



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

NYSERDA

# Clean Energy Communities 2.0

## The Leadership Round



Genesee/Finger Lakes  
Regional Planning Council

**Rob Richardson:** Clean Energy Communities Coordinator  
**Jenny Loewenstein:** Planner, Clean Energy Communities

# Rob Richardson



- BA in Politics & Government, Cum Laude '05
- MPA in Public Management & Public Policy '17
- Former Assistant City Manager in City of Canandaigua, New York
- Guided City to both CEC & CSC Certifications
- Love for that work guided me to GFLRPC
- In my “spare time,” I coach Soccer
  - HAC Boys Varsity
  - Canandaigua Attack Boys



# Jenny Loewenstein



- BA in Landscape Architecture, '12
- MA in Urban Affairs, '17
- Recently relocated back to New York from Seattle where she worked for a consulting firm, county government, & a non-profit.
- Areas of expertise: Transportation planning, community engagement & comprehensive planning.
- In my spare time I enjoy hiking & playing disc golf.



# 2016-2020

## The Clean Energy Communities Program helps municipalities across New York State save money & shrink their carbon footprint

Become a Clean Energy Community. Get the Energy To Make It Happen.

[nyscrda.ny.gov](http://nyscrda.ny.gov)



NYSCERDA



# Ten High Impact Action Items



**Benchmarking**



**Clean Energy Upgrades**



**LED Street Lights**



**Clean Fleets**



**Solarize, Clean Heating and Cooling, or Solar for All**

Campaigns



**Unified Solar Permit**



**Energy Code Enforcement Training**



**Climate Smart Communities Certification**



**Energize New York (PACE) Finance**



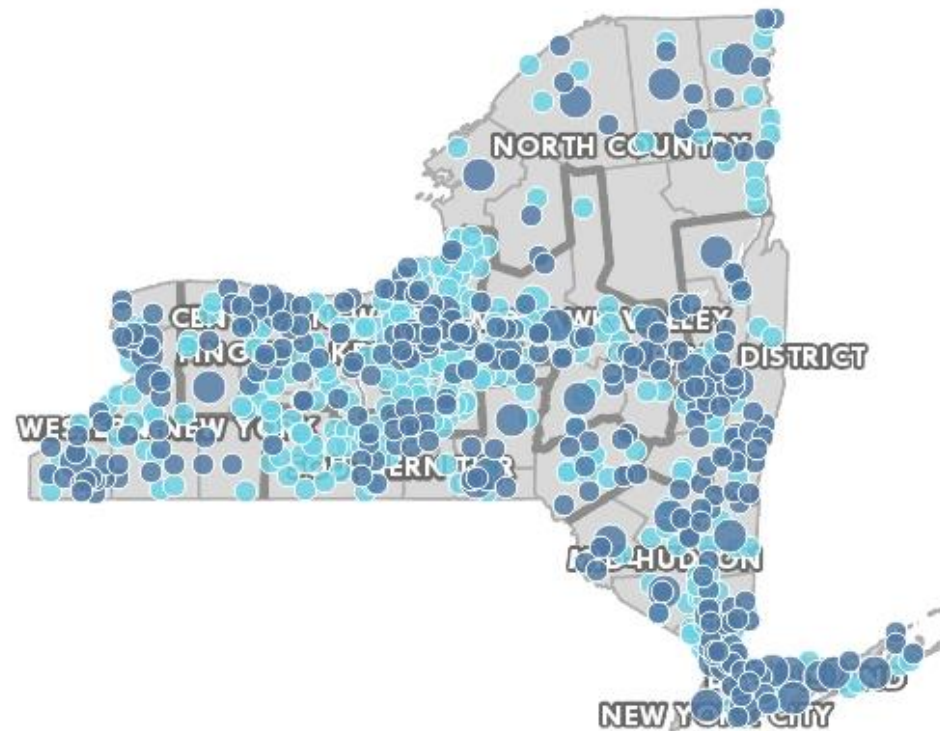
**Community Choice Aggregation**

# Clean Energy Communities Program 2016-2020

**600** Participating Communities

**323** Designated Communities

**1,866** Actions Completed



Display Communities that have completed a particular action

(All)

