



Climate Smart Communities Certification Report

SILVER CERTIFIED

This is the Climate Smart Communities Certification Report of Dutchess County. Dutchess County is a silver certified Climate Smart Community.

Dutchess County was certified on September 10, 2024 with 326 points earned from 51 completed actions. Listed below is information regarding Dutchess County’s Climate Smart Communities efforts and materials associated with its certified actions.

The certification for Dutchess County will expire on September 30, 2029.

Contact Information

The designated Climate Smart Communities contact for Dutchess County is:

Name:	Devin Rigolino
Title/Position:	Environmental Program Director; Dutchess County CSC Coordinator / Department of Planning
Address:	85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Dutchess County was approved for in 2024 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

1. Build a climate-smart community.

1.1 Pass a Resolution Adopting the CSC Pledge

4 Points

Program Summary: No description was provided.

PDF: [CSCRESOLUTIONDUTCHESS2009.PDF](#)

PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

20 Points

Program Summary: Under Resolution No. 209299, the Dutchess County Legislature signed on to the Climate Smart Communities pledge which was the first step in authorizing the establishment of the Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force. The CSC Task Force serves as a body of leadership that supports and promotes climate mitigation and adaptation in Dutchess County. It acts as an advisory group that collaborates with County government to accomplish plans and activities that are part of the CSC Certification program. Former County Executive Molinaro and Chairman Pulver appointed the first 16 community members to serve on the Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force in the Fall of 2018. The members included community leaders, as well as individuals working in innovative fields leading current efforts to undertake Climate Smart actions and represented a diverse and talented collection of individuals committed to reducing the County's overall energy usage, greening its supply, and making it more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The Task Force is currently led by Co-Chairs, Devin Rigolino & Kelsey West. Documentation includes a Legislative resolution calling for the formation of the Task Force, a County announcement, which includes the original list of Task Force members with affiliations, a current 2023 list of Task Force members with affiliations, and copies of meeting notes with attendance from the 4/4/23 and 6/27/23 meetings.

PDF: [COUNTY ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE.PDF](#)

PDF: [CSCTF MEMBERS 2023.PDF](#)

PDF: [CSC-TASK-FORCE-MEETING-SUMMARY_4APR23.PDF](#)

PDF: [CSC_TASK_FORCE_MEETING_SUMMARY_27JUN23.PDF](#)

PDF: [CSC RESOLUTION_209299.PDF](#)

PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator

10 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County has had 3 Climate Smart Community Coordinators to date. Brad Barclay, Senior Environmental Planner, and Steve MacAvery, Chairman of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council (EMC) were appointed as Co-Coordinators in 2018 by the County Executive and the Chair of the Legislature. After Brad's retirement and Steve's departure from the EMC, a new CSC Coordinator was appointed by the County Executive on June 5, 2023. The current CSC Coordinator for Dutchess County is Devin Rigolino, who also serves as the County's Environmental Program Director. The CSC Coordinator oversees gathering necessary information and leading the implementation of local climate mitigation and adaptation projects for the County government. Documents include a link to the Dutchess County CSC Task Force website: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Climate-Smart-Communities.htm#Con3>, an original CSC Memo appointing original coordinators, and a new 2023 appointment letter for current coordinator from County Executive.

PDF: [CLIMATE SMART MEMO 11-23-18.PDF](#)

PDF: [CSC RIGOLINO LETTER - COORDINATOR.PDF](#)

PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program**3 Points**

Program Summary: Dutchess County participates in the New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. In this program, the County has successfully completed 10 actions and has earned 2,400 CEC points to date. A NYSERDA CEC scorecard reflecting this information can be found at the following link and also uploaded in his submission. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Tracking-Progress/Scorecard>

PDF: [CEC SCORECARD_DUTCHESS_12-11-23.PDF](#)

PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities**3 Points**

Program Summary: Dutchess County is participating in The Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI). CAPI is a facilitated, collaborative working group through which a select group of local governments develop individual government operations greenhouse gas emissions inventories and government operations climate action plans. As of 1/5/23, the County has completed the GHG inventory and is working to complete the Climate Action Plan. The Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) in partnership with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) is leading Dutchess CAPI. Nine municipalities will together take a collaborative approach to climate mitigation and help bring State funding to the region for important projects. Participating municipalities: Dutchess County, City of Beacon, City of Poughkeepsie, Town of Amenia, Town of Pleasant Valley, Town of Poughkeepsie, Town of Rhinebeck, Village of Rhinebeck, Village of Wappingers Falls. A description of the program, meeting dates, meeting minutes, video recordings of virtual meetings, and additional resources can be found on the CAPI website: <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/dutchesscapi/> All meeting information: <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/dutchesscapimeetings/>

2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.

PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory

16 Points

Program Summary: In 2023, Dutchess County began participation along with 8 County municipalities in the Hudson Valley Regional Council's (HVRC) Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI). CAPI is a facilitated, collaborative working group through which a select group of local governments develop individual government operations greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories and government operations climate action plans. HVRC has worked in partnership with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) to lead the County through this ~18-month process. This project was made possible thanks to funding from a DEC CSC grant, for which the County is the lead applicant. The County's involvement in the CAPI project has been executed under the guidance of the CSCTF's GHG Inventories & Climate Action Planning Committee. Documentation includes: an uploaded copy of the local government operations GHG inventory report, which was completed in 2023 and includes Scope 1, 2, and some scope 3 emissions. A methodology and how it complies with established protocols can be found on page 12. More details about data gaps and assumptions can be found in the appendices beginning on page 24. The report is available publicly at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Climate-Smart-Communities.htm>

PDF: [DUTCHESS COUNTY GHG INVENTORY REPORT 2024.PDF](#)

PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory

16 Points

Program Summary: In 2023, Dutchess County joined another climate action cohort sponsored and led by the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC). This group kicked off in September of 2023 and met monthly through the end of the year. This cohort program was focused on developing community level GHG emissions inventories, based off distilled data from NYSERDA's Mid-Hudson Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. This community-level GHG emissions inventory includes all GHG emissions that occur physically within the County's boundary and, to the extent possible, those that occur indirectly regardless of location because of community activity or consumption. The Dutchess County Community GHG Emissions Inventory Report can be found here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Climate-Smart-Communities.htm> (second bullet under the "Inventories, Plans, and Reports" section) and a copy has also been uploaded to the County's dashboard.

PDF: [COMMUNITY GHG REPORT 2024.PDF](#)

PE2 Action: Government Operations Climate Action Plan

16 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached documentation.

PDF: [GOCAP IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [GO CAP FINAL PLAN.PDF](#)

3. Decrease energy use.

PE3 Action: Building Energy Management System

2 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached document, "Implementation Description."

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION BEMS.PDF](#)

PDF: [TOTALOWNEDPROPERTYSPREADSHEET.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [BEMS ACTIVE STATUS CONFIRMATION.JPG](#)

PE3 Action: Fleet Inventory

4 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached documents.

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION VEHICLE FLEET.PDF](#)

PDF: [FLEET INVENTORY PROCEDURES_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [VEHICLE FLEET INVENTORY.XLSX](#)

PE3 Action: Advanced Vehicles

2 Points

Program Summary: Attached is a Dutchess County Clean -Fleets Certification Form completed for the Clean Energy Communities Clean Fleets High Impact Action. NYSERDA documentation includes a link to the NYSE RDA webpage confirming that Dutchess County is a CEC participating community: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Tracking-Progress/CEC-Map>, and also see attached screenshot of the NYSERDA webpage confirming that Dutchess County has completed the Clean Fleets High Impact Action. See website link for a press release from 7/16/18 announcing the debut of 3 out of the 4 Dutchess County EV charging stations available for public use (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/34127.htm>). The County has already incorporated several electric (4) and hybrid (29) vehicles into its fleet, amounting to just over 5% of the fleet total, which includes County transit vehicles. It has been noted, however, that further deployment of fully electric vehicles remains difficult due to the current limited electric vehicle charging network available to the County fleet. Because the County has not yet reached a 10% conversion of its vehicle fleet, we are requesting only 2 points for having made at least one purchase of an EV or PHEV. Please see attached photos of one of the County's PHEV, including a mileage log to show its active use.

EXCEL: [DUTCHESS COUNTY CLEAN-FLEETS-CERTIFICATION-FORM.XLSX](#)

IMAGE: [COUNTY PHEV.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [CEC SCORECARD.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [PHEV MILEAGE LOG.JPG](#)

PE3 Action: LED Traffic Signals

4 Points

Program Summary: Most traffic signals located within the County are owned and operated by either State or local authorities. The County's traffic signal network currently contains only 18 signals and flashing warning signs, 16 of which have already been upgraded to LEDs, or 88.88% of the total. The remaining 2 signals are already planned to be upgraded over the next few years: • CR93 @ Sgt. Palmateer Way, a replacement traffic signal design is nearly complete, anticipate bidding this year. • CR77 @ DeLaval Pl. & Emmot Pl., has 1 green 8" incandescent, Full signal replacement is under construction and anticipated to be completed in 2024. Attached is a photo from a recent traffic signal replacement that the County did at the intersection of Vassar Rd. and Spring St. All recent upgrades involve upgrading span wire signals to mast arms and make use of video detection. All traffic signal projects adhere to NYSDOT specs and guidelines. Also attached is a sheet listing all of the County's traffic signals which have been upgraded to GE LED signal modules that meet all current ITE standards and regulations.

