

Local Government Workshop

- November 3rd 2022 -

AGENDA

- Introduction Presentation (10 mins)
- City of Canandaigua John (15 mins)
- O Town of Pittsford April (15 mins)
- Panel Discussion (20 mins)



- Born and raised in Irondequoit
- Planner, Climate Smart Communities Coordinator for GFL Region
- Started in July, previously in VT
- Bachelors of Landscape Architecture from SUNY ESF, Masters in Urban Design, and Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University
- Have worked in
 - Food / solid waste management
 - Hazard mitigation
 - Downtown planning
 - Broadband access
 - Public health

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Started in in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State

The program is sponsored by

- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC);
- Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA);
- Department of Public Service;
- Department of State;
- Department of Transportation;
- And the Department of Health and the Power Authority (NYPA)

In 2018 the Climate Smart Communities Portal was launched as a new way for local governments in New York State to apply for CSC certification.

- Upload documentation
- Communicate with those who review documentation,
- And track their progress toward certification.

2022 CSC Coordinator Position Introduced to build capacity for smaller municipalities

PROGRAM BENEFITS

1. Funding and Recognition

- Better scores on grant applications for some state funding programs, like <u>DEC's CSC Grants</u>
- State-level recognition for each community's leadership
- A framework to organize local climate action and highlight priorities
- Streamlined access to resources, training, tools and expert guidance
- Ability to network and share best practices with peers
- Flexibility to mold and design program to fit municipal values

Climate Smart Communities 6

GRANTS THAT CONSIDER CSC

Grant Program	Benefit of CSC Registration or Certification			
DEC Climate Smart Communities Grant Program	8 extra points for CSC Silver Certification			
	6 extra points for CSC Bronze Certification			
	2 extra points for CSC Registered			
DEC Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program	10 extra points if Registered or Certified CSC			
DOS Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Grant Program	2 extra points if CSC Certified at any level			
	(2 extra points if CEC Designated)			
DEC Water Quality Improvement Project	No extra points, but considers if a community is CSC registered and has completed one or more of the following actions: PE10 Action: Green House Gas Tracking System; PE3 Action: Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings; PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment; and/or PE7 Action: Watershed Assessment;			

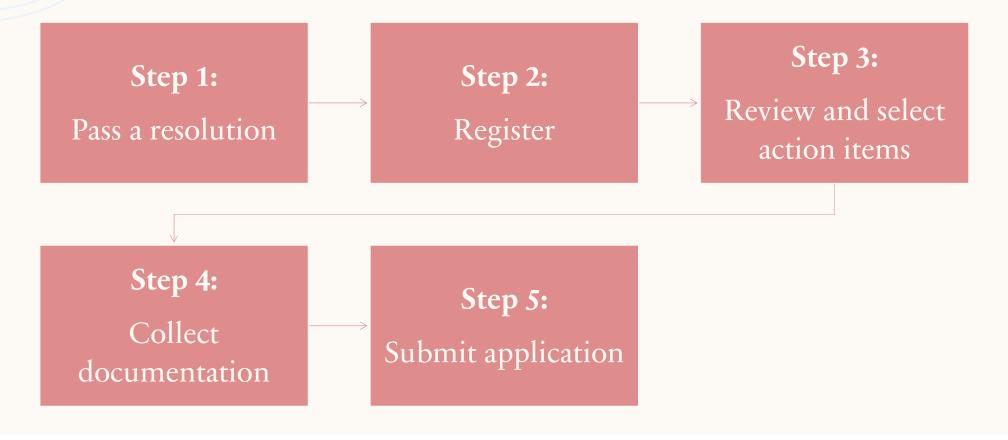
PROGRAM BENEFITS

- 2. Community Resilience
- Cost savings through greater efficiency
- Greater energy independence and energy security
- Improved air quality from switching to clean energy
- Healthier, more walkable downtown centers through smart growth
- Conservation of green spaces for public 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 who care about the future of their hometowns

RELATIONSHIP TO CEC PROGRAM

CSC	CEC				
100+ Action Items	10 high impact action items				
Overall climate action focused	Energy use focused				
Becoming a CSC is a High Impact Action item for the CEC Program					
Many CEC action items overlap directly with points in the CSC program, so a municipality can make progress and earn points in both programs simultaneously.					