Display Communities by Region

(All)

Community Size

- Small Community
- Large Community

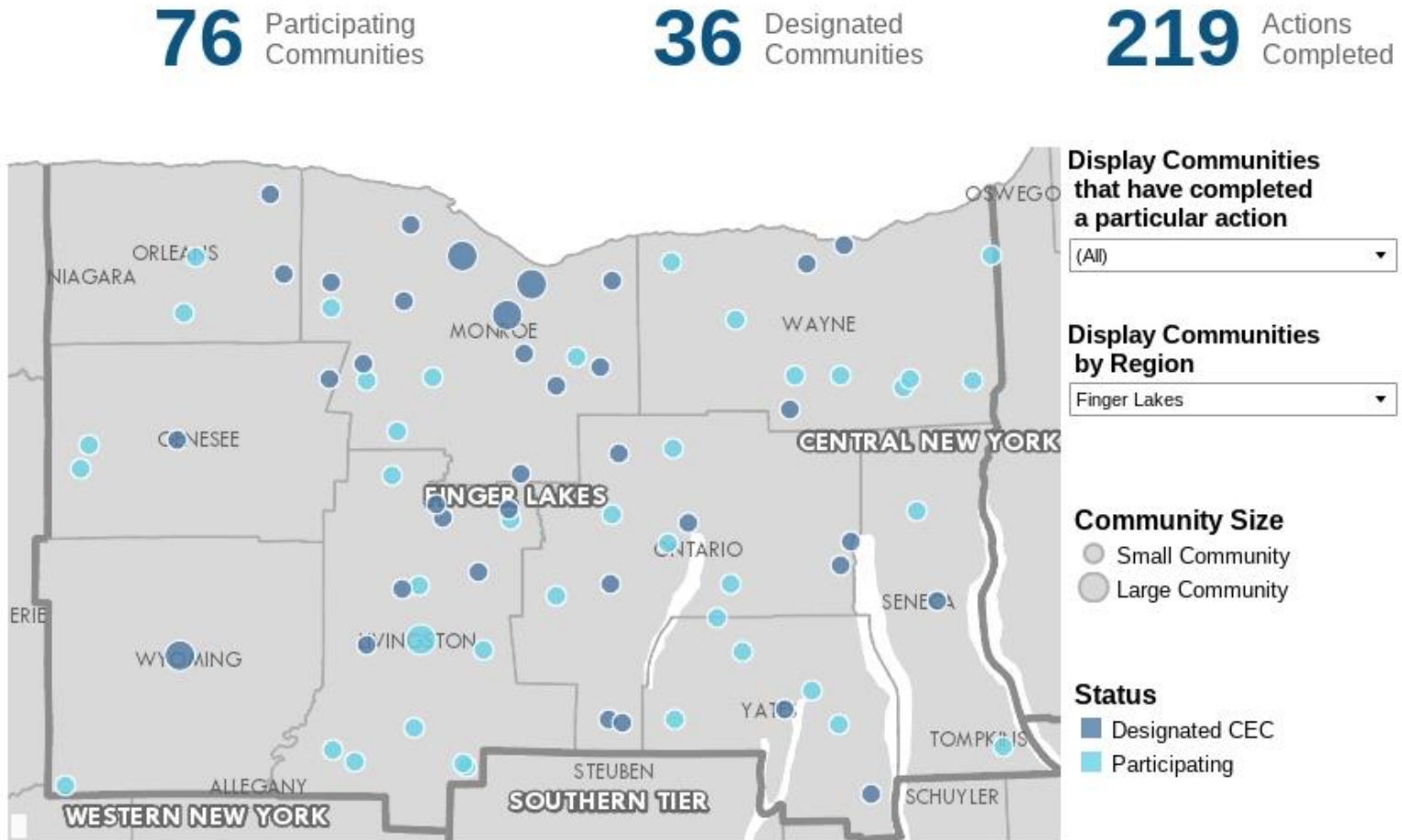
Status

- Designated CEC
- Participating

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# Clean Energy Communities Program 2016-2020



# Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act Energy Goals

By 2030:

**70%**

electricity from  
**RENEWABLE  
SOURCES**

**40%**

**REDUCTION<sup>x</sup>**  
in GHG emissions  
(from 1990 levels)

By 2040:

**100%**

electricity from  
**RENEWABLE  
SOURCES**

By 2050:

**85%**

**REDUCTION<sup>x</sup>**  
in GHG emissions  
(from 1990 levels)



# Introducing the Leadership Round

- \$17 Million in Program Grants
- Resources and Toolkits
- Step By Step Guidance
- Leadership Recognition



# Grants Available in the Leadership Round

- **Designation Grants**
- **Point-Based Grants**
- **Action Grants**
- **Bonus Grants**

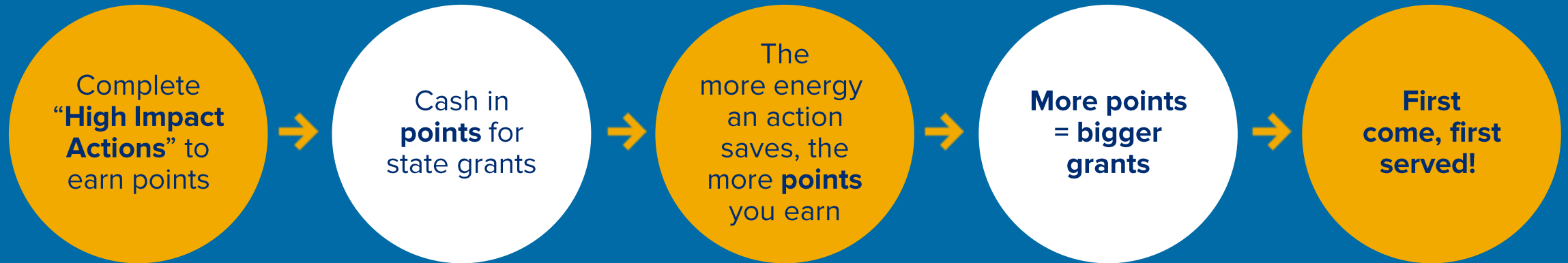
- Become a Designated Community by completing 4 High Impact Actions and receive \$5,000
- Complete many actions and access up to \$250,000 in Point-Based Grants for large communities and \$100,000 for smaller ones
- Adopt the NYStretch Energy Code or complete Community Campaigns and access up to \$110,000 in Action Grants
- Receive \$10,000 Bonus Grant for awarded project located in a Disadvantaged Community



## Designation Grants

- Complete 4 High Impact Actions
- Earn CEC Designation
- At least 2 HIAs must be completed after August 1, 2016
- Win a one-time-only \$5,000 Designation Grant
- Available retroactively to communities that earned designation but did not receive a grant prior to January 26, 2021

# The Leadership Round Point System: More Points = Bigger Grants





# Leadership Round Point-Based Grants

Community Size		Awards Available	Grant Amount
3,000 +	Large	50 Statewide	\$30,000
	Small/Medium	40 per Region	\$10,000
4,000 +	Large	20 Statewide	\$70,000
	Small/Medium	10 per Region	\$20,000
5,000 +	Large	10 Statewide	\$150,000
	Small/Medium	4 per Region	\$70,000

