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# The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act: Moving New York to a Carbon-neutral Economy

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# Why is This Climate Act Important?

- Economic damage attributable to climate change in the US will be in the 100s of billions of dollars per year by 2090 under a high emissions scenario – close to our current emissions track (NCA4).
- Even 1.5°C will carry significant risks, and risks are substantially higher at 2°C warming. Allowing warming of 1.5C could trigger feedback loops with the potential to cause runaway warming.(IPCC)
- Paris commitments would lead to a 3.0 – 3.5° C rise. (Climate Interactive)
- On current track we will emit enough greenhouse gases by 2030 to make holding warming to 1.5°C impossible. (IPCC)



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# Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

- Most aggressive GHG reduction goals of any major economy: 40X30, 85X50
- Path to carbon neutrality
- Codifies clean energy targets (PSC by June 2021)
  - 70% renewable energy by 2030
  - 100% clean electricity by 2040
  - 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035
  - 6,000 MW of distributed solar by 2025
  - 3,000 MW of energy storage by 2030
  - 185 Tbtu on-site energy savings by 2025
- Commitments to environmental justice and just transition



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# GHG Emissions Limits

- By January 2021, DEC must promulgate rule to establish statewide GHG emissions limits:
  - 2030: 60% of 1990 emissions
  - 2050: 15% of 1990 emissions
- At least one public hearing



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# Climate Action Council

- Draft scoping plan of recommendations for achieving GHG limits **by January 2022**, final in 3 years
- Co-chaired by DEC and NYSERDA
- Member Agencies: DOT, DOH, ESD, DAM, HCR, DOL, PSC, NYPA, LIPA, DOS
- 2 Governor appointments
- 8 Legislative appointments
- Advisory panels (chaired by relevant agency):
  - Transportation
  - Land use and local government
  - Housing and energy efficiency
  - Energy intensive industries
  - Power generation
  - Agriculture and Forestry



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# Developing the Scoping Plan

- Scoping plan shall outline recommendations for measures to achieve the emission targets, including zero emission economy
- Plan shall include the following:
  - Measures to aid in just transition of workforce
  - Mechanisms to limit emission leakage
  - Measures to achieve healthy forests
  - Council shall quantify costs and benefits
- Process
  - Consult with Climate Justice WG and EJ Advisory Group
  - Hold 6 public comment hearings on the draft plan
  - Update every five years



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# Implementing the Scoping Plan – DEC

- By end of 2023, DEC shall promulgate regulations that
  - ensure compliance with 2030 and 2050 emission targets,
  - cover all sectors but livestock,
  - reflect the findings of scoping plan,
  - maximize net benefits, reduce leakage, and benefit disadvantaged communities.



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# Implementing the Scoping Plan – All Agencies

- All agencies to
  - implement strategies to reduce their emissions;
  - consider whether permit, licenses and other actions are consistent with achieving emission targets and, if not, identify alternatives or mitigation;
  - to promulgate regulations that contribute to meeting the emission targets.
- Actions should benefit, not burden, disadvantaged communities



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# Investing in Disadvantaged Communities

- Disadvantaged communities to receive at least 35% of the overall benefits clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects or investments
- Disadvantaged communities to receive at least 40% of overall benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects or investments in the areas of housing, workforce development, pollution reduction, low income energy assistance, energy, transportation and economic development.



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# Main Sources of Greenhouse Gases in NYS



