Climate Smart Communities Program

Grants and Support for Local Governments

Dazzle Ekblad
DEC Office of Climate Change
May 2017

Support for Local Climate Action

Assistance for each community to define their best strategies for:

➢ Reducing emissions, cutting costs of energy use

➢ Building resiliency in the face of climate change

➢ Transitioning to a green economy

One of the few programs where local gov'ts can find:

➢ <u>Free</u> technical support on energy and climate issues

What are the benefits?

• **Free technical assistance**:

  • Regional coordinators through NYSERDA

• **Guidance & tools:**

  • Extensive website: EE, RE, preparing for severe weather

  • Monthly webinars, email list, decision-support tools, certification = framework for action

• **Funding:** better positioned to compete for funds; CSC grants via CFA

• **Leadership recognition:** state-level attention for local leaders, esp. for Certified CSCs

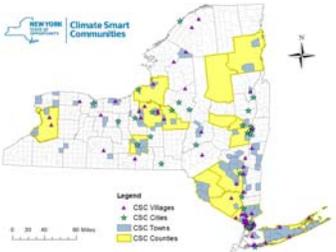• **Networking**: learn with like-minded community leaders

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Climate Smart Communities

Since 2009:

- 198 Registered CSCs
- 10 Certified CSCs
- One-third of New Yorkers
  - 6.7 M people in CSCs
- Smallest: V. of Van Etten (537)
- Largest: Suffolk County (1.5 M)

Full List of CSCs at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html

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Registered vs. Certified Climate Smart Community

- **Registered** = making a commitment
  - Local gov't passes a formal municipal resolution adopting the 10-point CSC Pledge
- **Certified** = leaders who've made concrete progress
  - Accumulate points through documented actions to achieve Certified, Bronze, Silver or Gold levels
  - 1-10 points per action, 130+ total possible actions
  - Range of action types: planning, policies, outreach, implementation, etc.

City of Kingston

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NY's Certified CSCs

- Ulster County (bronze)
- Village of Dobbs Ferry (bronze)
- City of Kingston (bronze)
- Madison County
- Town of Mamaroneck
- Town of East Hampton
- City of Albany
- City of Watervliet
- Town of Cortlandt
- Orange County

James Clayton, NYSDEC

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Climate Smart Communities Grants

Who is eligible to apply?

• **Local governments only**

➢ Counties, cities, towns, villages in NYS

➢ Do NOT need to be a Registered CSC

➢ Other entities (non-profits, etc.) can be partners but not lead applicant

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Climate Smart Communities Grants

When are applications due?

• Deadline is **July 28, 2017** at 4 PM

Where do I apply & get more info?

• Apply online via **Consolidated Funding Application** (CFA) at https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/index.cfm

• Register in the NYS Grants Gateway for contract mgmt.

• Read full RFA at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html

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Climate Smart Communities Grants

What is the match?

• Required local **match is 50%** of eligible project costs

• Eligible costs include: travel & equipment

➢ Salaries & fringe benefits

➢ Contractual services

• **Match w/ in-kind municipal staff salaries**

• No state or federal funds as match

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Climate Smart Communities Grants

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- **Climate change projects** that:

  ➢ Reduce GHGs from *non-power* sources (mitigation)

  ➢ Build local resiliency to climate change (adaptation)

  ➢ Are needed based on climate science

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CSC Grants for Implementation

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CSC Grants for Implementation

- Total available: $9.5M

- Larger awards: **$10,000 to $2 million**

- **Construction** projects - no more than 15% on design & engineering

- Two broad categories of implementation:

  ➢ Adaptation

  ➢ Mitigation (reducing GHGs from non-power sources)

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CSC Grants for Implementation

Eligible __adaptation__ project categories:

▪ **Reduce future flood risk (1 of 2):**

- Increase natural resiliency (e.g., living shorelines)
- Relocate or retrofit critical infrastructure or facilities
- Replace or right-size flow barriers (i.e., culverts & bridges)

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CSC Grants for Implementation

Eligible __adaptation__ projects:

• **Extreme event preparation (2 of 2):**

Address anticipated future extreme heat conditions

  ▪ E.g., cooling centers, shade structures

Improve emergency preparedness and response systems

  ▪ E.g., warning systems that facilitate emergency response and/or protect people, infrastructure and natural resources

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CSC Grants for Implementation

Eligible __mitigation__ projects:

• Reduce GHGs from:

  ➢ **Commuting**: more walkable, bike-able routes to work

  ➢ **Food scraps**: increase food donation, or process food scraps at wastewater treatment plants

  ➢ **Landfills**: install methane capture systems, etc.

  ➢ **Refrigerants**: switch to alternatives, or reduce leakage from refrigeration, chillers, & A/C equipment

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CSC Grants for Certification

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CSC Grants for Certification

- Total available: $500,000

- Smaller awards: **$10,000 to $100,000**

- **Planning** projects

  ➢ 24 different types of assessments, inventories, plans that align with the CSC Certification Program

- **CSC Certification Manual:** http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html

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CSC Grants for Certification

▪ **Climate Change Adaptation Strategies** - 4 of 10 options:

  ➢ Vulnerability assessments (7.1)

  ➢ Review existing plans and projects to identify adaptation strategies (CSRP – 7.3)

  ➢ Update multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions (7.6)

  ➢ Watershed assessment to identify flooding priorities (7.10)

▪ **Land-Use Planning** – 2 of 3 options:

  ➢ Update comprehensive plan w/ sustainability & smart growth elements (6.1, 6.2)

  ➢ Natural Resources Inventory (6.17)

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CSC Grants for Certification

- **Transportation Strategies** – 2 of 3 options:
  - Plan for right-sizing municipal fleet (3.11)
  - Develop strategies that support bicycling and walking (6.10)
- **Organic Waste Mgmt. Strategies** – 2 of 7 options:
  - Develop a plan to provide organic waste collection and composting in local gov't bldgs. (3.21)
  - Conduct local gov't waste audit and track diversion rate over time (3.23)

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Pass/Fail Criteria for All CSC Grant Projects

- You are a local gov't of NYS and you've submitted a **municipal resolution authorizing application submission**.
- You are proposing an eligible action and have clearly described the need for the project in reference to **projected future climate conditions or greenhouse gas inventory data**.
- You have attached **a completed expenditure budget** that itemizes costs and clearly articulates the requested funding amount and eligible match.
- You have attached **a detailed work program** outlining what specific tasks will be undertaken to complete the project, from initiation through completion.
- If applicable, you have documented **land ownership or an agreement with the landowner for land access and use**.

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Addt'l Evaluation Criteria for CSC Grants

- Financial hardship
- Climate Smart Communities status: Registered or Certified CSC
- Implementation or certification readiness
- Project criticality
- Effectiveness of proposal
- Planning context
- Quality of application
- Reasonableness of cost

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Key Information Sources for CSC Grants

Climate change projections & data

- ClimAid Report (NY): http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/climaid
- NY Climate Change Science Clearinghouse: https://www.nyclimatescience.org/
- Nat'l Climate Assessment: http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/

Greenhouse gas inventories & tools

- Regional inventories: http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/57170.html

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Thank You!

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- Dazzle Ekblad
- Office of Climate Change
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- 625 Broadway Albany NY 12233-1030
- climatechange@dec.ny.gov
- 518-402-8448

More info on CSC funding programs available at
http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/10981.html

Connect with the DEC:
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