HOW TO JOIN



ELEMENTS OF CERTIFICATION

Build a climatesmart community Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action

Decrease energy use

Shift to clean, renewable energy

Use climate-smart materials management

Implement climatesmart land use Enhance community resilience to climate change

Support a green innovation economy

Inform and inspire the public

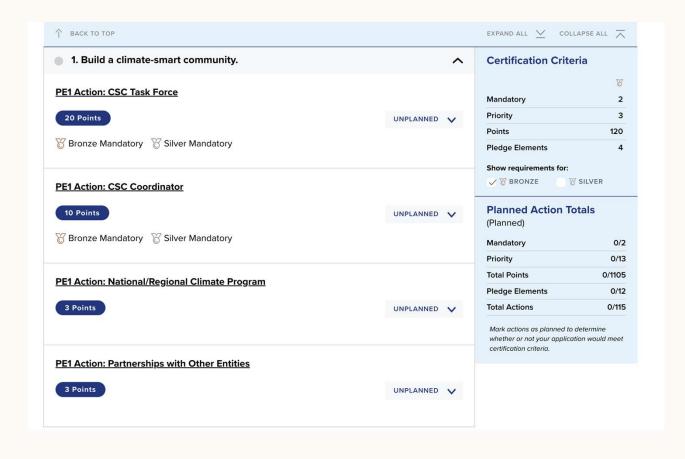
Engage in an evolving process of climate action

Innovation

Performance

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION/ CSC PORTAL

- Registered
- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold



WEBSITE PORTAL





the local government
are most likely to
have responsibility for
this?

E. How to obtain points for this action

F. What to submit

A. Why is this action important?

A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory is one of the first and most important steps in the local climate action process. A local government operations GHG inventory is an accounting, analysis, and report of the GHG emissions resulting from the day-to-day operations of a village, town, city, or county. It

HOW CAN GFL HELP?

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- 2. Assist your municipality in preparing greenhouse gas(GHG) inventories
- 3. Assist your municipality in preparing climate action plans.
- 4. Conducting local on-site training and workshops.
- 5. Identify and connect your municipality with other relevant clean energy and climate change programs and grant opportunities.
- 6. Supporting local clean energy and sustainability project implementation.
- 7. Maintain information on partnerships, meetings, referrals, and other activities.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



Climate Smart Communities Website - https://climatesmart.ny.gov/



Clean Energy Communities Website – https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities

THANK YOU

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- Ontario County Seat, Gateway to the Finger Lakes
- Established prior to European Settlement
- "The Chosen Spot"
- Population of roughly 11,000 in 4.59 sq. miles
- Historically Environmentally Conscious City
 - Clean Energy Community (CEC) November, 2017
 - Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community (CSC) April, 2019





Canandaigua Lake

- 4th Largest of the 11 Finger Lakes
- 15.5 miles long & 1.5 miles wide- 10,750 acre surface area
- Average depth of 128 feet- 276 feet at deepest point
- 429,000,000,000 US gallons
- Lifeblood of the Community
 - Drives Economy
 - Quality of Life for Residents
 - Drinking Water to 70,000 in 6 municipalities
- Driving force behind policy & decision making



Meeting Strategic Goals

- "environmental stewardship, utilization of alternative energy sources, and reducing environmental impact..."
- How are we doing this?
 - 3 Watershed Organizations
 - Environmental/Parks Committee
 - Complete Streets Policy & Active Transportation Plan
 - PathStone Agreement
 - 2 Certified Arborists on Staff
 - Tree Advisory Board
 - Toter Program
 - Composting Program
 - Climate Smart Canandaigua







Solar Array- Process & Partnerships

- Partnered with an investor group including New Energy Equity from Maryland (NEE), RER Energy Group from Pennsylvania (RER), & AEP Onsite from Ohio.
- City already owned the land, eliminating need for property acquisition
 - To increase the benefits of the project, the City leased the adjacent 10-acre parcel from a third party & subleased it to the investors
 - Allowed for a larger system while covering the leasing costs of the additional space
- NEE & RER led the initiative by coordinating the efforts of all parties involved & administering the endeavor
 - Accessed grant funds & tax credits not available to municipalities to cover costs, and helped the City work with Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E) and the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) to complete the project
- Concerns over excavation & site development were mitigated by solar panels design
 - Foundations that anchor the panels to the ground and keep them in place are ground mounted, meaning no excavation was required.





Solar Array- Process & Partnerships

- Entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)
 - Procure electricity from the large-scale, ground-mounted solar array for the next 25 years, typically at a lower cost than RG&E offers
 - City still owns the land & benefits from the solar array through Net Metering
 - Earn credits on future energy bills for the excess electricity their systems generate
 - Credits can be used later when City needs power from the local utility
 - Credits reimbursed at a higher rate than paid by the City, arbitrage results in savings
 - Estimated savings of \$3,500,000 over 25 year agreement
 - Actual equipment is owned & operated by the third partner, AEP Onsite
 - Responsible for all operating & maintenance costs of the equipment for duration of PPA
 - Alleviates the City of any responsibility or cost of facility maintenance
- When agreement expires in 2040, the City can either:
 - Renew the agreement and continue the program
 - Purchase the equipment outright & assume operations
 - Have the entire system removed from the site at no cost to the City

