

TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND
GREEN COMMITTEE



**CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES
PRESENTATION**



Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

WHY SHOULD SHELTER ISLAND BECOME A CSC?

- ❑ Better scores on grant applications for some state funding programs.
- ❑ A framework to organize local climate action and highlight priorities
- ❑ Streamlined access to resources, training, tools, and expert guidance
- ❑ Networking and collaborating with neighboring towns
- ❑ Cost savings through greater efficiency
- ❑ Greater energy independence and energy security

WHY SHOULD SHELTER ISLAND BECOME A CSC?

- ❑ Conservation of green spaces for recreation and biodiversity
- ❑ Reduction of future flood risk through climate change adaptation strategies
- ❑ Investment in an economy that supports sustainability and green businesses
- ❑ Greater engagement with residents concerned about the future

STEP 1: PASS A RESOLUTION

Pass the CSC pledge as a municipal resolution to join the program and become a Registered Climate Smart Community.

STEP 2: REGISTER

After the resolution is adopted, designate a primary contact person and upload the adopted resolution. Your community will then be designated a Registered CSC by NYS and your community will be added to the map on the CSC website.



Model Resolution

Any city, town, village, or county government in New York State can take a stand by adopting the Climate Smart Communities pledge. Local governments may amend the preamble of the pledge below, but all ten points of the pledge must be adopted verbatim by the highest body of elected officials (e.g., town board or city council). The final resolution document must include a signature from the municipal clerk verifying the authenticity of the resolution and indicating the date of passage. Local governments should then designate a primary contact person to complete the online registration form and upload the resolution by following the steps at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/getting-started/>. After the registration is reviewed, the community will be designated a Registered Climate Smart Community and be added to the online list. Join us!

Councilmember _____ moved and Councilmember _____ seconded that

WHEREAS, the Town/Village/City/County of _____ (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town/Village/City/County of _____, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

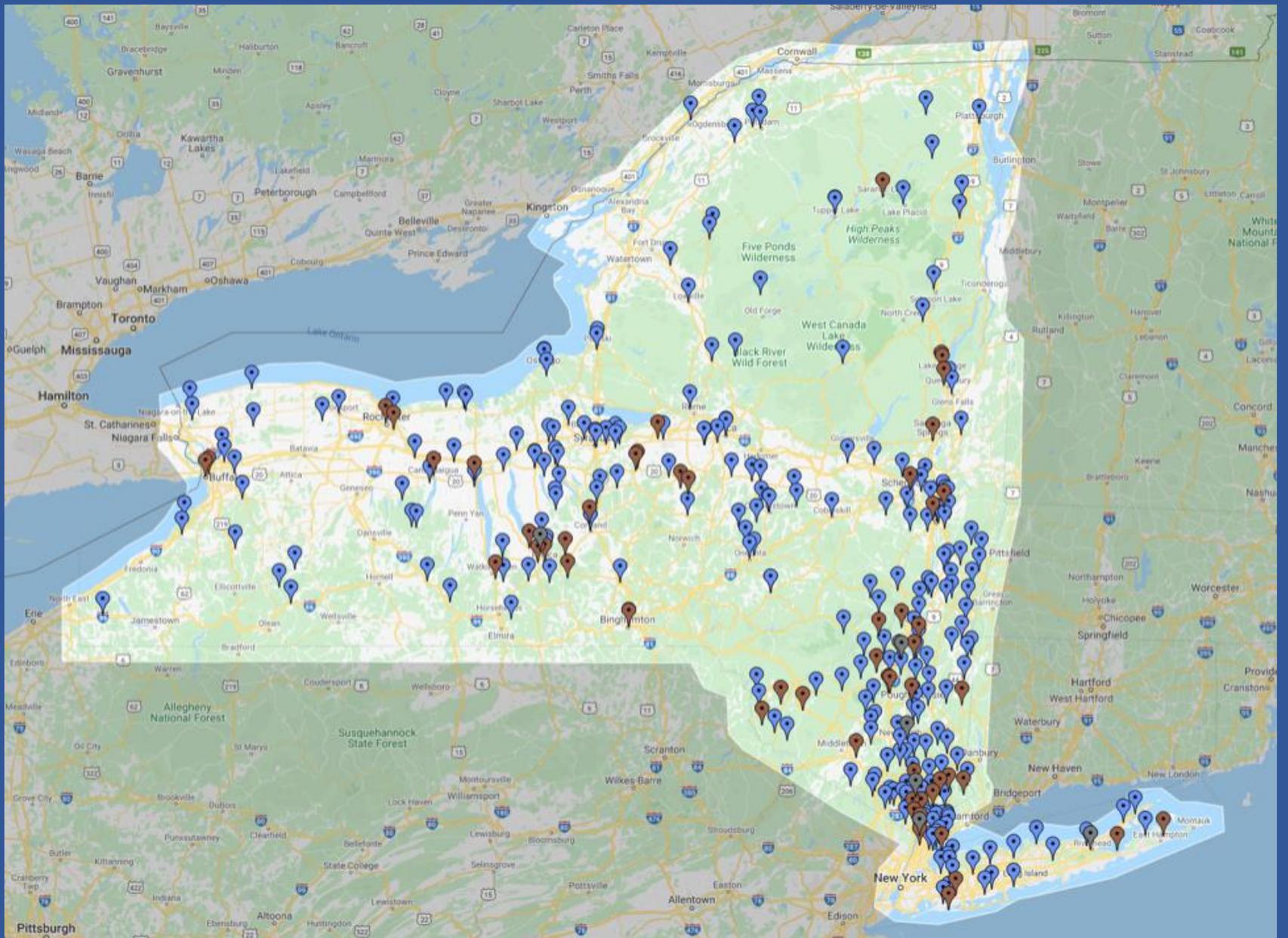
- 1) **Build a climate-smart community.**
- 2) **Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.**
- 3) **Decrease energy use.**
- 4) **Shift to clean, renewable energy.**
- 5) **Use climate-smart materials management.**
- 6) **Implement climate-smart land use.**
- 7) **Enhance community resilience to climate change.**
- 8) **Support a green innovation economy.**
- 9) **Inform and inspire the public.**
- 10) **Engage in an evolving process of climate action.**

