



Climate Smart Communities

November 2015

City of Rye

CSC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, prepare for impacts of climate change and save taxpayer dollars. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas outlined in the [CSC 10 Pledge Elements](#) (see below).

This CSC profile for outlines the City of Rye's progress through the 10 pledge elements. Detailed information on actions completed, in progress, and identified for future action is provided in the tables on the following pages. If a table is missing for a particular pledge element, it means that the CSC program does not have a record of actions taken to address that pledge element.

The [CSC Certification](#) program provides local governments with a comprehensive framework to guide climate action and enables high performing communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. Each pledge element below is accompanied by a [CSC Certification Manual](#) that recommends initiatives and resources for getting started. Click on any of the pledge elements for additional information.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACTS:

Adopted Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Pledge: 2015

CSC Pledge Elements Addressed: 8 out of 10

Total Actions Completed: 23

Government Type: City

County: Westchester County

Region: Mid-Hudson Region

Population: 15,720

Climate Smart Communities Pledge Elements [Click links to view CSC Certification Manual]

1. [Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community](#)
2. [Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Plan for Climate Action](#)
3. [Decrease Community Energy Use](#)
4. [Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy](#)
5. [Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Management Practices](#)
6. [Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools](#)
7. [Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change](#)
8. [Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy](#)
9. [Inform and Inspire the Public](#)
10. [Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action](#)

Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community

Action	Status	Description
Adopted the CSC Pledge	Completed	The City of Rye adopted the CSC Pledge in 2015.
Joined ICLEI	Completed	The City of Rye joined ICLEI in 2008.
Create a community CSC task force	Completed	The City of Rye created a CSC task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation, and formed a Rye Sustainability Committee in 2010 for the purpose of drafting a Sustainability Plan that will address climate mitigation and adaptation, among other issues.

Pledge Element 2: Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Plan for Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Government GHG Inventory	Completed	The City of Rye Sustainability Plan (2013) includes a government GHG inventory with a baseline year of 2009.
Community Climate Action Plan	In progress	The City of Rye Sustainability Plan (2013) includes a community climate action plan.
Community GHG Inventory	Completed	The City of Rye Sustainability Plan (2013) includes a community GHG Emissions Inventory with a baseline year of 2009.
Rye Sustainability Plan	Completed	The City of Rye Sustainability Plan (2013) includes a section on government operations. This section addresses GHG emissions, waste management practices among other sustainability goals.

Pledge Element 3: Decrease Community Energy Use

Action	Status	Description
Provide Recycling Bins	Completed	The City of Rye provides recycling receptacles in city buildings and offices.
Purchase Hybrid Patrol Cars	In progress	The City of Rye police department replaced traditional gas powered police vehicles with hybrid patrol cars.
Upgrade Interior Lighting	Completed	The City of Rye installed motion detector lighting and LED lighting in Town Hall to reduce municipal energy consumption.
Convert Street Lights to LED	Completed	The City of Rye replaced fallen streetlights from Superstorm Sandy with LED lights.
Convert Traffic Signals to LED	Completed	The City of Rye DPW replaced traffic lights with LED lamps, reducing municipal electrical consumption.

Pledge Element 5: Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate-Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Action	Status	Description
Collection bin for furniture reuse	Completed	In 2014, a collection bin for gently used furniture was installed at Rye DPW in partnership with Furniture Share house.
Offer Recycling to Businesses	Completed	The City of Rye offers curbside pick-up for businesses to recycle.
Recycling Bins in Public Places	Completed	The City of Rye provides public recycling receptacles in public places.
Westchester County household chemical clean up day	Completed	The City of Rye participates in the Westchester County household chemical clean up day.
Create Yard Waste Collection Program	Completed	The City of Rye collects leaves in recyclable paper bags every week during the Fall season.
Recycling for Residents	Completed	The City of Rye offers curbside pick-up for residents to recycle.

Pledge Element 6: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Use of Climate-Smart Land-Use Tools

Action	Status	Description
Anti-idling ordinance in designated areas	In progress	The City of Rye adopted an anti-idling policy in designated areas, like school zones.
Complete Street Standards	Completed	The City of Rye has researched traffic and pedestrian safety initiatives related to shared use roadways and sharrows.
Establish Green Building Codes	In progress	The City of Rye building code considers green building features.
Trees for Rye by Friends of Rye	Completed	Trees for Rye is a program of the Friends of Rye Nature Center that works in conjunction with the City of Rye.
Implement Safe Routes to School	Completed	The City of Rye received funding for and implemented a Safe Routes to School pedestrian enhancement project.

Pledge Element 7: Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for the Effects of Climate Change

Action	Status	Description
NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Funding	In progress	The City of Rye passed a resolution authorizing the acceptance of funding through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program making Rye a more storm-resilient community.
Rain garden demonstration	In progress	The City of Rye is installing rain garden demonstration projects at community schools.

Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

Action	Status	Description
Local Farmers Market	Completed	The City of Rye boasts a local farmers market every Sunday, hosted by the Rye Merchant's Association.
Join the Energy Improvement Corporation	Completed	The City of Rye joined the Energy Improvement Corporation to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in residential and/or commercial properties. This program is part of the Energize NY (PACE) Benefit Financing Program.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

Action	Status	Description
NY-Sun PV Trainers Network	In progress	The Rye Sustainability Committee is working with the NY-Sun PV Trainers Network to organize a residential solar workshop in October 2015 and another workshop for City officials on adopting the NYS Unified Solar Permit.
Maintain a website	In progress	The City of Rye Sustainability Committee is developing a website.
Facebook Page	Completed	The City of Rye has a Climate Smart Community facebook page.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Sustainability Plan Update	In progress	The City of Rye is in the beginning phases of updating the Sustainability Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

Pledge Element 10: Commit to an Evolving Process of Climate Action

Action	Status	Description
Sustainable Westchester Member	Completed	The City is a member of Sustainable Westchester, which is a consortium of local governments in Westchester County that facilitates effective sustainability initiatives, engages community stakeholders, and shares tools, resources, and incentives to create more healthy, vibrant and attractive communities, now and in the future. http://sustainablewestchester.org/

For more information about the City of Rye’s climate protection efforts, please contact: Marcus Serrano at (914) 231-8502



Climate Smart Communities

The Climate Smart Communities Program is jointly sponsored by six New York State Agencies: the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of State, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and Public Service Commission.