36%



30%



15%



8%



5%

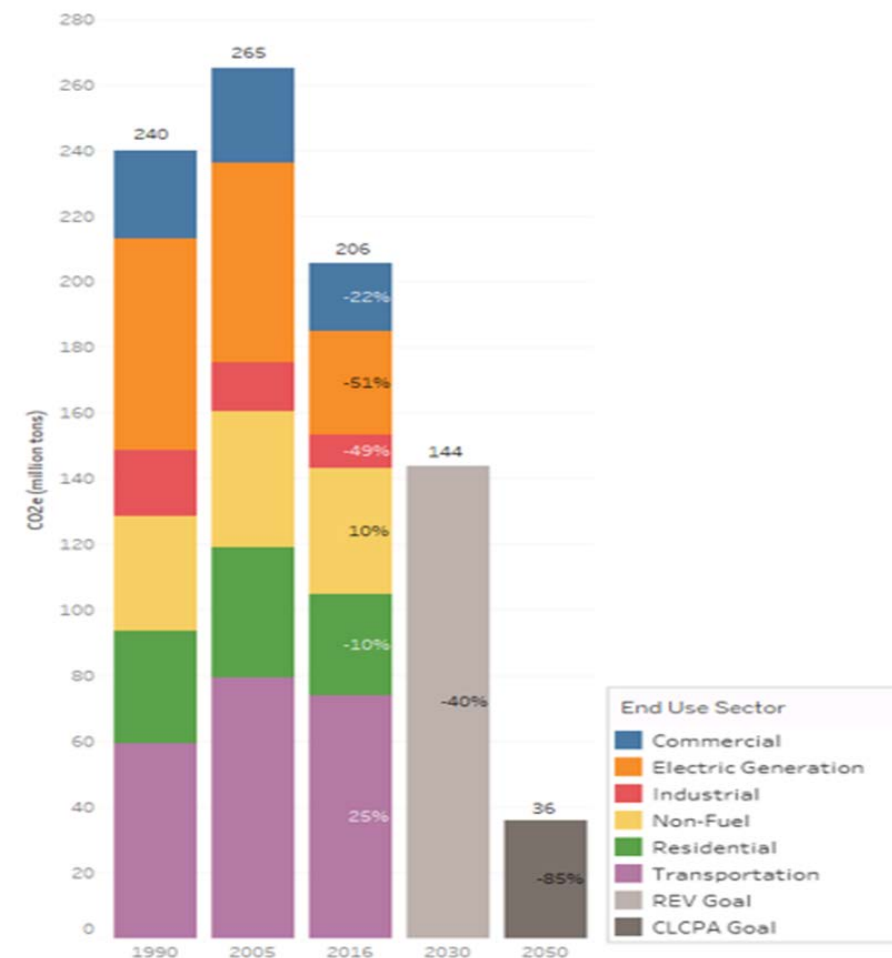


4%

New York State emitted approximately 206 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2016— about 0.5% of total annual global emissions.

# Reaching 40% by 2030 and carbon neutrality

- Requires
  - Electrification of cars and heating
  - Deep penetration of renewables
  - Waste diversion (organics and embedded emissions)
  - Conversion of refrigerants
  - Deep energy efficiency improvements – in all sectors



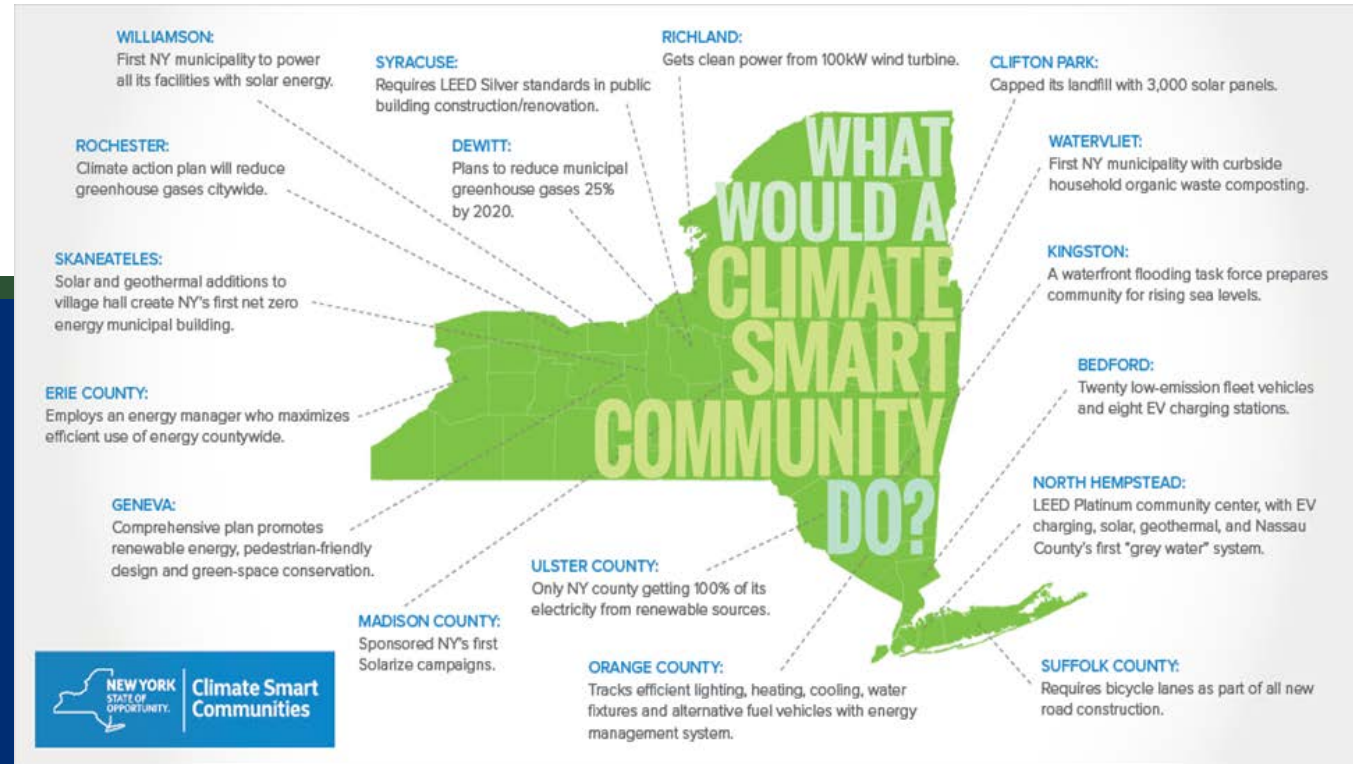
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# Climate Smart Communities