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

TOTAL REGISTERED: 321

CURRENTLY CERTIFIED: 62

ACTIONS COMPLETED: 2101



CERTIFICATION LEVELS

BRONZE: 120 POINTS

SILVER: 300 POINTS





New York State Climate Smart Communities
Taking Local Action to Combat Climate Change

The City of
Kingston
is a
Certified
Bronze
Climate Smart
Community



New York State
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo





CSC PLEDGE ELEMENTS

- Forming teams and setting goals
- Energy use
- Solid waste management
- Land use policies
- Enhancing community resilience
- Supporting a green economy
- Public engagement and commitment to an evolving process

STEP 3: REVIEW AND SELECT ACTIONS

Each action has a description that includes guidance about who should be involved, costs, resources, tools, and documentation requirements.

After becoming a Registered CSC, communities can implement certification actions at their own pace. There is no time limit between adoption of the pledge and commencement of the certification process.

The mandatory and priority actions are a good place to start because they are fundamental to a successful municipal climate change program.

MANDATORY CSC ACTIONS

CSC COORDINATOR: 20 POINTS

The Town selects and appoints an individual responsible for coordinating the activities of the CSC task force.

The CSC coordinator can be a local government representative (staff or elected official), a contractor hired by the local government, or a volunteer from the community.

The coordinator would generally be the chair of the CSC task force who serves as a liaison between the CSC task force and Town Board.

MANDATORY CSC ACTIONS

CREATE A TASK FORCE: 20 POINTS

The CSC task force serves as a central body of leadership and committee that advises and collaborates with the local government to accomplish plans, programs, and activities that are part of the CSC Certification program.

The task force should consist of, at minimum, community members and municipal representatives (staff and/or elected officials).

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS

- ❑ Develop a Comprehensive Plan: 3 – 21 Points
- ❑ Collaborate with neighboring towns: 3 Points
- ❑ Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory: 16 Points
The GHG Emissions Inventory assesses the energy consumption of town facilities and vehicles.
- ❑ Community GHG Emissions Inventory: 16 Points
This Inventory assesses energy consumption of public and private facilities, businesses, homes, vehicles etc.
- ❑ Community Action Plan: 16 Points
This plan entails decreasing energy use and shifting to cleaner, renewable energy.

SAMPLE ACTION ITEMS

- Interior Lighting Upgrades: 1-5 Points
- Energy Code Enforcement Training: 5 Points
- Unified Solar Permit: 5 Points
- Traffic Calming: 3-10 Points
- Develop a Local Forestry or Tree Planting Project or Program: 1-10 Points
- Conserve Natural Areas: 1-21 Points
- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure: 6 Points
EV Charging Station