# Which High Impact Actions Are Right for Your Community?

200  
Points

Unified Solar Permit

500  
Points

100 Percent Renewable  
Electricity

Up to  
2,000 Points

Community Choice Aggregation

200  
Points

Energy Code  
Enforcement Training

Up to  
900 Points

LED Street Lights

1,200  
Points

Action Grant  
up to \$50K

NY Stretch Energy Code

Up to  
500 Points

Pace Financing

Up to  
1,100 Points

Benchmarking

Up to  
800 Points

Action Grant  
up to \$60K

Community Campaigns

500  
Points

Clean Energy Upgrades

Up to  
1,000 Points

Clean Fleets

Submit  
Documentation

[CEC HIA Documentation  
Portal](#)

500  
Points

Clean Heating and  
Cooling Demo

Up to  
800 Points

Climate Smart Communities  
Certification

HIA Information &  
Templates

[HIA Toolkits](#)

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# Leadership Round Action Grants

## NY Stretch Energy Code

Community Size	Grant Amount	Awards Available
Large	\$50,000	40
Small/Medium	\$5,000	100

## Community Campaigns

Community Size	Required Number of Participants	Grant Amount	Awards Available
Large	25	\$15,000	40
Small/Medium	10	\$5,000	100

# High Impact Actions

- Reduce energy consumption
- Stimulate the economy
- Earn points and receive grant funding



**200 Points:**

## **Unified Solar Permit\***

**Streamline & expedite  
approval process for  
installing small-scale solar**

**Eligibility:** Jurisdictions that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings

### **Requirements:**

- Submit certified copy of legislation adopting Unified Solar Permit application
- Submit copy of Unified Solar Permit application being used by jurisdiction
- Only October 2016 version will be accepted

\* Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch.

[Unified Solar Permit Toolkit](#)



**200 Points:**

**Unified Solar Permit**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Provide template legislation and permit template
2. NYSERDA documentation support

[Unified Solar Permit Toolkit](#)

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**200 Points:**

## **Energy Code Enforcement Training**

**Free hands-on training on  
current NYS energy code  
for compliance officers**

**Eligibility:** Jurisdictions that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings

### **Requirements:**

- Completion of NYSERDA-approved residential and commercial workshops by at least 1 code official
- Submit copy of notification of completion email
- Points available only for trainings completed after January 26, 2021

In-person workshops currently being planned for 2021 Q4 in the Genesee/ Finger Lakes Region.

[ECET Toolkit](#)

**200 Points:**

## **Energy Code Enforcement Training**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Organize Code Enforcement Trainings
2. NYSERDA documentation support

[ECET Toolkit](#)

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## 200 to 500 Points:

### Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing

Authorize financing for  
renewable energy projects  
& upgrades for commercial  
& nonprofit properties

**Eligibility:** Counties & cities outside Westchester County; cities and towns in Westchester

#### Requirements:

- 200 Points: Authorize Open C-PACE
  - Submit screenshot of EIC's [List of Participating Municipalities](#) or documentation from alternative PACE program
  - Authorization requires adoption of local law and signing municipal agreement with EIC
- 300 Points: Demonstrate closing of an Open C-PACE financed project in your community
  - Submit documentation demonstrating closing on financing for project(s)

[PACE Financing Toolkit](#)

## 200 to 500 Points:

### Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing

#### How Can G/FLRPC Help?

1. Connect municipalities to the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), which provides a template local law and municipal agreement
2. Help organize events to raise awareness of Open C-PACE financing in the business community
3. NYSERDA documentation support

[PACE Financing Toolkit](#)

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**500 Points:**

## **Clean Energy Upgrades\***

**Demonstrate 10% reduction in GHG emissions with new, efficient technology**

**Eligibility:** All communities

**Eligible Upgrades:** Energy efficiency & renewable energy improvements (solar, CDG, wind, geothermal, premium-efficiency wood pellets, anaerobic digesters)

**Requirements:**

- Submit ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager benchmarking report for municipal buildings 1,000SF or larger that are owned or occupied by your community
- Share PM account read-only access with NYSERDA
- Submit Clean Energy Upgrades Calculator
- Submit back-up documentation (e.g., ASHRAE Energy Audit, approved pre-and-post engineering study, executed contract)
- Upgrades must have been substantially complete after January 1, 2020

\* Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch.