IMAGE: [P8090014.JPG](#)

PDF: [TRAFFIC SIGNAL OPERATION CALL SHEET3.PDF](#)

PE3 Action: Incentives for Employee Carpooling & Transit

1 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached materials.

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION CARPOOLING.PDF](#)

PDF: [DC CARPOOL POSTER.PDF](#)

4. Shift to clean, renewable energy.

PE4 Action: Heat Pumps

17 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached document, "Implementation Description."

PDF: [DC GEOTHERMAL PUBLIC POSTER.PDF](#)

PDF: [CLIMATE MASTER COMMERCIAL TRANQUILITY OA HEAT PUMP MANUAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [EMERGENCY RESPONSE SPECS AND PLANS.PDF](#)

PDF: [TRANQUILITY-27-TT-CUT-SHEET.PDF](#)

PDF: [RP913-CLIMATEMASTER-RESIDENTIAL-TRANQUILITY-20-TS-GEOTHERMAL-HEATING-AND-COOLING.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PE4 Action: Host Clean Energy Installation on Municipal Property

9 Points

Program Summary: See attached pdf. for the DC County Legislature resolution for the PPA agreement and supplemental resource appendices to the resolution (all in the same pdf file) Website link to project announcement: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Public-Works/37363.htm> To prove that the array is still in use, the county's 2023 budget references credits from the array on pages 185, 259, and 619. <https://dutchessny.gov/Departments/Budget/Docs/2023-Executive-Budget.pdf>

PDF: [TESLA LEASE RESOLUTION 2018264.PDF](#)

PE4 Action: County-hosted Trainings

12 Points

Program Summary: As part of NYSERDA's CEC program, in 2022, the County invited representatives from local municipalities to attend an Opportunities in Renewable Energy Training Series to learn more about managing clean energy development at the local level. These trainings were generally geared toward municipal officials and staff, members of an official municipal board or committee, code and zoning enforcement officials, and building inspectors. All sessions were free to attend, and a description of each is below: - Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan: An introduction to best practices and strategies for incorporating clean energy goals and objectives into a new or updated municipal comprehensive plan. Held on April 21st, 2022. - Overview of the Model Solar Energy Law: An in-depth review of the customizable template zoning law contained in NYSERDA's Solar Guidebook for Local Governments. Held on May 4th, 2022. - Overview of the Model Battery Energy Storage System Law: An in-depth review of the customizable template zoning law contained in NYSERDA's Battery Energy Storage System Guidebook for Local Governments. Held on June 1st, 2022. - Battery Energy Storage for First Responders: An in-depth review of battery energy storage systems, including understanding of key safety considerations. Covered topics include fire prevention considerations and compliance with the 2020 NYS Uniform Code. Held on June 14th, 2022. Recordings of the sessions, presentation slides, and resources from each session can be found at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Clean-Energy-Communities.htm> The NYSERDA CEC program Scorecard documenting the completion of this high impact action can be found uploaded in this submission.

PDF: [CEC SCORECARD_DUTCHESS_12-11-23.PDF](#)

5. Use climate-smart materials management.

PE5 Action: Government Solid Waste Audit

2 Points

Program Summary: A government solid waste audit was performed as part of the 2013 update to the County Solid Waste Management Plan "Rethinking Waste". See attached supporting documentation. This informed the County on waste management practices and initiatives and helped achieve greater efficiencies and cost savings. The County's most recent solid waste mgt. plan can be found here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Docs/2023-Dutchess-County-Local-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan.pdf>

PDF: [2020-2023 GOVT. SOLID WASTE AUDIT.PDF](#)

PE5 Action: Reuse Programs

3 Points

Program Summary: Please see attachments.

PDF: [REUSE IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [2022 AND 2023 EYEGLASS COLLECTION FLYER](#)

PE5 Action: Recycling Program for Public Places & Events

4 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached.

