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# Incorporating Climate Smart Communities Program into the Town of Hamilton's Draft Comprehensive Plan

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February 6, 2017



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Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan Draft August 2015  
Climate Smart Communities Checklist  
Climate Smart Communities Pledge

## **Executive Summary**

The Climate Smart Communities Program is a New York statewide effort to get cities and towns to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and to prepare for the effects of climate change. The Town of Hamilton, NY recently made a commitment to the program and enlisted the help Colgate students, staff and faculty to identify the best way to approach becoming certified as a Climate Smart Community. In order to plan strategies to become a Climate Smart Community, the elements of the program were analyzed and compared to current plans and policies within the town. Areas of overlap between the program and existing town plans, as well as growth opportunities, were identified in order to help the Town of Hamilton start on the trajectory of becoming a Climate Smart Community.

The Town of Hamilton's draft Comprehensive Plan has overlapping initiatives that have been identified as applicable to the Climate Smart Communities checklist. With these initiatives, we calculate that the Town has already earned approximately 83 points towards the first 120 point benchmark certification. The additional 37 points needed to become a basic Climate Smart Community are emphasized in the compiled short-term opportunities in the conclusion of this report<sup>1</sup>.

## **Introduction**

The Climate Smart Communities Program is a statewide effort to promote and support local government sustainability programs in New York. There are currently nine Climate Smart municipalities in the Certified and Bronze levels of completion. Many of these nine communities are urban, located around Albany or New York City, and appear to have more resources than some of the rural agriculturally-focused communities. This aspect is important to keep in mind as the Town of Hamilton<sup>2</sup> considers what steps it can take towards becoming a Climate Smart Community.

In order to become a Climate Smart Community, the Town will have to adapt its draft Comprehensive Plan in order to fulfill a minimum number of 'points' as outlined in the Climate Smart Communities checklist and the table below. The checklist contains individual initiatives, each having a specific point value. All levels of climate smart community (Certified, Bronze, Silver, and Gold) require completion of pledge elements 1, 2, and 3, and in order to reach the next level, two, four, or five additional elements must be completed, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> As of this writing, the draft comprehensive plan is undergoing revision from the Town and is anticipated to be approved within the next few months.

<sup>2</sup> There is a distinction to be made between the Town of Hamilton and the Village of Hamilton, this reports deals with the workings of the Town, which is the geographically larger body. The Town limits contain the Villages of Hamilton and Earlville as well as the hamlets of Poolville, Hubbardsville, and East Hamilton.

Certification Level	Points Required	Minimum Pledge Elements	Minimum Performance/ Innovation Points
Registered	0	1	0
Certified	120	1, 2, 3 + 2 addl	0
Bronze	250	1, 2, 3 + 4 addl	5
Silver	350	1, 2, 3 + 5 addl	10
Gold	450	all elements	20

The required elements show that the program places emphasis on commitment, baseline and tracking methods, and energy use reform. There are several additional elements addressed in the report, however, the required elements are the definite priority. This means that to be recognized and receive funding the town need not fulfill all of the checklist requirements.

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Priority Elements for the Climate Smart Communities Program</b>		<b>88</b>
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge*	4
1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	8
1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory*	8
2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory*	8
2.3	Establish a government operations emissions reduction target	4
2.4	Establish a community emissions reduction target	4
2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	8
2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	8
3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	8
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability	4

*Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

There are 13 priority tasks, marked in the table above, integrated throughout the various elements of the program. There is a minimum number the town must complete before it can be certified. The program requires two of these tasks specifically, 1.1 and 1.3, but those tasks are both found in the first pledge element, which is also required in order to get certified. Overall it seems that the plan is designed to be adaptable, allowing towns to choose which pledge elements they want to focus on based on what makes sense for their community.

**Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be Climate Smart Community**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be Climate Smart Community</b>		<b>31</b>
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge*	4
1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	8
1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
1.5	Join a national or regional climate campaign or program	3

*Grey shading indicates a “priority” element. Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hamilton is well suited to begin the transition to a Climate Smart Communities plan. This pledge element is largely administrative and requests that the Town demonstrate commitment to the Climate Smart Communities Program. The Town has already completed the first step to becoming a Climate Smart Community by passing a resolution adopting the Climate Smart Communities pledge. This pledge can be found in Appendix B.

**Goal 2. Increase energy conservation and use of green energy initiatives to decrease energy use and enhance the long-term environmental health of the community.**

C. 2. Establish an energy or climate task force as a continuation of the village/town/community green community work to assess local resources and issues, galvanize community support and develop an energy or climate plan. Through this process, identify sources of greenhouse gases in the community and set goals for emission reduction.

*Short-term Opportunities:*

To transition to a Climate Smart Communities plan, the Town will need to form a long lasting task force focused on adaptation and mitigation strategies. According to the checklist this task force must be headed by a Climate Smart Communities coordinator who will work in the long

term for the maintenance and evolution of the Town’s plan. The checklist suggests forming two different groups, actions 1.2 and 1.4, which could likely be combined into one task force with goals and participation of both the government and the community. The Hamilton Climate Action Working Group is likely a good resource to tap into during the creation of the task force.

*Long-term Opportunities:*

Of a lesser priority in the checklist is having the Town join a national or regional climate campaign or program. Some examples programs are ICLEI USA Local Governments For Sustainability and the Urban Sustainability Directors’ Network. Both of these organizations provide resources and connections to help a young sustainability program get on its feet. This is less important because it does not earn the town as many ‘points’, but it would be useful once the town has become a Climate Smart Community to help the new plan stay current with national sustainability models.

