Title: Unpacking the Climate Smart Community Checklist

Community Partner:
The Town of Hamilton

Data collection project for the Village and Town of Hamilton to help them attain Climate Smart Community status, which will give a student experience in climate resiliency projects.

Project Description:
The Town and Village of Hamilton have been working in tandem on fulfilling the requirements to achieve status as Climate Smart Communities (CSC). Participation in the state supported CSC program helps communities reduce their carbon footprint and build resiliency in the face of climate change. Colgate University has been an essential partner in organizing this work and providing student research to fulfill action steps. In order to apply for CSC ranking, the Village and Town must demonstrate the completion of various actions by submitting documentation. A Fellow will work with both municipalities to review the CSC checklist and unpack the layered requirements within. The Fellow would also assess the work the Town and Village have completed towards CSC designation and input evidence of that work in the folders provided by the program. The Town and the Village will need to submit their folders separately for CSC designation upon achieving the necessary goals, so the Fellow will need to keep accurate records for each municipality. The goal of the project will be to have evidence of all completed work organized in the CSC folders and a clear understanding of the work still needed by the end of the summer for both the Town and the Village.

About the Community Partners:
The Town of Hamilton (TOH) is the governmental entity of 6,690 citizens (per the 2010 Census), which encompasses the most of the Village of Hamilton, a portion of the Village of Earlville, as well as Poolville, Hubbardsville and South Hamilton. The TOH provides a variety of services to its residents with its main focus on being road maintenance and snow removal. The TOH provides financial support to: libraries in the Villages of Earlville and Hamilton; the Southern Madison County Ambulance Corp; and the summer youth recreation program. Additionally, the TOH supports local organizations that serve the local community as well as community based events and celebrations, such as the 4th of July Parade. The Supervisor for the TOH represents the Town residents on the Madison County Board of Supervisors and provides a link between governments at the local and County level. In 2017 the TOH adopted the update of its 1999 Comprehensive Plan, creating a road map for the next 5-10 years for the town.

Required Skills:
A background in environmental studies would be helpful, as well as familiarity with Microsoft Excel. This Fellowship will be an excellent opportunity for a student to get real time experience with municipal climate resiliency efforts.

Logistics:
This is a full-time paid research position (35 hours per week) to last approximately 10 weeks, conducted under the joint supervision of the Upstate Institute and the Town and Village. Workspace in the Village office at 3 Broad Street will be possible. Field School Fellows receive a research stipend of $4500 plus reimbursement for any costs associated with transportation for this project. A car is not required for this project, but may be helpful.