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [MUDDY HANDS 2024 RECYCLE BINS LOAN.PDF](#)

: [RECYCLING AT PARKS.TXT](#)

PE5 Action: Waste Reduction Education Campaign

2 Points

Program Summary: The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management offers free recycling presentations to community groups and schools within Dutchess County, carried out by a designated full-time Recycling Educator. In addition to in-person education events and presentations, the Division of Solid Waste Management also offers teacher resource links and other general educational resources on the County's Recycling Education webpage. <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Recycling-Education.htm> Please see attached for additional details about recent efforts of this campaign.

PDF: [APRIL-2024_FINAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [FEBRUARY-2024_FINAL.PDF](#)

WORD: [WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN..DOCX](#)

: [RECYCLING IN DUTCHESS COUNTY_YOUTH.PPTX](#)

PE5 Action: Community Repair

4 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management partnered with the Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Task Force, The Environmental Cooperative, and Sustainable Hudson Valley/Repair Cafe Hudson Valley to hold a free repair cafe on Saturday, September 9th from 1:30pm - 5:30pm at the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns located at 50 Vassar Farm Lane in Poughkeepsie, NY. <https://www.dcpaa.org/events/event/poughkeepsie-repair-cafe-poughkeepsie/>. A second event was held on 2/10/2024. Information about Repair Cafe Hudson Valley and its goals can be found here: <https://www.repaircafehv.org/about> Specific information about the Poughkeepsie Team can be found here: <https://www.repaircafehv.org/poughkeepsie> The Division of Solid Waste's reuse information can be found here <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Reuse-Solid-Waste-Management.htm> Also attached is a post-event letter from the first Repair Cafe that went out to organizers that contains some stats on participants, fixes, feedback, etc.

PDF: [REPAIR CAFE FLYER.PDF](#)

PDF: [FEB24POKRC.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [DUTCHESS SOCIAL MEDIA POST.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [DUTCHESS SOCIAL MEDIA POST 2.JPEG](#)

PDF: [POST EVENT LETTER.PDF](#)

PE5 Action: Compost Bins for Residents

2 Points

Program Summary: Compost bins are available for purchase to residents on the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management's website link here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Composting-Solid-Waste-Management.htm>. Also see supporting documentation outreach material for residents. The County keeps track of bins sold, and in 2023, a total of 14 bins were sold to residents. In 2024, the County plans to host a backyard composting workshop in conjunction with our local Cornell Cooperative Extension, in the hopes of increasing both compost bins sales, and composting in general. Bins are purchased in bulk at a discounted rate so savings can be passed on to residents. The going rate for the particular bins that the County purchases, if purchased individually, is around \$100, whereas the County is currently able to sell the bins to residents at a discounted rate of roughly \$62.

PDF: [COMPOST BIN FLYER.PDF](#)

: [COMPOST BIN SALES 2023.TXT](#)

6. Implement climate-smart land use.

PE6 Action: Smart Growth Policies

9 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County Dept. of Planning and Development is a member of the Greenway Compact Program, and supports and administers the Compact Program for Dutchess County. The Greenway Compact Program is a voluntary community planning approach supported by the state for the 13 counties in the Hudson Valley region. Greenway Compact members are eligible for state grants, planning assistance, certain state liability protections, and other benefits. Dutchess County communities have already received more than \$1.8 million in Greenway-related grants. The Greenway program is entirely voluntary, respects local home rule, and relies on incentives and guidelines rather than any new regulations or requirements. The Greenway Compact promotes intermunicipal cooperation on five complementary goals: Natural and cultural resource protection; Economic development including agriculture, tourism, and urban redevelopment; Public access and trail systems, including a Hudson River Greenway Trail; Regional planning; and Heritage and environmental education. To implement the program, Dutchess County created Greenway Connections, a highly-illustrated, easy-to-use sourcebook of inspiring ideas, how-to guidelines, and case study examples that are designed to help local officials and citizen groups make better decisions on improving our surroundings. It also describes the types of projects that are eligible for Greenway funding. The Guides offer detailed recommendations on a variety of current planning topics, from retrofitting commercial strips, saving farmland, designing conservation subdivisions, and creating walkable centers, to site specifics on signs, parking, lighting, and landscaping. See more information here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Greenway-Connections-Guides.htm> Greenway Guides: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Greenway-Guides.htm> Please see attached document for specific details on how each smart growth policy is addressed at Dutchess County.

WORD: [PE6 ACTION - GREENWAY GUIDE ANALYSIS WORKING NOTES.DOCX](#)

PDF: [DUTCHESS-COMPACT-2004-2014.PDF](#)

PE6 Action: Policies for Local Food Systems

1 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached file.