Solar Array- Outcomes

- January 1, 2017: 20.5 Solar Array goes online
 - 13,200 solar modules & 89 solar invertors capable of producing an estimated 5,332,000 (kWh) annually
 - Enough energy to power 578 homes for an entire year
 - Equivalent to the yearly greenhouse gas emissions of 824 passenger vehicles
- kWh generated annually translates into 94% of all energy used by City facilities
 - 82% of energy consumed annually through municipal operations (facilities & streetlights)
- All 7 City Facilities (City Hall, PD, DPW, 2 Fire Stations, WTP & WWTP) run on solar power
 - Allows the City to realize its goal of leading by example in the utilization of alternative energy sources.
 - Created a level of sustainability & environmental responsibility other municipalities can replicate
- In it's first year, the Solar Array cut greenhouse gas emissions for municipal operations by 80%



Solar Array- Challenges

- Working with RG&E has been challenging
 - Coordination of Issuing Credits
 - City was one of the first municipalities to attempt a project of this scale
 - administrative hurdles regarding system compatibility & function that still being overcome to ensure credits are properly administered
 - Billing
 - Refuses to aggregate information into one bill
 - As a result, the City receives over 100 statements from RG&E
 - Makes tracking credits and usage extremely difficult
 - Continuation of Benchmarking & Publishing results exceptionally cumbersome
 - Estimated Savings Less than Anticipated
 - Electric is a commodity- as the price fluctuates so does the arbitrage
 - In spite of this, we're still a "greener" operation

An Array of Opportunity

- City met with David Zorn in Summer 2017 to discuss the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program
 - Grant Awards of \$50,000 still available
 - City had already completed, or was in the process of completing, several of the High Impact Action Items
 - Solar Array in place, but impact had not been quantified- CEC Benchmarking provided the opportunity
 - On November 1, 2017 the City was designated as a Clean Energy Community
- Pursuing CEC Designation guided some important decisions
 - Continue Completing CEC High Impact Action Items
 - CEC success led to pursue Climate Smart Communities Certification

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





Low Hanging Fruit

- Actions that can be taken with minimal or no cost:
 - Code Enforcement Training
 - Train compliance officers in energy code best practices
 - Cost: Minimal- price for training x number attending
 - Unified Solar Permit
 - Streamline the approvals process for Solar
 - 4 permits have been handed out since adopted in 2017
 - Cost: Free
 - EV Stations
 - Installed EV station downtown for public use
 - Cost: Free through available Grant Funding



C-PACE Financing

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing is a public benefit authorized by state and local law, with repayment secured through a benefit assessment lien on the improved property.
- Channels private capital to commercial & non-profit building owners to make energy upgrades to their buildings, enabling them to improve their properties, lower operating expenses & positively impact their communities.
- Paves the way for higher levels of energy efficiency or renewable energy to be included as part of a building's redevelopment or rehabilitation – potentially pivotal element to move a project forward.
- Available to any New York State municipality with tax lien authority



C-PACE Financing

- Energize NY Open C-PACE differs from traditional bank loans:
 - Financing is available for up to 100% of the project cost, or can be combined with other financing
 - Competitive private financing from EIC-approved capital providers
 - Customizable loan terms up to the expected life of the improvement(s) (generally 20-30 years)
 - Benefit assessment lien is subordinate to municipal taxes and senior to other liens (consent from mortgage holder is required)
 - Automatically transfers to new owner upon sale of property
 - Available for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures



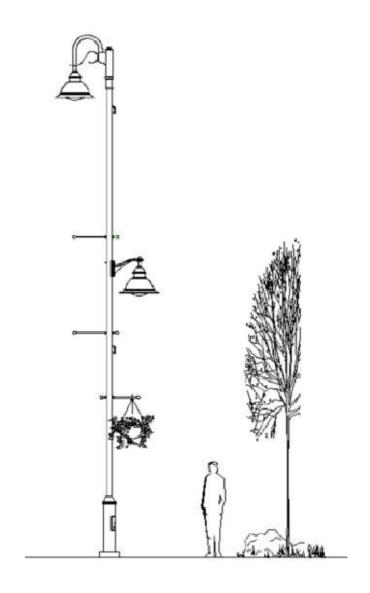
Enabling C-PACE Financing

- Pass a local law and sign an EIC municipal agreement to offer Energize NY Open C-PACE. EIC provides template documents
 - No fees to join
 - No financial exposure for the municipality
 - No responsibility for program administration
- Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), a non-profit, statewide local development corporation, administers Energize NY Open C-PACE on behalf of its member municipalities.
 - EIC records the lien on the land record.
 - EIC bills the property owner directly and administers collection of the payment.
 - Capital provider enforces the lien only after paying any delinquent municipal taxes owed by the property owner
- Once Open C-PACE is enabled, the member municipality provides the public benefit of PACE while EIC administers the program.