**Pledge Element 2: Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 2: Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Establish a baseline</b>		<b>16</b>
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory*	8
2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory*	8
<b>Set goals</b>		<b>8</b>
2.3	Establish a government operations emissions reduction target	4
2.4	Establish a community emissions reduction target	4
<b>Plan for climate action</b>		<b>16</b>
2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	8
2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	8

*Grey shading indicates a “priority” element. Asterisk indicates a completed task/ a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

In 2011, Colgate Director of Sustainability, John Pumilio, worked with an Upstate Institute Fellow to create a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Town of Hamilton. Having two inventories, one for government operations (government buildings, vehicles, etc.) and one for the community (homes, businesses, etc.) is a requirement for being a Climate Smart Community.

*Short-term Opportunities:*

This pledge element consists entirely of required objectives that are designed to help the Town’s sustainability on a broad scale. While they will be relatively straightforward to implement and

organize, these elements will all need to continue for years and be continuously updated for their applicability to remain valid. The draft Comprehensive Plan references the intention to create a climate action plan.

**Goal 2. Increase energy conservation and use of green energy initiatives to decrease energy use and enhance the long-term environmental health of the community.**  
 C. 1. Develop a local climate action plan based on the greenhouse gas inventory already completed. (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/67101.html>)  
*-Draft Comprehensive Plan page 29*

*Long-term Opportunities:*

The checklist has separate requirements for government initiatives as well as community initiatives. It is important when making the new Climate Smart plan to keep in mind both aspects because they will both be necessary for the Town to get certified.

**Pledge Element 3: Decrease community energy use**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 3: Decrease community energy use</b>		<b>138</b>
<b>Building and stationary equipment</b>		<b>55</b>
3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8
3.2	Upgrade interior lighting	5
3.3	Upgrade HVAC equipment	5
3.4	Install water-efficient fixtures	4
3.5	Install a building energy management system (EMS)	5
3.6	Upgrade building envelope	7
3.7	Adopt a green building standard for local government buildings and facilities	4
3.8	Build a new green building	10
3.9	Upgrade water or wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure	7
<b>Fleet and vehicle fuel</b>		<b>18</b>
3.10	Adopt a vehicle fleet efficiency policy	3
3.11	Right-size the local government fleet	3
3.12	Replace traditional vehicles with advanced vehicles	5
3.13	Adopt an anti-idling policy for government vehicles	3



3.14	Implement a car-sharing program for local government staff	4
<b>Outdoor lighting</b>		<b>17</b>
3.15	Convert streetlights to LED	5
3.16	Convert traffic signals to LED	4
3.17	Reduce number of outdoor lighting fixtures	4
3.18	Upgrade outdoor lighting (other than streetlights and traffic signals) to more efficient and/or solar technology	4
<b>Government solid waste</b>		<b>13</b>
3.19	Adopt a waste management strategy for government hosted and permitted events	2
3.20	Provide recycling bins next to all trash receptacles in local government buildings*	3
3.21	Provide organic waste collection and composting in local government buildings	3
3.22	Provide e-waste collection in local government buildings	3
3.23	Conduct a local government waste audit and track diversion rate over time	2
<b>Financial and policy mechanisms</b>		<b>18</b>
3.24	Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy	4
3.25	Establish a financing mechanism for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in government owned buildings	5
3.26	Incorporate energy efficiency and waste handling provisions in standard specifications and government contracts	3
3.27	Utilize a green or sustainability rating system for infrastructure improvement projects	6
<b>Employee and staff behavior</b>		<b>8</b>
3.28	Subsidize and incentivize employee alternative commuting	3
3.29	Engage employees through a green pledge or competition	2
3.30	Incorporate green principles, commitments or requirements into staff training*	3
<b>Energy and GHG management policies and systems</b>		<b>9</b>
3.31	Implement an energy or GHG management system	5
3.32	Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings	4

Grey shading indicates a “priority” element. Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.



*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan sets up a good framework for sustainable energy use but the checklist has specific tasks, which range in feasibility for Hamilton. The town plan calls for making government buildings as energy efficient as possible with a given budget, the climate smart checklist breaks that broad category into specific tasks such as recycling bins in all buildings and installing energy saving lights and water saving faucets. The checklist as one action (3.25), which relates to renewable energy sources, with some targeted phrasing this likely could be fulfilled by the solar and wind programs in the area.

**Goal 2. Increase energy conservation and use of green energy initiatives to decrease energy use and enhance the long-term environmental health of the community.**

- A. Promote energy conservation as the first method in energy policy
1. Make all town-owned buildings energy efficient as funds permit
  2. Educate the community on energy efficiency programs.

*-Draft Comprehensive Plan page 29*

*Short-term Opportunities:*

Multiple action items in this section have to do with government employees, increasing the presence of sustainability in their training, implementing a green pledge or competition, and creating a ridesharing program for commuters. These would not require large, town-scale reform and therefore will likely be simpler to achieve. Waste is an entire subsection within element 3; the focus is on promoting recycling and composting in government buildings by providing receptacles and collection programs. Part F of Goal 2 in the draft Comprehensive Plan (page 30) focus on updating the purchasing plan of the town to make it more sustainable, the checklist has three tasks (3.24-3.26) which address green purchasing and including sustainability in government contracts. There are definitely parallels that should be combinable.

