

**City of Kingston  
Conservation Advisory Council  
Climate Smart and Green Jobs Pledge  
2010 Action Award**

The City of Kingston CAC is a relatively new CAC in New York State and one of only a few CACs in New York located within a city. The CAC was founded in 2008 and since its founding has worked on a variety of key projects and is now considered to be the “go-to” organization for advice, policy design and expertise by the City’s Common Council.

During the summer and fall of 2009, the Kingston CAC advocated the adoption of the Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Pledge. This effort, undertaken jointly by the CAC, key aldermen and community stakeholders, took months to develop. The Pledge was developed using NYSDEC’s Climate Smart Communities Pledge Model, while also using the Local Government Green Jobs Pledge to develop a statement appropriate for the City of Kingston. The CAC has held two community visioning sessions, where the community was made aware of the pledge and asked to participate. Over sixty interested stakeholders participated in the sessions.

With the passing of the pledge, the Kingston CAC has helped to pave the way for funding through NYSERDA’s Block Grant Program, allowing the City to hire a full time climate analyst for one year to develop with the CAC and the public a Climate Action Plan, using other model plans developed in the State.

A Community Taskforce developed a plan for the City of Kingston which addressed the following areas:

1. Pledge to combat climate change by becoming a Climate Smart Community
2. Set goals, inventory emissions, move to action
3. Decrease energy demand for government operations
4. Foster renewable energy for government operations
5. Realize benefits of recycling and other Climate Smart solid waste management practices
6. Promote climate protection through land use planning
7. Plan for adaptation to unavoidable climate change
- 8 Green innovation strategy
9. Inform and inspire the public
10. Commit to an evolving process

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