LED Street Light Conversion

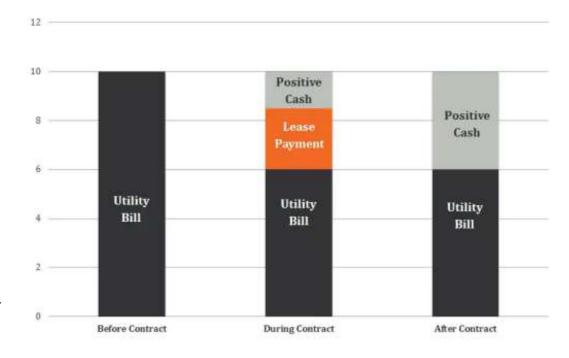
- City was paying roughly \$260,000 annually for electric and RG&E Maintenance
- 2015: Change in NYS Law allows municipalities to purchase & convert street lights to LED technology
- 2017 City recognizes opportunity to convert street lights to LED and signs Performance Contact with SmartWatt

smart watt



Performance Contract

- A financing mechanism allowing municipalities to make building improvements that reduce energy & water use, and increase operational efficiency.
- Achieve modernization of infrastructures, budget reduction, efficiency, and sustainability goals without the need for upfront capital
- Budget-neutral as project costs are paid for by the guaranteed energy savings realized from the energy optimization projects
- Can be used to optimize HVAC, interior lighting, street lighting, building automation systems, mechanical systems, building envelope, solar PV



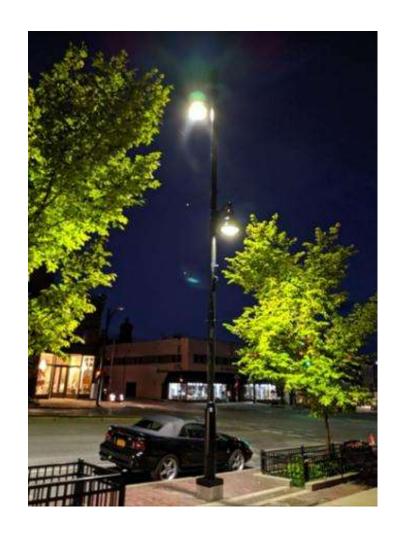
Results

- 1,089 Cobra Head Fixtures
- 34 decorative poles
- 26 BID District poles
- 9 wall mounted fixtures Downtown
- Annual Electricity Savings = 526,125 kWh
- Annual Utility Savings = \$31,157
- Total Annual Cost Savings = \$224,321
- \$50,000 CEC Grant used to offset cost



With those savings...

- Fire Station #1
 - Interior & Exterior Lighting Upgrades
 - Boiler Replacement
 - HVAC Replacement
 - Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) Replacement
 - Digital Controls Replacement
 - Building Envelope Weatherization
- City Hall
 - Interior & Exterior Lighting Upgrades
 - Building Envelope Weatherization
- Police Station
 - Interior & Exterior Lighting Upgrades
 - Building Envelope Weatherization
 - Window Seal Replacement



Municipal Waste Reduction Campaign

- Impact Earth conducted Municipal Solid Waste Audit
 - Assessed waste on a "single, random day"
 - All 7 buildings evaluated between 8/28, 8/29, & 9/18
 - Found City is achieving a 36% diversion
 - 60% of all waste produced is brought in by employees



Next Steps:

- CSC Task Force tasked with reducing waste produced by municipal operations
- Planning events & educational campaign for Staff
- Evaluate practices in all 7 buildings to identify areas for improvement
- Implement Impact Earth Recommendations to reduce waste
- Achieve 60% landfill diversion rate by 2021

More Sustainable Main Street

- Purchasing new waste bins downtown with separate, clearly labeled spots for trash & recycling
 - In 2014, Ontario County adopts Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP)
 - Increase waste reduction & diversion in the County to (60%) by 2024
 - Make high turnover events in Geneva & Canandaigua more sustainable
 - Educational information will be adhered to receptacles



Community Choice Aggregation

- Municipal model for procuring energy that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity and/or natural gas within a jurisdiction
- Negotiate a fixed-rate, potentially lower pricing with private suppliers
- 100% Renewable Sources reduce GHG Emissions
- City adopted enabling legislation November 7, 2019