*State support for local climate action*



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# Climate Smart Communities Benefits



## Free technical assistance

- Regional coordinators through NYSERDA

## Guidance & tools on mitigation & adaptation

- Extensive website with information and decision-support tools

## Funding

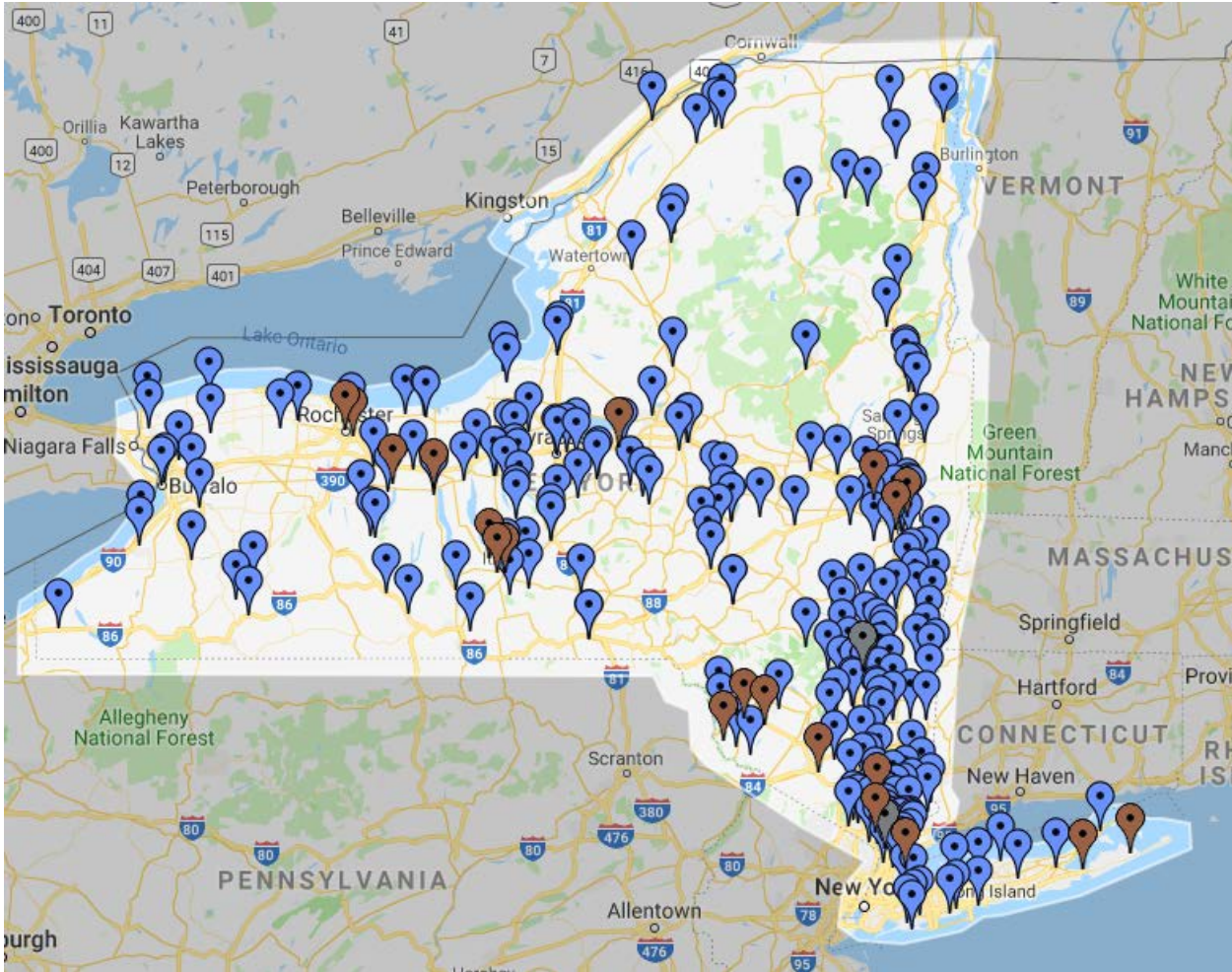
- CSC grants
- ZEV rebates

## Leadership recognition

## Networking



# Climate Smart Communities



- **282 Registered** (since 2009)
  - 42% of New Yorkers live in these “pledged” communities (over 8 million people)
  - 17% of ~1607 local governments
- **34 Certified** (since 2014)
  - Leaders who have documented progress

Full list at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/participating-communities/>



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# Registered vs. Certified Climate Smart Community

- **Registered** = making a commitment
  - Local government 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 Bronze or Silver (Gold yet to come)
  - 1-10 points per action, 130+ total possible actions
  - Range of action types: planning, policies, outreach, implementation, etc.



# Save on ZEVs through NYS Programs

## DEC Municipal ZEV Rebates –

- Up to \$5000 for purchase/lease plug-in electric hybrids or battery-powered cars
  - Now open
- Eligible infrastructure for charging/fueling ZEVs
  - RFA coming soon





Climate Smart  
Communities

*It's time to*

- commit (or recommit),
- organize,
- make a plan,
- get technical and financial help, and
- prepare for the long haul.



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## Connect with us:

- DEC: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)
- Community Risk and Resiliency Act: [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html)
- Climate Smart Communities: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NYSDEC](http://www.facebook.com/NYSDEC)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/NYSDEC](https://twitter.com/NYSDEC)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/nysdec](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nysdec)