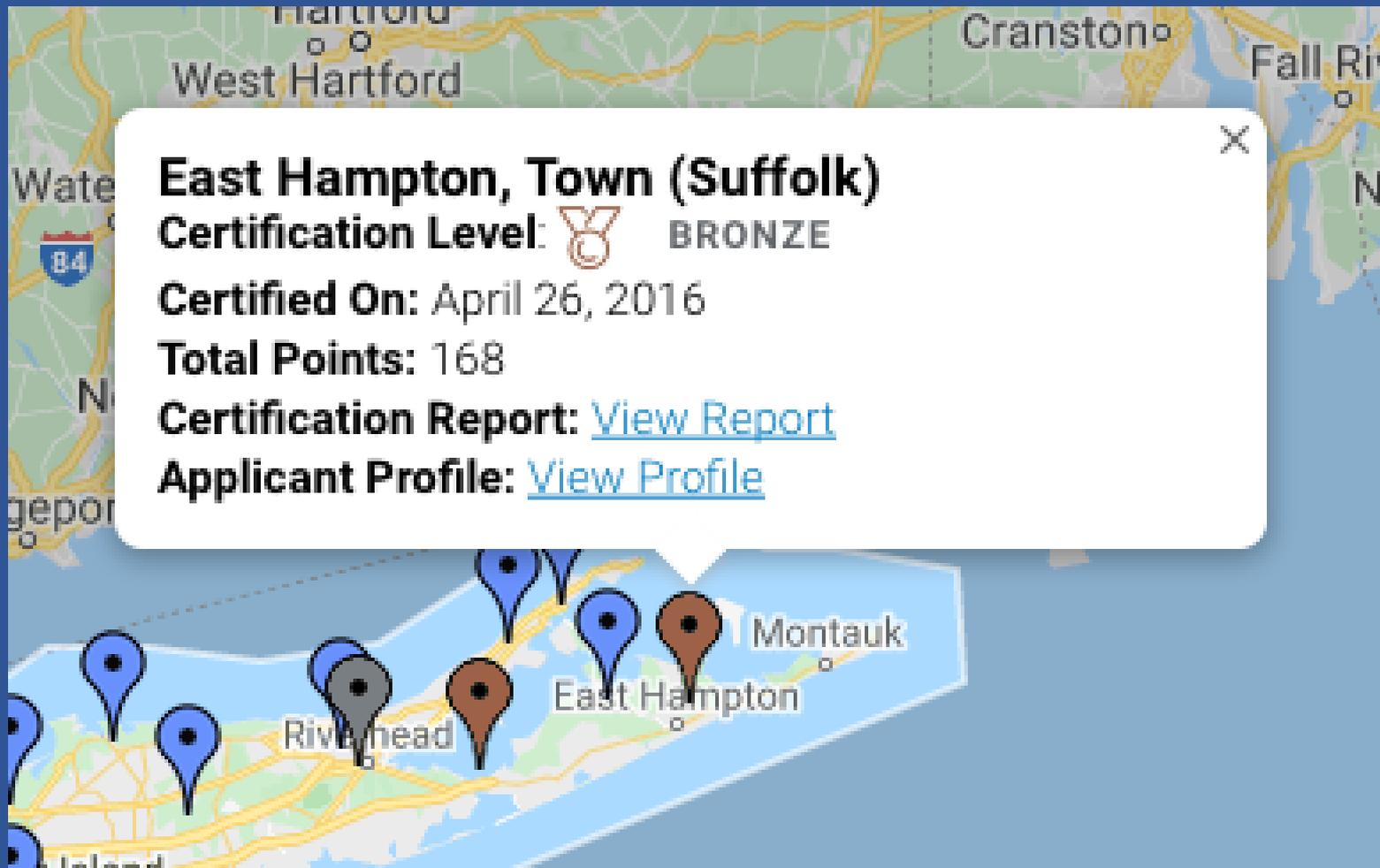
STEP 4: COLLECT DOCUMENTATION

Once you identify your selected actions, review the requirements for each action and begin organizing and uploading your documentation. In the municipal dashboard, the "Action Totals" calculator on the right-hand side of your community's application will help keep track of progress toward becoming a Certified CSC. As you assess your progress, start to develop a timeline for when you expect to meet the requirements of your chosen certification level and select an application deadline that you plan to meet.

STEP 5: SUBMIT APPLICATION

Using the web portal, upload the required documents associated with each CSC certification action. Upon submittal of your application for certification, you will be locked out of editing those actions while your application is reviewed. After review, staff will contact you with further information. If your local government did not earn full points for an action, staff will provide details on what was missing and coach you on next steps.

EAST HAMPTON CSC SAMPLE



1.1 Pass a Resolution Adopting the CSC Pledge

4 Points

Bronze Mandatory Silver Mandatory

Program Summary:

pdf [CSC Pledge](#)

PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

8 Points

Bronze Priority Silver Priority

PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator

8 Points

Bronze Mandatory Silver Mandatory

Program Summary:

word [Green Committee resolution.doc](#)

PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program

3 Points

PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program

3 Points

PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities

3 Points

PE5 Action: Residential Organic Waste Program

4 Points

5.12 Host Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

2 Points

PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation

9 Points

GREEN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- We recommend the Town pass a resolution to take the CSC pledge and complete specific CSC action items.
- It costs nothing.
- The CSC program will help the Town set goals and achieve solutions to ongoing and future environmental concerns. We can set a reasonable but catalyzing pace for achieving these goals and action items, but we shouldn't sit on them for a length of time.
- If the Town joins the program, it should be included in the Comprehensive Plan update.