*Long-Term Opportunities:*

Action items 3.10-3.13 discuss the government fleet of vehicles, calling for a restructuring and possible replacement of unnecessary or outdated machines, this may not be applicable depending on the size and state of the current government fleet. Some of the building and stationary equipment actions will take time and funds to complete. Installation of a building energy management system (EMS) and working with the controlling body to get a systems report on the water and wastewater treatment facilities in the area will each take more planning and preparation than some of the simpler tasks.

**Pledge Element 4: Increase community use of renewable energy**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 4: Increase community use of renewable energy</b>		<b>62</b>
<b>Policies, planning, and financing</b>		<b>20</b>
4.1	Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewables	4
4.2	Require that new construction of local government buildings is “PV-Ready”	4
4.3	Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy installations	5
4.4	Purchase renewable energy credits (RECs)	7
<b>Increase use of renewables</b>		<b>42</b>
4.5	Install a geothermal heat pump or other geothermal technology at a new or existing public facility	9
4.6	Install solar hot water and/or solar photovoltaic technology on public property	9
4.7	Serve as a host site for a renewable energy installation and enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA)	9
4.8	Install a wind system on public property*	9
4.9	Install a wood pellet heating system on public property	6

*Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

Both plans mention an effort to review and modify building codes, and zoning laws that currently are impeding the implementation of green designs or renewable energy structures such as solar fields and gas drilling sites<sup>3</sup>. The Town Council adopted the Unified Solar Permit, and has a zoning update on a list of near-term tasks to address. The goal is to incentivize the use of more renewables by making the requirements and qualifications less rigid. This would give more people the option of switching to renewables as well as make the process of becoming renewable easier.

*Short-term opportunities:*

The town could significantly benefit from the implementation of incentive programs, such as power purchasing policies, power purchase agreements, renewable energy credits, and long-term service contracts. These types of programs would encourage renewable energy use on public property and government buildings.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that there are zoning issues around wind farms, and gas drilling (HVHF) is currently prohibited. We recommend the town utilize solar, community solar, geothermal, and/or biodigesters.

*Long-term opportunities:*

The town should make available and implement more renewable energy resource ideas such as wood pellet heating systems. Another large improvement, although some government building are already running on renewables, would be to legally require that a greater percentage of government energy comes from renewable resources (4.1) such as solar, or biodigestion. These are most viable for Hamilton because zoning laws currently in place hinder the implementation of wind as resources.

**Pledge Element 5: Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 5: Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices</b>		<b>51</b>
<b>Waste diversion policies and plans</b>		<b>6</b>
5.1	Adopt a zero waste initiative policy	3
5.2	Discourage the use of disposable bags	3
<b>Implement waste diversion strategies</b>		<b>45</b>
5.3	Participate in the EPA WasteWise program	2
5.4	Implement a pay-as-you-throw or similar unit pricing program	6
5.5	Adopt a construction and demolition waste reduction program or policy	3
5.6	Set up and manage a resource recovery center to encourage reuse of gently used or new materials that have been discarded	3
5.7	Offer recycling to residents*	8
5.8	Offer recycling to commercial entities (or require that they recycle)*	8
5.9	Provide recycling bins in public places and events*	3
5.10	Provide compost bins to residents (for sale or free)	2
5.11	Create an organics or yard waste collection program	6
5.12	Host household hazardous waste collection days	2
5.13	Create an educational campaign to encourage recycling, composting and waste reduction	2

*Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan focused very briefly on recycling and waste management. One related aspect that was highlighted in the plan was to “work with Madison County, the villages

and neighboring towns to promote recycling and composting.” This goal has already completed by offering recycling to residents (5.7), offering recycling to commercial entities and businesses (or requiring that they recycle) (5.8), and providing recycling bins in public places and events (5.9), such as in the village green--all of which are mentioned in the CSC checklist included above. (5.9)

**Goal 2. Increase energy conservation and use of green energy initiatives to decrease energy use and enhance the long-term environmental health of the community.**  
**G. Work with Madison County, the villages and neighboring towns to promote recycling and composting.**  
*-Draft Comprehensive Plan 30*

*Short-term opportunities:*

In order to achieve more participation in recycling and composting efforts, Hamilton could additionally implement policies mentioned in the CSC checklist, such as: creating a resource recovery center that would collect lightly used materials and offer them for reuse, providing compost bins to residents (for sale or for free) (5.10), starting an organics or yard waste collection day (5.11), and create an educational campaign to encourage recycling, composting and waste reduction (5.13).

*Long-term opportunities:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan mentions a clear goal, but fails to outline specific ways in which that goal will be achieved like the CSC checklist does. A long-term opportunity for the Town would be to construct explicit initiatives to be taken in order to achieve the goal. The town could implement the sub-elements listed above, as those all address ways in which to increase the amount of people that recycle, and the availability of recycling and composting tools.