[Clean Energy Upgrades Toolkit](#)



**500 Points:**

## **Clean Energy Upgrades**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Set up ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager database including gathering building information and energy data
2. Provide assistance with NYSERDA's Clean Energy Upgrades Calculator to ensure upgrades meet the 10% greenhouse gas emissions reduction threshold
3. NYSERDA documentation support

[Clean Energy Upgrades Toolkit](#)

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**500 Points:**

## **Clean Heating and Cooling Demo**

**Implement Clean Heating & Cooling technology in a municipal building**

**Eligibility:** All communities

### **Requirements:**

- Install air- or ground-source heat pumps, or solar hot water system in at least one municipal building
- Building must be 1,000SF or larger and open year long to public
- Submit signed Clean Heating and Cooling Demo Certification Form
- Submit photograph of educational kiosk, display, and/or materials that educate staff and public about beneficial electrification
- Date of completion: date equipment is installed; must be after January 1, 2020

[Clean Heating and Cooling Demo Toolkit](#)

**500 Points:**

## **Clean Heating and Cooling Demo**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Provide information about various clean heating and cooling technologies and identify which technologies would be best suited to specific applications
2. Connect municipalities to any potential grant funding
3. Develop educational component of the demonstration project
4. NYSERDA documentation support

[Clean Heating and Cooling Demo Toolkit](#)



**500 Points:**

**100 Percent  
Renewable Electricity**

**Purchase renewable  
energy for your municipal  
energy needs**

**Eligibility:** All communities

**Requirements:**

- Submit completed 100% Renewable Electricity Certification Form
  - Identify load matched with NY RECs retired in NYGATS
- Submit copy of executed agreement
- Date of completion: date after January 1, 2020 when renewable energy is delivered

[100% Renewable Electricity Toolkit](#)

**Become a Clean Energy Community.** Get the Energy To Make It Happen.

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**500 Points:**

**100 Percent  
Renewable Electricity**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Working to understand the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) markets and connect with RECs to offset usage
2. NYSERDA documentation support

[100% Renewable Electricity Toolkit](#)

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## 600 to 800 Points:

### Climate Smart Communities Certification\*

Reduce GHG emissions and  
adapt to climate change by  
achieving Bronze / Silver  
CSC Certification

**Eligibility:** All communities

#### **Requirements:**

- 600 Points: Bronze Certification
- 800 Points: Silver Certification
- Submit screenshot(s) of the CSC [website](#), or comparable information, demonstrating achievement of Certification(s)

\* Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch.

[CSC Certification Toolkit](#)

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**600 to 800 Points:**

**Climate Smart  
Communities  
Certification\***

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Develop a plan for the best path forward for your community
2. Take advantage of overlap between the Clean Energy Communities and the Climate Smart Communities programs

[CSC Certification Toolkit](#)

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**200 to 900 Points:**

## **LED Street Lights\***

**Save electricity by  
converting municipal  
streetlights to LEDs**

**Eligibility:** Communities that pay for electricity for most streetlights within jurisdiction

### **Requirements:**

- Submit LED Street Light Calculator.
  - Minimum 50% of streetlights converted, OR minimum 10 fixtures in communities with less than 20 fixtures
- 700 Points: Cobra Heads\*
- 200 Points: Decoratives

\* Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch.

[LED Street Lights Toolkit](#)

**200 to 900 Points:**

**LED Street Lights\***

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Provide streetlight calculators based on utility tariff to help understand potential costs associated with converting lights
2. Support with information about timelines and what to expect through the process
3. NYSERDA documentation support

[LED Street Lights Toolkit](#)

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## 100 to 1,100 Points:

### Benchmarking\*

Track energy use and identify buildings with greatest opportunity for energy and cost savings

#### Eligibility:

- All communities: Municipal Buildings & Advanced Reporting
- Large communities: Large Private Buildings

#### Requirements:

- 100 Points: Municipal Buildings (1,000SF)\*
  - Submit certified copy of an executed local law, ordinance, or resolution with vote tally
- 200 Points: Advanced Reporting
  - Submit screenshot of municipal webpage where report is posted or how to access
  - Submit proof of sharing ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account with NYSERDA
- 800 Points: Large Private Buildings (25,000SF)
  - Submit copy of executed local law or ordinance

\* Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch.