WORD: [POLICIES FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS.DOCX](#)

PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy

4 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County has a Complete Streets website with supplemental information (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Transportation-Council/Walking-Bicycling-Resources.htm>). The County also goes above and beyond by utilizing a Complete Streets Checklist, demonstrating how the policy is actively in use and promoted (see supporting documentation). Also see supporting documentation of the Complete Streets resolution passed on 10/13/2016 by the Dutchess County legislature, and meeting minutes from when the policy was approved.

PDF: [DUTCHESSCOUNTY-PASSEDCOMPLETESTREETSRESOLUTION&POLICY_041920181246.PDF](#)

PDF: [DUTCHESS COUNTY COMPLETE STREETS CHECKLIST- 2019_010720191145.PDF](#)

PE6 Action: Planning for Biking and Walking

3 Points

Program Summary: A description of how Dutchess County has met the criteria for this action can be found below. This description includes links to relevant plans and materials. The following links are included in the description: Walk Bike Dutchess: Scroll down to plan <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Transportation-Council/Walking-Bicycling-Resources.htm> Interactive Bicycle Parking and Route Planning Map: <https://gis.dutchessny.gov/bike-dutchess/> Parks & Trails interactive website: <https://gis.dutchessny.gov/parks-and-trails/> Community Development Block Grants: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/community-development-block-grant.htm>

PDF: [PLANNING FOR WALKING AND BIKING DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PE6 Action: Infrastructure for Biking and Walking

7 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County is seeking 7 points for expanding and improving bike and walking paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks, improving bike parking, and improving bike and pedestrian signage. A description of how the County satisfies these tiers is uploaded in this submission, along with an example of signage. General information about bicycling and walking is available at this link: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Transportation-Council/Walking-Bicycling-Resources.htm#Con3>

PDF: [INFRASTRUCTURE WALKING BIKING DESCRIPTION_FINAL.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [RAIL TRAIL SIGNAGE EXAMPLE.JPG](#)

PE6 Action: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

12 Points

Program Summary: See attached for Dutchess County Clean-Fleets Certification Form, with documentation that there are 4 EV Level 2 stations, all available for public use. See web link for a press release from 7/16/18 announcing three of the four stations as operational and available for public use. The Press Release explains that the fourth station would be operational later that summer (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/34127.htm>). Also uploaded is the NYSERDA CEC Scorecard which demonstrates completion of the Clean Fleets Action. To demonstrate that the charging stations are still open, see the 2023 County Budget which references the operation of the four charging stations on page 574 <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Budget/Docs/2023-Adopted-Budget.pdf> Please also see attached photos.

EXCEL: [DUTCHESS COUNTY CLEAN-FLEETS-CERTIFICATION-FORM.XLSX](#)

PDF: [CEC SCORECARD_DUTCHESS_12-11-23.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [20240315_134947.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [20240315_120801.JPG](#)

PE6 Action: Access to Public Transit

7 Points

Program Summary: A document describing how Dutchess County has satisfied the requirements for 6/7 tier is attached. Links are provided to relevant materials throughout the document.

PDF: [ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PE6 Action: Traffic Calming

6 Points

Program Summary: See attachment. Submitting for: 3 pts for intersection 3 pts for less than a mile of roadway

WORD: [TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES.DOCX](#)

PE6 Action: Natural Resources Inventory

8 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached document, "Implementation Description."

PDF: [DCNRI - SURVEY RESULTS REPORT.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [NRI ENEWSLETTER 2024.PDF](#)

7. Enhance community resilience to climate change.

PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment

4 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County is planning on completing a moderate scope vulnerability assessment, but already has completed a limited scoped vulnerability assessment of the County's transportation system, and therefore is requesting 4 points. In 2023, Dutchess County began a comprehensive assessment of the County's transportation system, including both infrastructure and services. This assessment, called Resilient Ways Forward, examines flooding, extreme temperature, wind, winter conditions, drought, and landslides and the impact of these conditions on the roads, sidewalks, rail trails, bridges, culverts, bus routes and stops, rail lines and stations, highway garages, park and rides, ferry terminal, public transit hub, and County airport. This assessment not only identifies locations where the transportation system is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but also recommends ways to adapt to or reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the system, which includes all transportation asset regardless of jurisdiction. <https://resilientwaysforward.com/> As part of this project, a climate change summary report was prepared that includes climate change projections of future conditions and a description of specific climate hazards covered: <https://resilientwaysforward.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/DCTC-Climate-Change-Summary.pdf> The Phase 1 Vulnerability Assessment dives into the specific community (transportation) assets and systems that were assessed for impacts: https://resilientwaysforward.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/RWF_Phase-2_Vulnerability-Assessment_Final_DCTC.pdf. Vulnerable populations were considered in determining criticality measurements for each asset and hazard pair. Vulnerable populations were identified via a transportation equity index developed by the Dutchess County Transportation Council: <https://gis.dutchessny.gov/moving-dutchess-forward/#equity> In executing this project, Dutchess County Transportation Council staff in partnership with Department of Planning & Development staff led the vulnerability assessment development, with support provided by consultants at ICF. Stakeholders were also deeply involved with this project, including those from State DOT, Metro-North railroad, County DPW, and local highway departments. The public was also engaged via surveys and workshops. The project was also supported by an advisory committee composed of individuals from relevant agencies and organizations. Recordings of public meetings can be found on the "Get Involved" page: <https://resilientwaysforward.com/get-involved/>