**Pledge Element 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools</b>		<b>109</b>
<b>Planning</b>		<b>9</b>
6.1	Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements	9
<b>Land use and building codes</b>		<b>31</b>
6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations*	8
6.3	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance	4

6.4	Establish green building codes	6
6.5	Create resource-efficient site design guidelines	4
6.6	Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects	5
6.7	Adopt land-use policies that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens and urban and rural agriculture	4
<b>Resource-efficient transportation</b>		<b>52</b>
6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards*	4
6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy	4
6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking	10
6.11	Install electric-vehicle infrastructure	8
6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes	10
6.13	Implement a Safe Routes to School program	3
6.14	Implement traffic calming measures	5
6.15	Adopt and enforce an anti-idling ordinance	3
6.16	Implement transportation technology solutions	5
<b>Natural Resource and Open Space Preservation</b>		<b>17</b>
6.17	Develop a natural resource inventory	5
6.18	Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program	6
6.19	Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations	6

*Grey shading indicates a “priority” element. Asterisk indicates a completed task.*

#### *Current Overlapping Efforts:*

Both plans mention the implementation of smart growth policies (6.2) in order to use the land in a more efficient way. The draft Comprehensive Plan addresses the support of bicycling and walking (found in 6.10) in several ways: through recreation corridor planning, the Town of Hamilton plans to extend trails and connect new and existing trails, provide parking at tourist locations so that people can more easily participate in more outdoor recreation, and to encourage this, the town plans to provide interactive trail and route maps online so that people can become more familiar with what is available to them.

Both plans also emphasize a strong local aspect by supporting farmers and facilitating farm development so that food can be grown and sold locally, at a farmers’ market, for example, as opposed to being shipped from elsewhere (6.7). Hamilton already has a farmers market in place that is held every Saturday morning in May through October; this community event is a place where local farmers and artisans can sell their food and products to residents of the village and town.

The housing element of the draft Comprehensive Plan, which provides density bonuses, reuse of existing buildings, multi-family houses, promoting conservation cluster development, and rethinking zoning laws (6.4, 6.5, 6.7,6.19) in order to: 1) reduce the incidence of sprawl, 2) create a tighter, more close-knit sense of community, 3) increase walkability, which would in turn, keep residents healthy, as well as reduce carbon emissions through decreased automobile use, 4) and would also lead to more affordable housing if there is more people living on less land. As we can see, although this section addresses carbon emissions reduction through land use, it has other co-benefits that serve other aspects of the community in a very positive way.

*Short-term Opportunities:*

The draft comprehensive plan does not mention anything in this element regarding forestry, so taking an inventory of the natural resources (6.17) would be a great place to start an initiative of this kind. Once an inventory is taken, the town can decide how much of its natural resources need to be conserved or preserved, and this can be done by modifying zoning laws and regulations that would limit or prohibit the use of these natural resources.

*Long-term Opportunities:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan could be improved by addressing street and parking design; but, because the village, not the Town, owns the sidewalks and parking areas, it would require that the town consults the Village and they work together on this aspect, making it more of a long-term effort.<sup>4</sup> Through this partnership, there could be changes made to the system that would make traveling more efficient for everyone, whether by car, bus, bike, or foot; An increase in electric vehicle infrastructure such as charging stations and reserved parking would incentivize the use of environmentally friendly vehicles (6.3, 6.11, 6.16). Sidewalks and crosswalks could be made pedestrian-friendly so that more people may choose to walk rather than drive (safer school routes-6.13), and more accessible to everyone (blind, deaf, wheelchair).

**Pledge Element 7: Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 7: Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Establishing a baseline</b>		<b>8</b>
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	8
<b>Goals</b>		<b>2</b>
7.2	Develop a climate resilience vision and associated goals	2

<sup>4</sup> There are many jurisdictional complications such as this that would benefit from town and village collaboration.

<b>Planning and policy</b>		<b>15</b>
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability*	4
7.4	Develop climate adaptation strategies*	5
7.5	Incorporate climate resiliency vision, goals, and strategies into local plans and projects	3
7.6	Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards	3
<b>Strategies to address extreme heat</b>		<b>10</b>
7.7	Develop and implement a heat emergency plan	4
7.8	Require shade structures and features in public spaces	4
7.9	Open new or expand existing cooling centers	2
<b>Strategies to address flooding</b>		<b>67</b>
7.10	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities	4
7.11	Adopt a floodplain management and protection ordinance to reduce vulnerability to flooding and erosion	3
7.12	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas	7
7.13	Conserve natural areas for species migration and ecosystem resilience	7
7.14	Facilitate a strategic relocation of uses that are not water dependent from flood prone areas	5
7.15	Promote community flood prevention strategies through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	3
7.16	Use green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas	7
7.17	Conserve wetlands and forests to manage stormwater, recharge groundwater and mitigate flooding	8
7.18	Use natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection	8
7.19	Extend areas in which the two-foot freeboard requirement applies	3
7.20	Require consideration of sea-level rise in planning coastal development	3
7.21	Right-size bridges and culverts, and remove unnecessary and hazardous dams	5
7.22	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans	4
<b>Strategies to address drought</b>		<b>14</b>
7.23	Implement a water conservation and reuse program	6
7.24	Encourage xeriscaping	2
7.25	Implement a source water protection program	6



*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

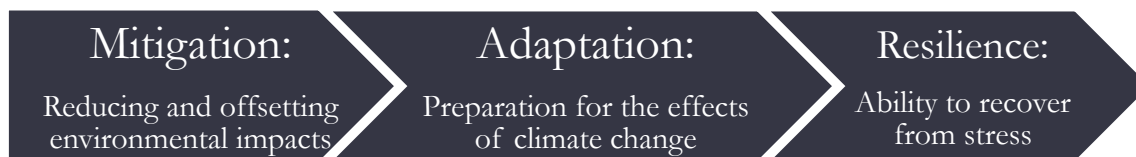
There are various components of the Climate Smart Communities Program regarding resilience that are already either being done by the Town of Hamilton or are outlined in the draft Comprehensive Plan. This document serves as element 7.4 in that it reviews existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that decrease vulnerability. The Climate Smart Communities Program also calls for Hamilton to develop climate adaptation strategies (7.4). This element is vague, however plans for permeable pavement, flooding (7.10) and storm water runoff can serve as adaptation strategies to meet this task.