[Benchmarking Toolkit](#)

**100 to 1,100 Points:**

## **Benchmarking**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Provide template benchmarking legislation
2. Assist with gathering building information and energy data
3. Set up ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager database and generate reports
4. Provide staff training and tools for long-term energy benchmarking
5. NYSERDA documentation support

[Benchmarking Toolkit](#)



## 100 to 1,000 Points:

### Clean Fleets\*

Reduce GHG emissions and pollutants by transitioning to EVs and supporting EV use

**Eligibility:** All communities

#### Requirements:

- Submit Clean Fleets Certification Form
  - Active at submittal / date operational
- 200 Points: Charging Stations
  - Provide two or more Level 2 charging ports, or one or more DC fast charge ports
- 300 Points: Light/Medium Duty EVs
- 400 Points: Heavy Duty EVs
- EVs: At least one plug-in hybrid or battery-electric vehicle; public roadway capability; speed at least 55MPH

\* 100 Points awarded retroactively for action approved by NYSERDA prior to Leadership Round launch. Earn additional points for actions completed after Jan 26, 2021.

[Clean Fleets Toolkit](#)

**100 to 1,000 Points:**

**Clean Fleets\***

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Connect municipalities to grants and other funding opportunities which can subsidize the cost of installing electric vehicle charging stations or purchasing plug-in electric vehicles
2. Provide information and support regarding various technologies and their eligibility
3. NYSERDA documentation support

[Clean Fleets Toolkit](#)

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**1,500 to 2,000  
Points:**

## **Community Choice Aggregation**

**Pool your community's  
buying power for better  
pricing on renewable  
energy**

**Eligibility:** City, town, and village governments

### **Requirements:**

- Opt-out programs
- 1,500 Points: 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix<sup>+</sup>
  - Submit copy of DPS approval letter, or copy of adopted legislation authorizing participation
  - Submit copy of executed electric service agreement
- 500 Points: Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation
  - Submit copy of DPS approval letter
  - Submit completed Opt-Out CDG Certification Form

+ Communities approved by NYSERDA for action prior to July 1, 2019 must resubmit to earn points for this action.

[CCA Toolkit](#)

**1,500 to 2,000  
Points:**

## **Community Choice Aggregation**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Help with the process of selecting a 3rd Party CCA Administrator through RFP process
2. Provide Template Legislation, MOU and other supporting documents.
3. Coordinate with communities to organize events to raise awareness of CCA
4. NYSERDA documentation support

[CCA Toolkit](#)

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**1,200 Points:**

## **NYStretch Energy Code**

**Move beyond base code to  
reduce energy  
consumption, operating  
and utility costs, and GHG  
emissions**

**Eligibility:** Jurisdictions that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings

### **Requirements:**

- Submit certified copy of executed local law or ordinance adopting the NYStretch Energy Code on jurisdiction-wide basis
  - Date of completion: when code takes effect.