How Local Energy Aggregation Works

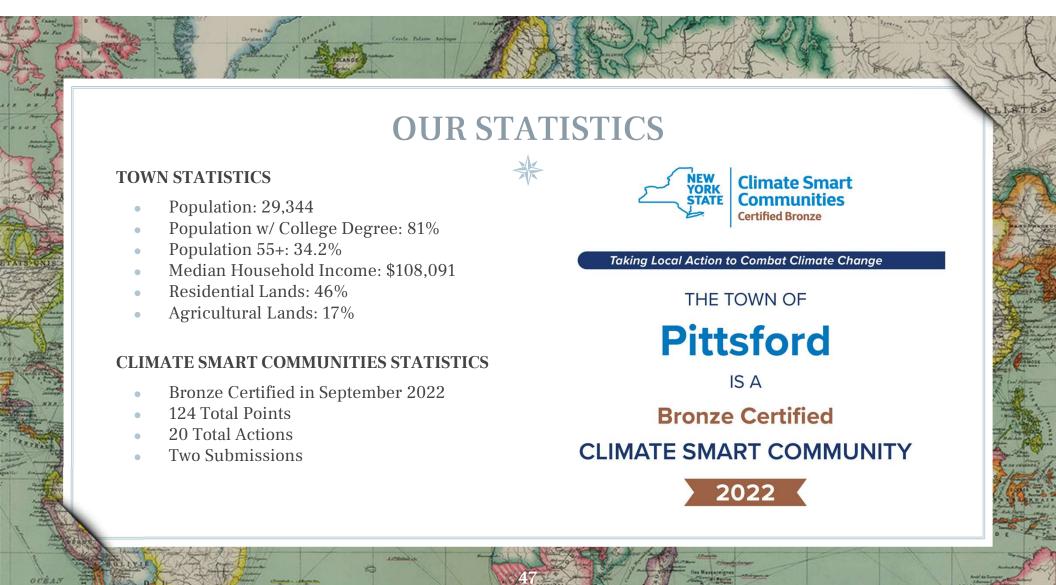


Pursuit of CSC Silver Certification

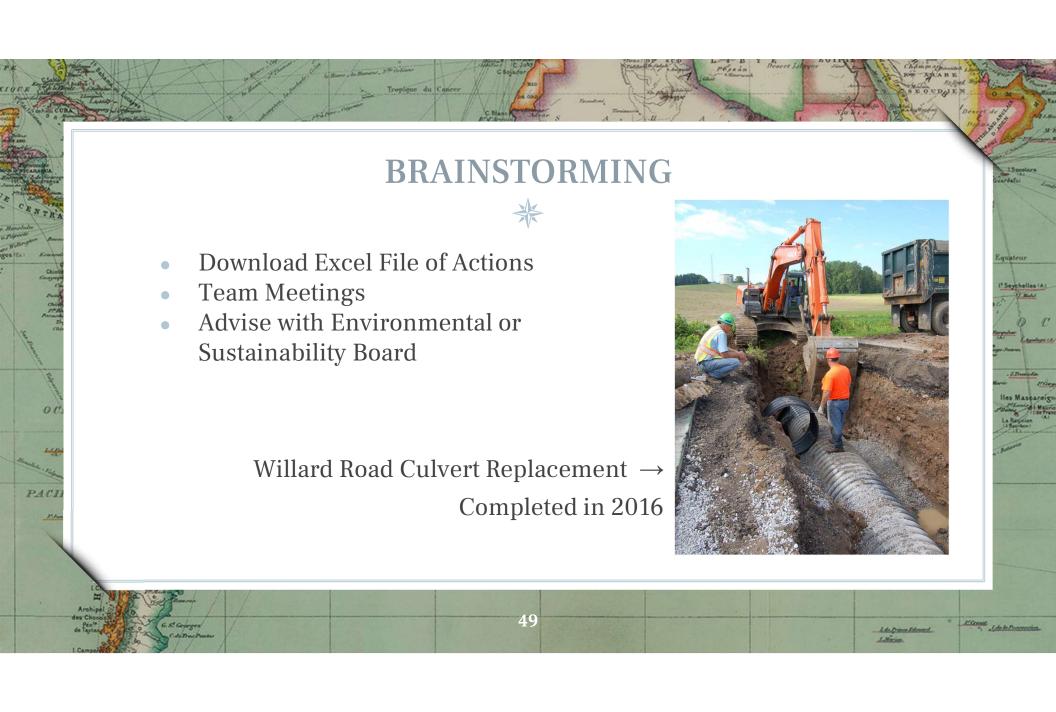
- April 23, 2019: Bronze Certified CSC
- Completed in 2022:
 - Government GHG Inventory
 - Community GHG Inventory
 - Natural Resources Inventory
 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Data from these assessments will be used to guide further actions