**“Permeable pavements allow rainwater to percolate through to the soil below, avoiding the sewer system and recharging groundwater supplies.”**

-Mark Roseland, Toward Sustainable Communities

*Short-term Opportunities:*

We have identified several tasks that can be easily incorporated into existing plans for the Town of Hamilton. Hamilton is already incorporating climate resiliency strategies into its plans, however these strategies are not being labeled as such. By creating a climate resilience vision, and by labeling the ongoing goals and strategies in the draft Comprehensive Plan to outline the relationship with climate resilience, tasks 7.2 and 7.5 can easily be completed. The town can also consider opening cooling centers for the community<sup>2</sup> (7.9).



*Long-term opportunities:*

There are a handful of tasks pertaining to resiliency that may not be easily integrated in existing plans, but should be considered over time. First, the town should conduct vulnerability assessment (7.1) and develop a heat emergency plan<sup>5</sup>. The town can also create a requirement for

<sup>5</sup> Although developing heat emergency plans and cooling centers may be thought of as tasks for urban communities, the changing climate and changing heat patterns may cause extreme heat events within the town in upcoming years. By developing a heat emergency plan and establishing cooling centers, the town will be better prepared in the case of future extreme heat events. It is also important to take vulnerable populations, including the elderly and the impoverished, into consideration when preparing for extreme heat events. These populations may not have access to air conditioned facilities, or transportation to public air-conditioned spaces. By developing a plan to ensure the safety of these groups during extreme heat events, the town can better protect its vulnerable inhabitants.

shade structures and features in public spaces (7.8). Finally, the town can create a plan to identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards (7.6)

*Inapplicable:*

Pledge elements 7.18 and 7.20 are not pertinent to the Town of Hamilton because they relate to shoreline and sea level changes resulting from large-scale climate change.

**Pledge Element 8: Support a development of a green innovation economy**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 8: Support a development of a green innovation economy</b>		<b>56</b>
<b>Training and Education</b>		<b>5</b>
8.1	Create a green jobs training program	3
8.2	Hold green vendor fairs	2
<b>Planning and Leadership</b>		<b>9</b>
8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans*	4
8.4	Incorporate sustainability requirements in local government funded programs or projects	5
<b>Local Business Engagement and Support</b>		<b>9</b>
8.5	Adopt a green procurement policy that emphasizes local sourcing	4
8.6	Create and promote local farmers' markets*	3
8.7	Create a “buy local/buy green” campaign	2
<b>Siting and Incentivizing Green Business/Industry</b>		<b>21</b>
8.8	Redevelop a brownfield site	10
8.9	Establish incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in community	4
8.1	Support alternative transportation fuel supply infrastructure	7
<b>Creating Demand for Green Jobs</b>		<b>12</b>
8.11	Adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings	5
8.12	Establish a residential energy efficiency financing program	7

*Asterisk indicates a completed task / a task outlined in the Draft Comprehensive Plan.*

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

The Town of Hamilton has included a number of things within its draft Comprehensive Plan that outline the development of a green economy. The town has included green innovation in its economic development plans (8.3). Apart from the draft Comprehensive Plan, the town has also supported a local farmer's' market for a number of years (8.6).

*Short-term Opportunities:*

There are a few things on the Climate Smart Communities Checklist that could be easily incorporated into Hamilton’s draft Comprehensive Plan. First, Hamilton can adopt a green procurement policy that emphasizes local sourcing (8.5). The plan currently suggests this principle, and could create a new policy to support the program. The town could also look into establishing incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in the community (8.9). Green industry is currently encouraged, but no specific incentives are laid out.

*Long-term Opportunities:*

There are also quite a few tasks supporting the green industry that could be considered over time. The town could support a “buy local/ buy green” campaign, create a green jobs training program, or host a green vendor fair (8.7, 8.1, 8.2) The town could also work toward incorporating sustainability requirements into local government funded programs/projects (8.4) Finally, the town could develop an existing brownfield site, adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings or establish a residential energy efficiency financing program (8.8, 8.11, 8.12).

**Pledge Element 9: Inform and inspire the public**

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 9: Inform and inspire the public</b>		<b>18</b>
9.1	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation	4
9.2	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge	5
9.3	Host climate-related educational seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs	3
9.4	Maintain a website on local climate protection efforts	3
9.5	Use social media to inform the community about the progress of local government's efforts	3

*Current Overlapping Efforts:*

There are currently no existing efforts that we are aware of to inform and inspire the public about climate adaptation or mitigation efforts.

*Opportunities:*

The town can create educational engagement programs, energy reduction challenges and host climate-related educational seminars to help to inspire the public (9.1, 9.2, 9.3). The town can also utilize digital media to inform the public by maintaining a website outlining local climate protection efforts or utilizing social media to communicate the town’s progress (9.4, 9.5).

## Pledge Element 10: Commit to an evolving process of climate action

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 10: Commit to an evolving process of climate action</b>		<b>11</b>
10.1	Report on progress annually	4
10.2	Update strategies and plan(s)	4
10.3	Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies	3

### *Current Overlapping Efforts:*

In the implementation and Action section, it is said that the plan will be reviewed annually, but updates will be provided every five years. Along with periodic reviews and updates, the plan calls for modifications when necessary regarding potential initiatives not meeting respective goals.