### **Action Grant Eligibility:**

- CEC designation not required for receipt of grant award
- Code must be adopted and take effect no later than December 31, 2021

[NYStretch Energy Code Toolkit](#)

**1,200 Points:**

## **NYStretch Energy Code**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Provide supporting technical materials and connect with NYSERDA's NYStretch support team to answer questions how about the NYStretch Energy Code differs from the base energy code and what that means for development in your community
2. Provide template legislation
3. NYSERDA documentation support

[NYStretch Energy Code Toolkit](#)

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## 200 to 800 Points:

### Community Campaigns

Help your constituents benefit from clean energy cost savings by undertaking campaigns

**Eligibility:** All communities

#### Requirements:

- Submit Scoping Document *prior* to Campaign launch for NYSERDA approval
- Submit on Campaign completion:
  - Demonstration of direct municipal participation
  - Completed Customer List
- Date of completion: Scoping Document approval date
- 200 Points each: Community Solar, Electric Vehicles, Clean Heating & Cooling and Energy Efficiency, Demand Response

#### Action Grant Eligibility:

- Designation not required to receive grant
- Limit of one grant per campaign type

[Community Campaigns Toolkit](#)

**200 to 800 Points:**

## **Community Campaigns**

**How Can G/FLRPC Help?**

1. Support campaign development including development of scoping document, identifying partners, template RFPs, contractor interviews, and coordination with NYSERDA
2. Develop engagement strategy and outreach with your team including campaign-specific marketing materials, social media support, and other campaign needs
3. Provide support throughout the campaign, including coordination with partners and contractors, to ensure campaign is best positioned to meet campaign goals
4. NYSERDA documentation support

[Community Campaigns Toolkit](#)



# Community Eligibility for High Impact Actions

Counties	Cities	Towns	Villages	High Impact Actions
	✓	✓	✓	Unified Solar Permit
	✓	✓	✓	Energy Code Enforcement Training
Outside WC	✓	WC		PACE Financing
✓	✓	✓	✓	Clean Energy Upgrades
✓	✓	✓	✓	Clean Heating & Cooling Demo
✓	✓	✓	✓	100% Renewable Energy
✓	✓	✓	✓	Climate Smart Communities Certification
	✓	✓	✓	LED Street Lights
✓	✓	✓	✓	Benchmarking: Municipal Buildings & Advanced Reporting
	40K pop	40K pop	40K pop	Benchmarking: Large Private Buildings
✓	✓	✓	✓	Clean Fleets
	✓	✓	✓	Community Choice Aggregation
	✓	✓	✓	NYStretch Energy Code
✓	✓	✓	✓	Community Campaigns

# Grant Awards Overview

- [Guidance Document](#): pp.22-24.
- NYSERDA will inform communities of all grant qualification via email.
- **No local cost share required.**
- \$5,000 Grants or less: paid in full directly by check.
- Submit [grant application](#) within 3 months of email notification date.
- Start projects within 6 months of approval notification; complete within 3 years of contract execution.
- Grants larger than \$5,000: propose pre-approved project type or custom project meeting selection criteria and required metrics. Custom projects are reviewed by scoring committee (6+ weeks). If proposal is not approved, applicant may revise proposal and resubmit.
- One application extension of up to two months may be granted per award. Extension requests should be in writing to [cec@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:cec@nyserda.ny.gov); submit at least two weeks prior to application deadline.

# Potential Grant Projects

- Pre-Approved Projects
  - LED Street Light Conversions
  - Solar Installation
  - Purchase Electric Vehicles
  - Installation of Charging Stations
  - Building Upgrades
  - Implementation of Energy Efficiency Projects
- Custom Projects
  - Must meet 70% of criteria listed on Page 23 of the PON
  - NYSERDA Approval can take up to 6 weeks.
  - If rejected, Municipality can make adjustments & re-submit.

# Leadership Round Resources

- 1) Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round [Website](#)
- 2) [Videos](#): NYS local governments implementing the CEC Program
- 3) CEC Leadership Round [Guidance Document](#)
- 4) HIA overview: [200-500 points](#) | [600-2000 points](#)
- 5) CEC HIA [Toolkits](#)
- 6) Leadership Round Grants [Overview](#) & Remaining Grants [Dashboard](#)
- 7) Disadvantaged Communities lookup [Map](#)
- 8) CEC HIA Submission [Portal](#)
- 9) Climate Smart Communities Program [Portal](#)
- 10) Community [Scorecard](#)

# We're Here to Help!

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