# What can you do?

- Calculate your personal GHG footprint [www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator](http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator)
- Reduce energy usage, waste and emissions at home, at work, on the road and at school
- Consider a plant-based diet
- Compost if feasible
- Support climate-protection policies
- Make your community climate-smart
- Talk to your family, friends and neighbors, elected officials & those who want your vote



# Barriers Report

“report on barriers to, and opportunities for, access to or community ownership of the following services and commodities in disadvantaged communities ... :

- a. Distributed renewable energy generation
- b. Energy efficiency and weatherization investment
- c. Zero-emission and low-emission transportation options
- d. Adaptation measures to improve the resilience of homes and local infrastructure ...
- e. Other services and infrastructure that can reduce the risks associated with climate-related hazards, including but not limited to:
  - i. Shelters and cool rooms during extreme heat events;
  - ii. Shelters during flooding events; and
  - iii. Medical treatment for asthma and other conditions that could be exacerbated by climate-related events.” (§6)



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# Benefiting Disadvantaged Communities

- Council to prioritize disadvantaged communities
  - Identify measures to reduce emissions of co-pollutants
  - Consult with Climate Justice Working Group and EJ Advisory Group
- DEC rulemakings to implement the Council recommendations
  - Ensure no increase in co-pollutant emissions or disproportionate burden on disadvantaged communities
  - Prioritize measures to reduce emissions in disadvantaged communities
- DEC to implement community air monitoring
  - In coordination with Climate Justice Working Group, DEC shall establish pilot by October 2022 community air monitoring in at least 4 disadvantaged communities.
  - By June 2024, DEC shall prepare a strategy to reduce emissions in disadvantaged communities with a disproportionate pollution burden



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# How are the CSC & CEC programs related?