### *Short-term opportunities:*

Earlier in the draft comprehensive plan, we see plans to coordinate with Madison County, a strategy that should be implemented with more of the surrounding counties and areas (10.3) in order that the maximum amount of resources and partnerships are available to the town.

### *Long-term opportunities:*

The draft Comprehensive Plan aligns well with the Climate Smart Communities checklist and we identified short-term opportunities for minor improvements, but no long-term opportunities.

## Innovation and Performance Bonus

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Innovation</b>		<b>15</b>
11.1	Implement a new innovative action	10
11.2	Implement an action using an innovative approach	5
<b>Performance Bonus</b>		<b>230</b>
12.1	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned facilities	40
12.2	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned vehicles	15
12.3	Increase use of renewables for local government operations	40
12.4	Reduce waste volume from local government operations	15
12.5	Reduce community-wide waste volume	20
12.6	Reduce community-wide GHG emissions from transportation	50
12.7	Reduce community-wide GHG emissions from buildings	5

### **Innovation (11.1-11.2)**

Innovation initiatives are described in the Climate Smart Communities Program as initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance local resilience, help to build a green economy and provide additional co-benefits. In the draft Comprehensive Plan, the town expressed interest in collaborating with Colgate University on a deer cull similar to the ones continually being carried out by the Village of Hamilton. This cull would benefit local agriculture, and help to combat the lack of forest regeneration that results from the overpopulation of the deer in the area. The influence that the overabundance of deer has on the local forests also influences the rates of carbon sequestration within the forests.

**Goal 2. Maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with Colgate University.**  
C. Request that Colgate’s property be open to hunting to offset deer damage in town.  
*- Draft Comprehensive Plan page 24*

### **Performance Bonus (12.1-12.7)**

This section allows communities to earn points by demonstrating improvement in areas such as utilizing renewables, and reducing waste and emissions. These performance bonuses should influence the Town’s decisions on where to focus their attention. For example, reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from transportation (12.6) increasing use of renewables for local government operations (12.3) and reducing GHG emissions from government owned facilities (12.1) could be held as higher priorities than waste reduction, for example, due to point value and feasibility.

### **Conclusion:**

While going through all of the pledge elements from the Climate Smart Communities, we have accounted for the Town of Hamilton’s current sustainability efforts and calculated a total 87 points from different elements across the CSC checklist. These actions and their respective point values have been compiled in the table below. The lowest level of CSC certification, a certified climate smart community, needs a minimum of 120 points. This means that, from the research we have concluded that the Town of Hamilton needs at least 33 additional points to become a certified Climate Smart Community.

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Completed Elements</b>		<b>87</b>
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge	4
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	8
2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	8
3.2	Provide recycling bins next to all trash receptacles in local government	3

	buildings	
4.8	Install a wind system on public property	9
5.7	Offer recycling to residents	8
5.8	Offer recycling to commercial entities (or require that they recycle)	8
5.9	Provide recycling bins in public places and events	3
6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations	8
6.7	Adopt land-use policies that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens and urban and rural agriculture	4
6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards*	4
7.10	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities	4
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability	4
7.4	Develop climate adaptation strategies	5
8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans	4
8.6	Create and promote local farmers' markets	3

\*Grey shading indicates a “priority” element.

The Chart below shows what we have identified as potential short-term opportunities. These are actions we think would be relatively simple for the Town to implement and would gain it points on the checklist. The bolded elements mark 10 actions we believe are the simplest and have the most potential points for the town. Overall we conclude that some minor implementation changes and paperwork will get the Town of Hamilton a Certified Climate Smart Community recognition. Higher certifications are definitely a possibility but will take more independent program implementation.

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Short-term Opportunities</b>		<b>112</b>
1.2	<b>Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation</b>	8
1.3	<b>Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator</b>	8
1.4	<b>Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation</b>	8
3.13	Adopt an anti-idling policy for government vehicles	3
3.15	<b>Convert streetlights to LED</b>	5

3.16	<b>Convert traffic signals to LED<sup>6</sup></b>	4
3.17	Reduce number of outdoor lighting fixtures	4
3.18	Upgrade outdoor lighting (other than streetlights and traffic signals) to more efficient and/or solar technology	4
3.2	<b>Upgrade interior lighting</b>	5
3.21	Provide organic waste collection and composting in local government buildings	3
3.22	Provide e-waste collection in local government buildings	3
3.28	Subsidize and incentivize employee alternative commuting	3
3.29	Engage employees through a green pledge or competition	2
3.3	Upgrade HVAC equipment	5
3.32	Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings	4
6.18	<b>Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program</b>	6
6.19	<b>Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations</b>	6
7.2	Develop a climate resilience vision and associated goals	2
7.5	Incorporate climate resilience vision, goals, and strategies into local plans and projects	3
8.5	Adopt a green procurement policy that emphasizes local sourcing	4
8.9	Establish incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in community	4
9.1	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation	4
9.2	<b>Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge</b>	5
9.3	Host climate-related educational seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs	3
9.4	<b>Maintain a website on local climate protection efforts</b>	3
9.5	Use social media to inform the community about the progress of local government's efforts	3

\*Grey shading indicates a “priority” element.

## References:

Roseland, M. (2012). *Towards Sustainable Communities: Solutions for Citizens and their Governments*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. New Society Publishers.

[Town of Hamilton Draft Comprehensive Plan August 2015](#)

<sup>6</sup> Elements, such as street lighting upgrades, are relatively easy changes to make, however they are outside of the Town’s jurisdiction. We recommend the town collaborate with the appropriate parties to make these adjustments.