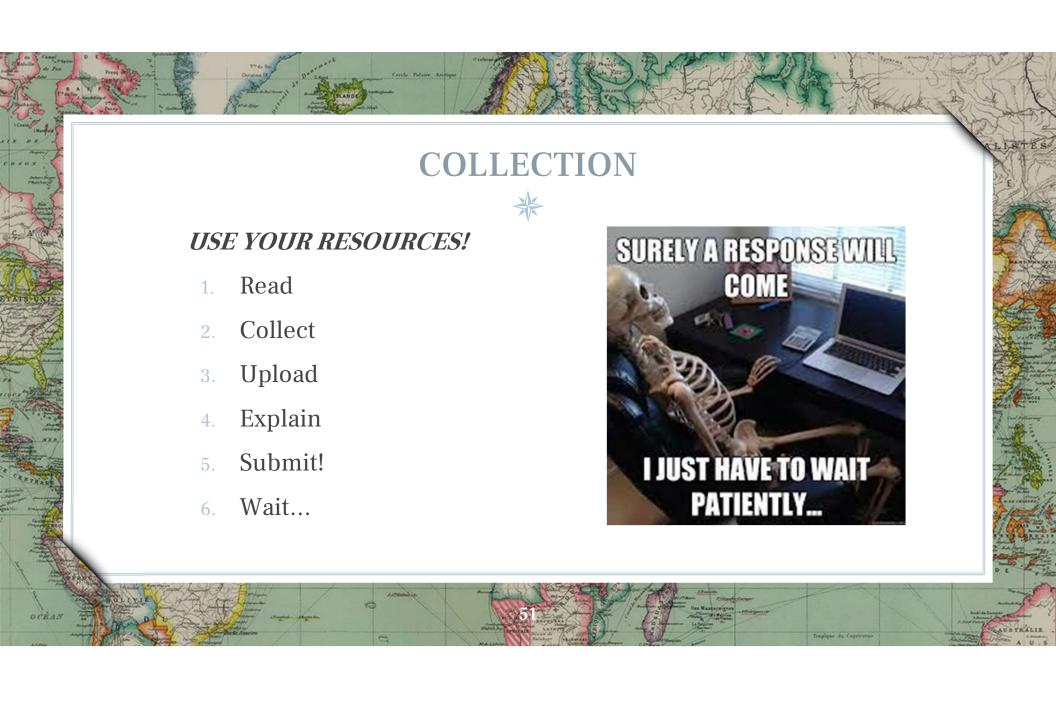


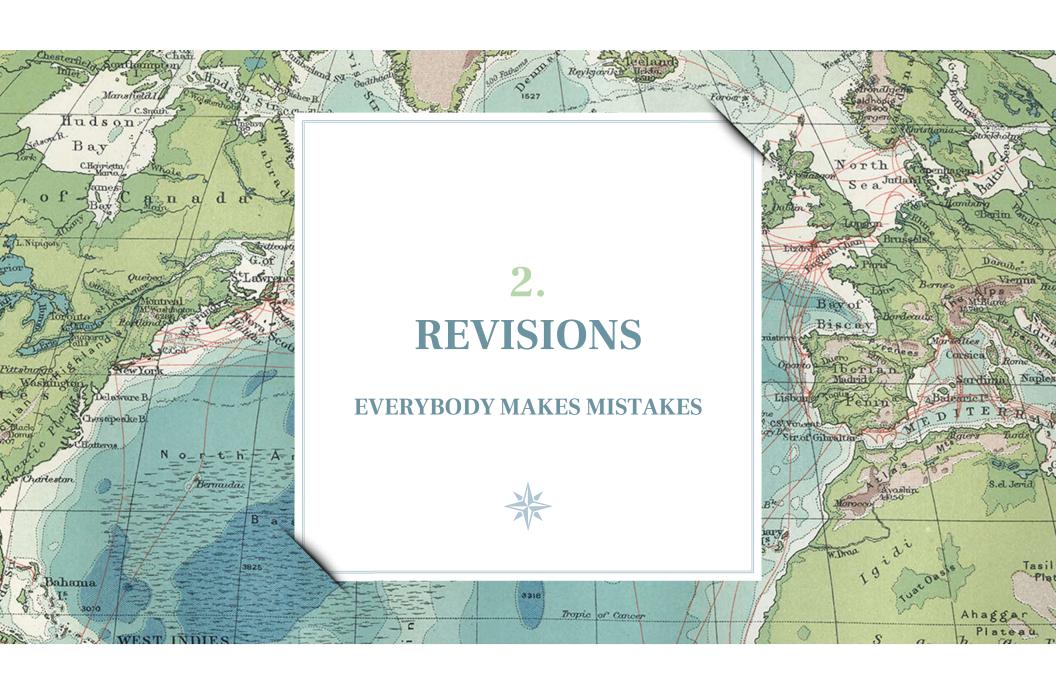




Action Name (version 3)	Legacy Action #	Legacy Name(s)	Points	Type/Status	Project Description	Estimated Points Achievable	Expected Points	Submitted?	Materials Needed
E6 Action: Green Parking Lot Policies	6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards	1-4	Revised Q4 2021					
E6 Action: Complete Streets Policy	6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy	4	Priority, CSC Grants	DRAFT completed	4			copy, memo, & minut
E6 Action: Planning for Biking & Valking	6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking. (In Q4 20201, this action was split into two actions - one for planning, one for infrastructure.)	3	CSC Grants, Revised Q4 2021	Active Transport Plan	3	3	Yes	сору
E6 Action: Infrastructure for Biking & Valking	6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking. (In Q4 20201, this action was split into two actions - one for planning, one for infrastructure.)	2-12	Revised Q4 2021	East Ave Sidewalk w/in 15 years	5	5	Yes	photos, site plan, date
PE6 Action: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure	6.11	Install electric-vehicle infrastructure	4 - 18	Priority, CEC	Library & Speigel EV stations	8	8	Yes	dates, purchase docs public use hours
PE6 Action: Access to Public Transit	6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes	1-9	Revised Q4 2021	RTS	2		No	shuttle schedule, phot "strategy" info
PE6 Action: Safe Routes to School	6.13	Implement a Safe Routes to School program	3	Revised Q4 2021	Sidewalk Program & Crossing Guards	3		No	