PE7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience

6 Points

Program Summary: A copy of the completed CSRP tool and the summary report of the findings, completed in 2024, are uploaded to the portal.

EXCEL: [DUTCHESS COUNTY CSRP FINAL .XLSX](#)

PDF: [DUTCHESS COUNTY CSRPT SUMMARY.PDF](#)

PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan

8 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached document, "Implementation Description."

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION - ADAPTATION PLAN.PDF](#)

PDF: [OUTDOOR LIGHTING ATTENDANCE DOCUMENTATION \(002\).PDF](#)

PDF: [DCTC RWF TRIP DC LETTER 070524.PDF](#)

PE7 Action: Cooling Centers

4 Points

Program Summary: Establish at least one cooling center (3 points): Dutchess County collaborates with local municipalities to promote the countywide library system as designated cooling centers during heat emergencies (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Cooling-Centers-in-Dutchess-County-New-York.htm>). Because libraries are accessible, dispersed throughout the County, open during peak heat hours, and are spaces that many residents are already familiar with and frequently utilize, libraries make ideal cooling center locations. Promote awareness of cooling centers (e.g., via social media) within the last year (1 point): The County promotes these cooling centers on a designated Cooling Centers in Dutchess County webpage (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Cooling-Centers-in-Dutchess-County-New-York.htm>) In addition, the County works to educate residents about the dangers of summer heat via the Department of Emergency Response's Season Preparedness – Spring/Summer webpage (<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Emergency-Response/Seasonal-Preparedness-Summer.htm>)

PE7 Action: Conserve Natural Areas

12 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County is seeking 4 points for establishing a conservation finance mechanism to fund local land conservation and 12 points for protecting a natural area greater than 100 acres. See the uploaded description for details about how the county has satisfied CSC requirements titled "Conserve Natural Areas_Dutchess". Also included in this submission is a document that includes Town of Dover Resolution #2152018 allowing the Town to apply to the Dutchess PMG program for the Seven Wells Property, a copy of the PMG application, maps of the properties, including tax parcel IDS and property sizes, and the conservation easement stewardship monitoring summary for the properties.

PDF: [CONSERVE NATRUAL AREAS_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION_MAPS_EASEMENT_STEWARDSHIP](#)

PE7 Action: Green Infrastructure

4 Points

Program Summary: An explanation of how Dutchess County satisfies the requirements for completing a feasibility study for green infrastructure for one or more priority locations (2 points) and implementing green infrastructure projects that treats 199 cubic feet of water (2 points) is uploaded as "Green Infrastructure_Dutchess". This green infrastructure project was both funded by the Dutchess County government and led by a Dutchess County Environmental Management Council (EMC) member who also is a licensed engineer. Also uploaded is a flyer that was used to promote the project and clearly shows this as a Dutchess County EMC-led project. As stated in the green infrastructure action description, rain/recharge gardens such as this one installed at Peach Hill Park qualify as a type of green infrastructure for this action.

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE_MAINTENANCE_PLAN.PDF](#)

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE_Peach Hill Park WORKSHEETS.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [YOUNG ENGINEERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FLYER.JPG](#)

PE7 Action: Culverts & Dams

12 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County owns and maintains many road culverts throughout the county, and the Department of Public Works replaces several culverts each year as part of a 5-year capital plan for culvert and bridge projects. Each new culvert replacement project involves ensuring that the new culvert is “right-sized” for the stream it carries, with open bottoms to allow for natural aquatic connectivity. Two examples of culvert right-sizing projects that were recently done took place on County Route 93, Myers Corners Road in the Town of Wappinger, and County Route 90, Camby Road, in the Town of Union Vale. In addition, each of the County’s culverts is inspected every 2 years. Culverts are prioritized for replacement based on threats from flooding, a culvert’s overall condition, as well as aquatic connectivity. See Capital Plan page 25 for example of funding set aside for highway and bridge improvements: <https://dutchessny.gov/Departments/Budget/Docs/2023-2027-Capital-Program.pdf>. All culvert projects adhere to the standards and recommendations in NYS Guidance. These two culverts in particular were selected for replacement because they were each determined to have reached their end of life and were not able to pass high flow volumes of water as needed. The Myers Corners Road replacement took place in the spring of 2020, and the Camby Road replacement took place in the fall of 2022. Please see attached photos.