## Appendix

### I. Sources

- A. Climate Smart Communities Pledge
- B. Climate Smart Communities Checklist

#### TAKING THE PLEDGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town of Hamilton (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change could endanger our roads and bridges, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, businesses, schools, and local environment; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; therefore adversely effecting the overall quality of life in the Town of Hamilton; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money; support innovative energy, agricultural, and business opportunities; and create resilient infrastructures; which will contribute to a livable, energy-smart, and secure community, and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts, including at the local level; and

WHEREAS, we believe it is important for our community to continue to prepare for potentially severe climate impacts, and to find opportunities to improve and adopt policies and technologies that can create a more sustainable and economically sound future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Hamilton, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, will

1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart

## Community

Use the development of new policies and plans as opportunities to set goals to reduce GHG emissions. Help individuals set goals to reduce GHG emissions through encouraging actions such as taking the ENERGY STAR® pledge. Work cooperatively with neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another. As an official signal of commitment and for access to technical resources, sign on to a widespread climate campaign such as ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - Climate Protection campaign.

### 2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Develop a Climate Action Plan with the assistance of Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action to reduce GHG emissions.

Gather data, inventory GHG gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors. Through the Climate Action

Plan, develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them. Take advantage of available resources like The Climate Registry, which has developed a standardized method for reporting emissions inventories, and ICLEI to track and evaluate progress.

### 3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Through the Climate Action Plan, set goals to reduce electricity use for local government operations.

**Existing Public Facilities.** Inventory current building electricity usage and identify opportunities for conservation and efficiency retrofits. Obtain energy assessments from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the New York Power Authority, the Long Island Power Authority or other professionals. Consider actions such as purchasing energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as ENERGY STAR®; improving lighting, heating, and cooling efficiency; setting thermostats for maximum energy conservation; decreasing plug load from office equipment; and increasing pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems.

**New Public Buildings.** Strive to implement energy efficient design standards such as U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards for new local government buildings.

Infrastructure. Incorporate energy efficient technologies and operations and maintenance practices into municipal street lighting, traffic signals, and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Vehicle Fleet and Commuting. Improve the average fuel efficiency of local government fleet vehicles. Discourage vehicle idling and encourage bicycling, car-pooling and public transit for employees. Strive to enhance its public transit system to offer more viable transportation options for its citizens. Consider reducing the number of vehicles; converting fleet vehicles to sustainable alternative fuels; and using electric vehicles where possible.

#### 4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Supply as much of the local government's power, heat and hot water needs as possible from solar, wind, and small hydro through purchase or direct generation.

#### 5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated -- continue to promote backyard composting, implement incentives that encourage a reduced trash volume, and educate residents on how to prevent waste. Continue to promote reuse by providing a space for dropoff or trade of reusable goods. Continue to provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces and encourage duplex printing in government offices, the composting of food scraps and green waste, and adopting a comprehensive green purchasing program.

#### 6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning

Combat climate change by encouraging low-emissions development that is resilient to climatic changes. When updating land use policies, building codes or community plans, strive to include provisions to combat climate change; reduce sprawl; preserve and protect open space, biodiversity, and water supplies; promote compact, transit-oriented, mixed-use, bikeable and walkable communities; promote infill development; minimize new development in floodplains; maintain or establish healthy community forests; and promote best forest management practices and encourage tree planting, especially along waterways, to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.

#### 7. Plan for the Future

Use future-oriented practices, policies, and strategies, to appropriately guide growth and development which includes taking into account any potential climate change

impacts (such as flooding, drought, and extreme temperatures) that could affect the community. Factor potential risks into long-term investments and decision-making.

#### 8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans. Encourage workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate smart solid waste management practices. Procure climate smart goods and services for local government operations and support modernizing of local and national electricity grids.

#### 9. Inform and Inspire the Public

Lead by example. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions. Demonstrate the benefits of energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by hosting open houses; distributing fliers; holding local meetings; working with school districts, colleges, and universities to develop climate change curricula and programs; engaging faith-based communities in climate protection; and regularly communicating community climate protection goals and progress to constituents.

#### 10. Commit to an Evolving Process

Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less- effective actions and amplify positive results.

DATED:

SIGNED:

Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 1: Pledge to be Climate Smart Community</b>		<b>31</b>
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge	4
1.2	Create a community Climate Smart Community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	8
1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	8
1.5	Join a national or regional climate campaign or program	3
Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 2: Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Establish a baseline</b>		<b>16</b>
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	8
2.2	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	8
<b>Set goals</b>		<b>8</b>
2.3	Establish a government operations emissions reduction target	4
2.4	Establish a community emissions reduction target	4
<b>Plan for climate action</b>		<b>16</b>
2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	8
2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	8
Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 3: Decrease community energy use</b>		<b>138</b>
<b>Building and stationary equipment</b>		<b>55</b>
3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	8
3.2	Upgrade interior lighting	5
3.3	Upgrade HVAC equipment	5
3.4	Install water-efficient fixtures	4
3.5	Install a building energy management system (EMS)	5
3.6	Upgrade building envelope	7
3.7	Adopt a green building standard for local government buildings and facilities	4
3.8	Build a new green building	10
3.9	Upgrade water or wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure	7
<b>Fleet and vehicle fuel</b>		<b>18</b>
3.1	Adopt a vehicle fleet efficiency policy	3