PE6 Action: Traffic Calming	6.14	Implement traffic calming measures	3-7	Revised Q4 2021	Kilbourn Rd	7	7	Yes	site plan, photos, pub meeting records
NA	6.15	Adopt and enforce an anti-idling ordinance	1-3	Retired in Q4 2021 (removed from program)					
PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory	6.17	Develop a natural resource inventory	8-10	Priority, CSC Grants	Future GIS project?	10			сору
PE6 Action: Local Forestry Program	6.18	Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program	1-10	Revised Q4 2021	Tree City USA & Arbor Day Celebration	8			tree ordinance, Tree (
PE6 Action: Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas	6.19	Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations	2-6	Revised Q4 2021	Erie Canal Nature Preserve (2021), Greenprint, PDR, conservation easements	6		No	Zoning Amendment of & description

Life Prince Edward.







Feedback for "PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits"

POSTED: 5/3/2022 10:17 AM

SUBJECT

Rationale for Needing Revision

0/10 requested points

The Town of Pittsford has submitted documentation for a level-3 ASHRAE audit completed in 2020 for the Town Hall and Highway Department. This report details key findings and recommendations for these two buildings.

However, the Town did not provide a listing of the square footage of each building owned. The percentage of buildings audited is based upon total square footage of all buildings. Once this is submitted, we will be able to calculate how many points this submission qualifies for.

Please revise and resubmit.

