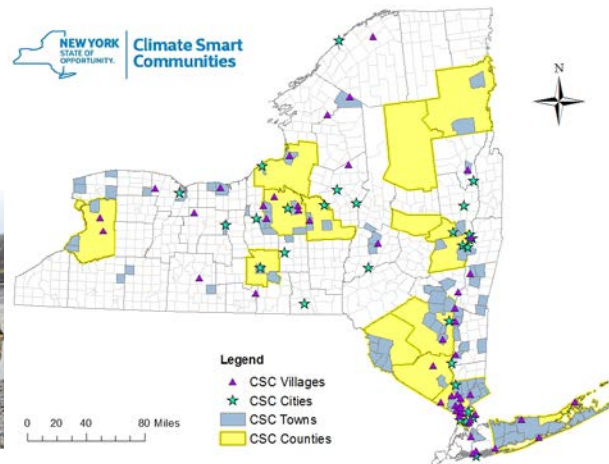
Pass legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction.

Energy Code Enforcement Training



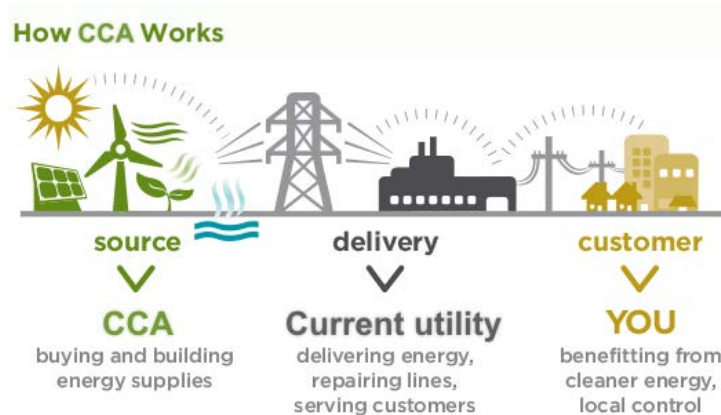
Train code compliance officers and other municipal officials in best practices in energy code enforcement through training, collaborative plan reviews, and joint onsite inspections of local construction projects.

Climate Smart Communities Certification



Earn Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification at the certified, bronze, silver, or gold levels through compliance with this robust, comprehensive rating system.

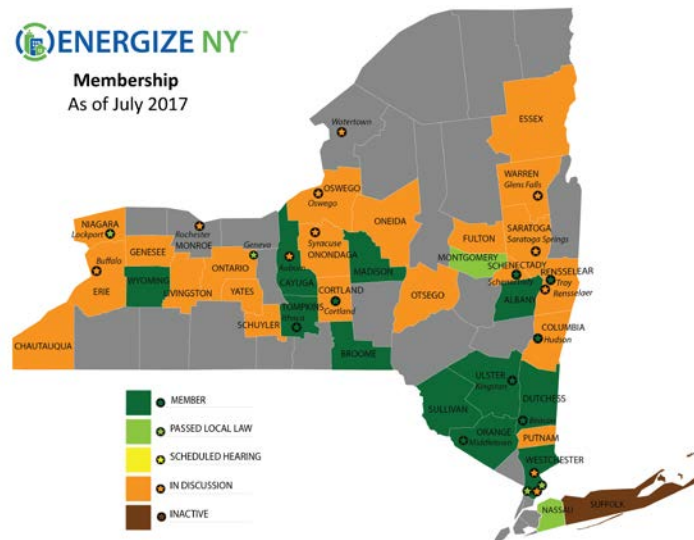
Community Choice Aggregation



Institute for Local Self Reliance

Transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy supply by facilitating the aggregated purchase of electric supply for residential and small commercial customers within the jurisdiction.

Energize NY Finance



Allows property owners to pay back the cost of clean energy upgrades to their commercial or non-profit property through a special charge on their property tax bill.

What assistance is available?

- **Technical Assistance** to help implement High-Impact Action available from locally-based **Clean Energy Coordinators**
- **Toolkits** for each **High-Impact Action** available on NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Website
- **Additional funding or financing options** available for the implementation of some of the **High-Impact Actions**

What kinds of projects can be funded?

- Does the proposer present a **thorough, sound, detailed approach** for accomplishing the objectives of their proposal **within a reasonable timeframe?** (25 possible points)
- Does the project/initiative have a **positive direct impact on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions?** (30 possible points)
- Will efforts be made to **collaborate with other municipalities** and **transfer knowledge to the broader region and state?** (15 possible points)
- Does the project/initiative involve an **innovative and/or replicable approach?** (15 possible points)
- Does the project/initiative **leverage public and private dollars** and/or **generate economic development benefits** (i.e. temporary or permanent job creation and investment)? (15 possible points)

Are Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities Related?

Climate Smart Communities

- Comprehensive climate program
- 138 unique actions
- Accumulate points toward certification

Clean Energy Communities

- Focused on clean energy
- 10 High-Impact Actions
- Complete 4 Actions to be designated and access grant funding

➤ **CEC High-Impact Actions correspond with CSC Certification**



Where do I get more information?

- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program Website
 - <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec>
- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program Guidance Documents
 - <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Current-Funding-Opportunities/PON-3298-Clean-Energy-Communities-Program>
- **Connect with your Regional Clean Energy Coordinator** to set up an introductory meeting and receive technical assistance
 - **Capital Region:** Robyn Reynolds, Robyn@cdrpc.org, (518) 453-0850, Jill Falchi, Jill.Falchi@cdrpc.org, (518) 853-0850
 - **Program Director:** Todd Fabozzi, Todd@cdrpc.org, (518) 453-0850

Thank you!

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