IMAGE: [CAMBY RD. BEFORE.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [CAMBY RD. AFTER.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [MYERS CORNERS RD. BEFORE.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [MYERS CORNERS RD. AFTER.JPG](#)

PE7 Action: Watershed Plan for Water Quality

4 Points

Program Summary: A description of how the Ten Mile Watershed Management Plan (https://hvatoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021_10_1_FullTMRWBP_Draft.pdf) satisfies requirements for developing a watershed plan that covers less than 75% of the municipal geographic area (2 points) AND developing a watershed plan that covers less than 75% of the municipal geographic area (2 points) can be found uploaded in this submission.

PDF: [WATERSHED PLAN FOR WATER QUALITY_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

PE7 Action: Source Water Protection

6 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached documents.

PDF: [FISHKILL DWSP2 ADOPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION SOURCE WATER PROTECTION.PDF](#)

PE7 Action: Water-smart Landscaping

1 Points

Program Summary: The Farm and Home Center, located at 2715 Route 44, Millbrook and owned by Dutchess County, houses Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCE DC). The CCE DC Master Gardener Program volunteers designed, installed, and now maintain demonstration rain gardens at this site. These gardens are intended to provide gardening education for the community, encourage gardening together for all ages, reach home and urban gardeners, and create economic, social, and environmental benefits. They demonstrate techniques that home gardeners can apply elsewhere, including water conservation. The gardens are open to the public, plants are labeled, and educational handouts are available at the building's kiosk. Free garden tours are also given by appointment. Because of the tours and educational signage at the site, we are requesting 3 points for including education to the public. <https://ccedutchess.org/gardening/demonstration-gardens> Please see attached photo of rain garden in bloom, plus examples of signage taken 4-1-24.

IMAGE: [DEMO_GARDEN_FRONT.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [PLANT_LABEL.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [NATIVE_GARDEN_SIGNAGE.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [COMPOST_PILE_AND_SIGNAGE.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [CCE_KIOSK.JPG](#)

8. Support a green innovation economy.

PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets

3 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County collaborates with organizations such as Cornell Cooperative Extension and Dutchess Tourism to promote farmers' markets and support the local agriculture economy in Dutchess County: <https://dutchesstourism.com/listing/farmfresh/farmersmarkets> In addition to the website, the county promotes farmers' market information on its Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov> Find a post promoting the state's Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program for use at markets within Dutchess County. Dutchess is also one of only a few counties in the state to provide funding for a designated Agricultural Navigator. This position, housed at CCEDC and funded by the County, continuously communicates with local farmers and the existing agricultural agency/organization infrastructure to put the County's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan's recommendations into effect. The Navigator is the first line of contact for all agricultural needs, has a good understanding of and familiarity with agriculture, and provides support to the local agricultural economy, including local farmers' markets. <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Agricultural-Navigator.htm>

PDF: [FARMERS_MARKET_PROMO_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

PE8 Action: Green Financing

15 Points

Program Summary: Attached is RESOLUTION NO. 2018099 LOCALLAWNO. 3 OF2018,A LOCALLAW TO AMEND THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM IN THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS and a copy of the EIC Participating Municipalities list that shows Dutchess County as an active participant from February 8th, 2023. Also attached: Screenshot of approved HIAs from the online NYSERDA CEC map data table

PDF: [LOCAL LAW RESOLUTION FOR A MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT PACE FINANCING.PDF](#)

PDF: [LIST OF CURRENT OPEN C-PACE MUNICIPALITIES.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [2024DUTCHESSCOUNTYNYSERDA-CEC-MAPDATATABLE.PNG](#)

PE8 Action: Community Campaigns

3 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County achieved the first Tier of its EV CEC campaign in May of 2024. Attached is email confirmation from NYSERDA attesting to this accomplishment.