POSTED: 7/13/2022 10:41 AM

SUBJECT

Rationale for Approval

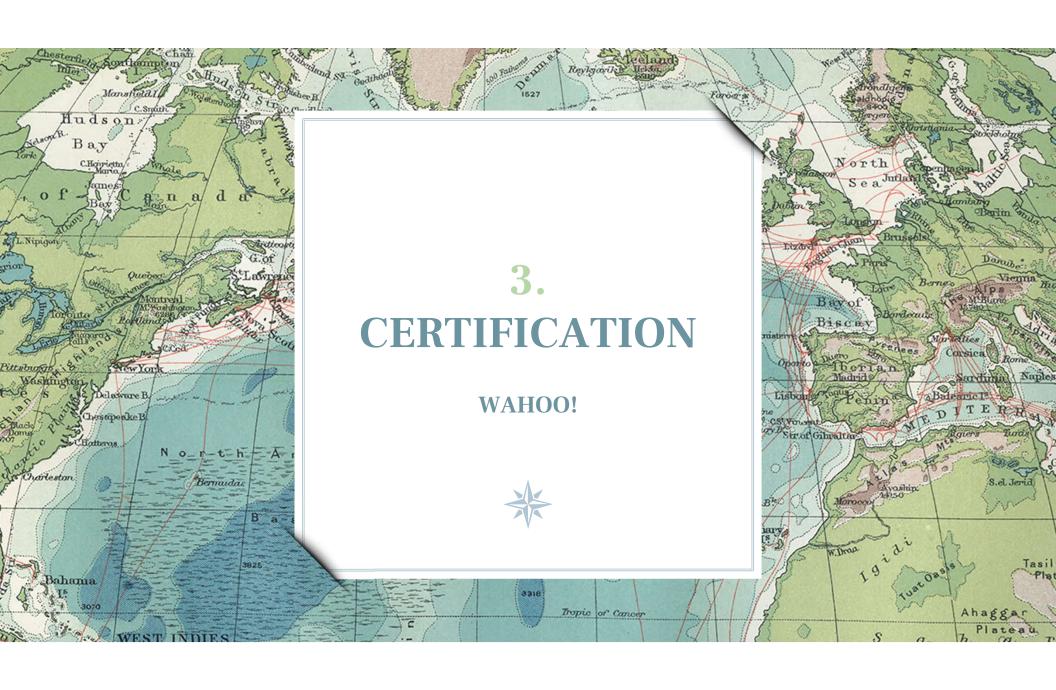
10/10 points

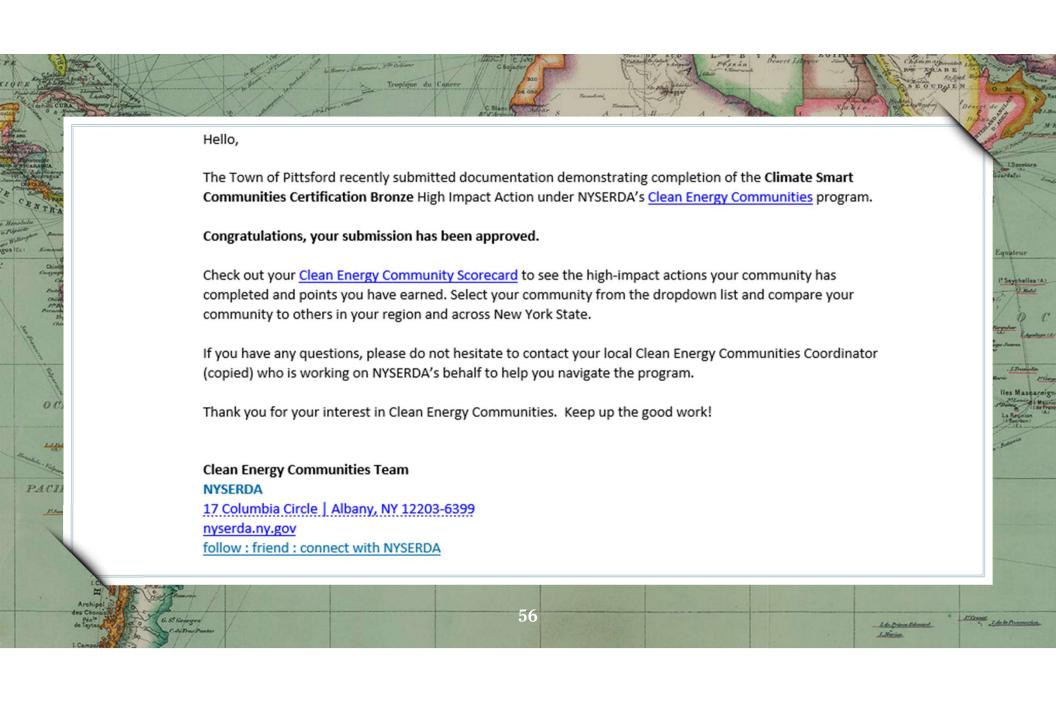
To be approved for this action, the following requirements must be met:

- 1. Provide copies of the ASHRAE Level-1, Level-2, or Level-3 energy audit report for each building (or group of buildings) where an audit was performed. Be specific as to which type of audit was performed for which building. If several buildings were audited, local governments may submit a summary report as long as it provides the key findings and recommendations for each facility.
- 2. Audits must have been conducted within seven years prior to the application date.
- 3. As background for calculating the percentage of buildings audited, submit a listing of all buildings owned by the local government. If the percentage is based on square footage, include the square footage of each building.

The Town of Pittsford has provided a copy of the ASHRAE level 3 audit which is a summary report for two of six municipal buildings. The audit provided was conducted in 2020 which is within 7 years prior to the application date.

The Town resubmitted with the requested list of building square footage. The list includes six buildings, two of which were covered by the audit, or 33%. They also included square footages and that calculation also makes them eligible for 10 points.













PRIDE

Your municipality accomplished a HUGE goal! Be proud of your achievements.

GRANTS

Everyone likes grant funding. Go get some! Get started on those projects you've been working towards!

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

See the difference.
Install new EV chargers, solar panels, lighting fixtures, etc. Residents will notice!





KEEP PLANNING!

Now that you've earned some experience, you know what you're looking for. Input actions over time. Keep a list of upcoming projects that may count for points!







QUESTIONS?

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

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