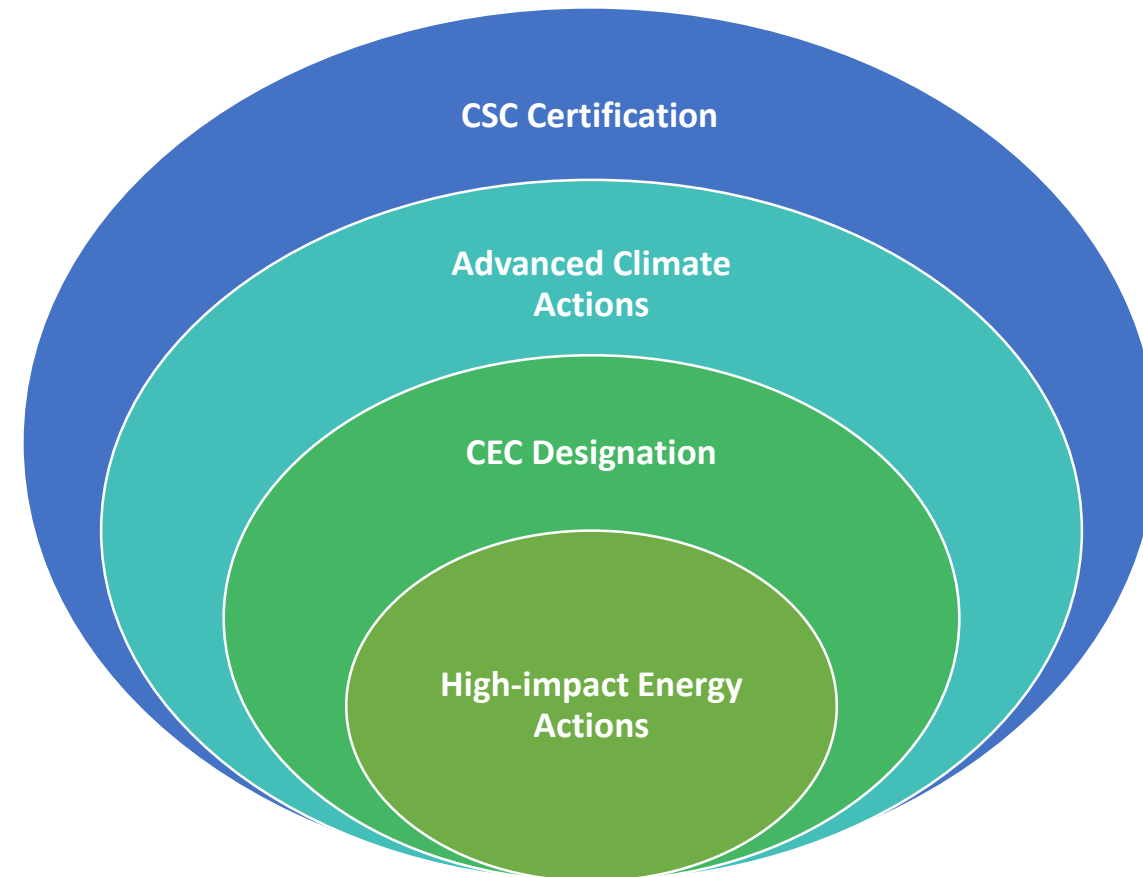
## Climate Smart Communities Certification

- Comprehensive climate program
- >100 unique actions
- Accumulate points toward certification and improve score on CSC grant applications

## Clean Energy Communities

- Focused on clean energy
- 10 high-impact actions
  - 1 of the 10 is CSC Certification
- Complete 4 high-impact actions to be designated and access grant funding

- **Earn points toward CSC Certification by doing CEC actions**
  - Do both! They are complementary programs



# Just Transition Working Group

- Advise Climate Action Council on opportunities for work force development for clean energy economy
- Identify effects on energy-intensive industries and related trades
- Identify sites of electric generating units that may be closed and that can be reused
- Advise on potential competitiveness effects and emission leakage
- Conduct study on jobs to address work force disruption



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# Bolsters the Community Risk and Resiliency Act

- Permit applicants for all major projects subject to UPA must consider future physical climate risk
- Expands list of climate hazards that must be considered from “sea-level rise, storm surges and flooding” to include all conceivable hazards
- Authorizes DEC to require mitigation of climate risks



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# Social Cost of Carbon

- By January 2021, DEC to establish social cost of carbon (\$/ton CO<sub>2</sub>e)
  - Estimate of value of not emitting GHGs
  - Abatement costs or social impacts costs
- For use by state agencies in program evaluation



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# GHG Emissions Report

- By January 2022 DEC to issue GHG emissions report
  - Must identify relative contribution of each GHG and each type of source
- At least two public hearings on methodology
- Annual updates



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