IMAGE: [NYSERDA EV COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TIER 1 HIGH IMPACT ACTION APPROVED.JPG](#)

9. Inform and inspire the public.

PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement

8 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached Dutchess County Education and Outreach Strategy for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. The Strategy describes public education and outreach efforts that took place within the last year and events that are planned for the future. The County's Resilient Ways Forward project is an assessment of climate change and its impacts on transportation in Dutchess County. The study included a public input session on June 21st, 2023, the recording for which can be found on the following website: <https://resilientwaysforward.com/get-involved>. There were also opportunities to report climate hazards on an online mapping application, and Dutchess County residents, businesses, and stakeholders can sign up for email updates about the project. Dutchess County hosts an annual Earth Day event in collaboration with local environmental organizations. On Saturday, April 29th, 2023, the County held this educational family-focused event at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook and had various tables with representatives from groups such as the Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, local conservation advisory councils, beekeeping & gardening clubs, land conservation organizations, the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, the Ten Mile River Collaborative, and the County Divisions of Solid Waste Management and Environmental & Geospatial Planning. Tables were focused on sharing materials and information about environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, recycling, wildlife rehabilitation, etc. In 2024, the Dutchess County Earth Day event will be held in collaboration with Vassar College and CCEDC and is planned to be held at the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns. Find the event's promotional flyer/social media promotion uploaded as part of this submission. Also find a press release for the event here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/44249.htm>

PDF: [DC CSC TF OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [FLYER.PNG](#)

PE9 Action: Climate-related Public Events

3 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County hosts an annual Earth Day event in collaboration with local environmental organizations. On Saturday, April 29th, 2023, the County held this educational family-focused event at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook and had various tables with representatives from groups such as the Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County, local conservation advisory councils, beekeeping & gardening clubs, land conservation organizations, the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, the Ten Mile River Collaborative, and the County Divisions of Solid Waste Management and Environmental & Geospatial Planning. Tables were focused on sharing materials and information about environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, recycling, wildlife rehabilitation, etc. In 2024, the Dutchess County Earth Day event will be held in collaboration with Vassar College and CCEDC and is planned to be held at the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns. Find the event's promotional flyer/social media promotion uploaded as part of this submission. Also find a press release for the event here: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/44249.htm>

PDF: [EARTH DAY SOCIAL MEDIA_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website

3 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached document.

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION WEBSITE.PDF](#)

PE9 Action: Social Media

3 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DutchessCoGov> See the attached file for screenshot examples of relevant posts.

PDF: [SOCIAL MEDIA_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System

5 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County utilizes the ClearPath tool by ICLEI. Dutchess County first utilized this GHG tracking system to compile GHG tracking data for its government operations GHG inventory in 2023-2024 through participating in the Dutchess Climate Action Planning Institute program, which granted access to this system for all participants. The County has found this program to be of such use and importance that it has decided to become an ongoing ICLEI member in order to maintain access to ClearPath and use that platform to track the County's GHG emissions ongoing. As described in the County's attached GHG Tracking Protocol, this membership will be funded via the County's Green Miscellaneous Reserves Fund. The protocol for GHG tracking is uploaded to the portal as "GHG Tracking_Dutchess." Screenshots from ClearPath demonstrating active use and showing the 2019 emissions outputs by scope and sector are included in this submission as "GHG Tracking_ClearPath_Dutchess." Beyond the County's full 2019 GHG baseline inventory, we have also used ClearPath to track emissions from additional years. See attachment, "Additional Inventories" to see evidence of how Dutchess has utilized this GHG tracking system to assess emissions from 2014, and 2022 in addition to 2019, thereby demonstrating the County's continued use of this tracking software beyond just the 2019 inventory report.

PDF: [DUTCHESS CLEARPATH.PDF](#)

PDF: [GHG TRACKING PROTOCOL_DUTCHESS.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [ADDITIONAL INVENTORIES.JPG](#)

PE10 Action: Annual Progress Report

4 Points

Program Summary: Dutchess County released its first annual climate smart communities progress report for 2023. The progress report can be found here: https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Docs/Dutchess_County_2023_CSC_Annual_Report.pdf

11. Innovation

Innovation: Innovative Approaches to Existing CSC Actions

5 Points

Program Summary: Please see attached files. Dutchess County is seeking points for the following: 1. It's innovative approach towards PE6: Natural Resources Inventory (requested 5 pts - awarded 5 pts) 2. It's innovative approach towards PE7: Green Infrastructure (requested 5 pts - awarded 0 pts)

PDF: [DCNRI - SURVEY RESULTS REPORT.PDF](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [YOUNG ENGINEERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FLYER.JPG](#)

PDF: [IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIPTION - NRI.PDF](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE APPROACHES GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.PDF](#)