3.11	Right-size the local government fleet	3
3.12	Replace traditional vehicles with advanced vehicles	5
3.13	Adopt an anti-idling policy for government vehicles	3
3.14	Implement a car-sharing program for local government staff	4
<b>Outdoor lighting</b>		<b>17</b>
3.15	Convert streetlights to LED	5
3.16	Convert traffic signals to LED	4
3.17	Reduce number of outdoor lighting fixtures	4
3.18	Upgrade outdoor lighting (other than streetlights and traffic signals) to more efficient and/or solar technology	4
<b>Government solid waste</b>		<b>13</b>
3.19	Adopt a waste management strategy for government hosted and permitted events	2
3.2	Provide recycling bins next to all trash receptacles in local government buildings	3
3.21	Provide organic waste collection and composting in local government buildings	3
3.22	Provide e-waste collection in local government buildings	3
3.23	Conduct a local government waste audit and track diversion rate over time	2
<b>Financial and policy mechanisms</b>		<b>18</b>
3.24	Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy	4
3.25	Establish a financing mechanism for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in government owned buildings	5
3.26	Incorporate energy efficiency and waste handling provisions in standard specifications and government contracts	3
3.27	Utilize a green or sustainability rating system for infrastructure improvement projects	6
<b>Employee and staff behavior</b>		<b>8</b>
3.28	Subsidize and incentivize employee alternative commuting	3
3.29	Engage employees through a green pledge or competition	2
3.3	Incorporate green principles, commitments or requirements into staff training	3
<b>Energy and GHG management policies and systems</b>		<b>9</b>
3.31	Implement an energy or GHG management system	5
3.32	Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings	4
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>

<b>Pledge Element 4: Increase community use of renewable energy</b>		<b>62</b>
<b>Policies, planning, and financing</b>		<b>20</b>
4.1	Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewables	4
4.2	Require that new construction of local government buildings is “PV-Ready”	4
4.3	Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy installations	5
4.4	Purchase renewable energy credits (RECs)	7
<b>Increase use of renewables</b>		<b>42</b>
4.5	Install a geothermal heat pump or other geothermal technology at a new or existing public facility	9
4.6	Install solar hot water and/or solar photovoltaic technology on public property	9
4.7	Serve as a host site for a renewable energy installation and enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA)	9
4.8	Install a wind system on public property	9
4.9	Install a wood pellet heating system on public property	6
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Pledge Element 5: Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices</b>		<b>51</b>
<b>Waste diversion policies and plans</b>		<b>6</b>
5.1	Adopt a zero waste initiative policy	3
5.2	Discourage the use of disposable bags	3
<b>Implement waste diversion strategies</b>		<b>45</b>
5.3	Participate in the EPA WasteWise program	2
5.4	Implement a pay-as-you-throw or similar unit pricing program	6
5.5	Adopt a construction and demolition waste reduction program or policy	3
5.6	Set up and manage a resource recovery center to encourage reuse of gently used or new materials that have been discarded	3
5.7	Offer recycling to residents	8
5.8	Offer recycling to commercial entities (or require that they recycle)	8
5.9	Provide recycling bins in public places and events	3
5.1	Provide compost bins to residents (for sale or free)	2
5.11	Create an organics or yard waste collection program	6
5.12	Host household hazardous waste collection days	2
5.13	Create an educational campaign to encourage recycling, composting and waste reduction	2



Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools</b>		<b>109</b>
<b>Planning</b>		<b>9</b>
6.1	Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements	9
<b>Land use and building codes</b>		<b>31</b>
6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations	8
6.3	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance	4
6.4	Establish green building codes	6
6.5	Create resource-efficient site design guidelines	4
6.6	Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects	5
6.7	Adopt land-use policies that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens and urban and rural agriculture	4
<b>Resource-efficient transportation</b>		<b>52</b>
6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards	4
6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy	4
6.1	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking	10
6.11	Install electric-vehicle infrastructure	8
6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes	10
6.13	Implement a Safe Routes to School program	3
6.14	Implement traffic calming measures	5
6.15	Adopt and enforce an anti-idling ordinance	3
6.16	Implement transportation technology solutions	5
<b>Natural Resource and Open Space Preservation</b>		<b>17</b>
6.17	Develop a natural resource inventory	5
6.18	Develop a local forestry or tree planting project or program	6
6.19	Preserve natural areas through zoning or other regulations	6
Action #	Action Name	Points
<b>Pledge Element 7: Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change</b>		<b>116</b>
<b>Establishing a baseline</b>		<b>8</b>
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	8
<b>Goals</b>		<b>2</b>

7.2	Develop a climate resilience vision and associated goals	2
<b>Planning and policy</b>		<b>15</b>
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability	4
7.4	Develop climate adaptation strategies	5
7.5	Incorporate climate resiliency vision, goals, and strategies into local plans and projects	3
7.6	Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards	3
<b>Strategies to address extreme heat</b>		<b>10</b>
7.7	Develop and implement a heat emergency plan	4
7.8	Require shade structures and features in public spaces	4
7.9	Open new or expand existing cooling centers	2
<b>Strategies to address flooding</b>		<b>67</b>
7.10	Create or update a watershed assessment to identify flooding and water quality priorities	4
7.11	Adopt a floodplain management and protection ordinance to reduce vulnerability to flooding and erosion	3
7.12	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas	7
7.13	Conserve natural areas for species migration and ecosystem resilience	7
7.14	Facilitate a strategic relocation of uses that are not water dependent from flood prone areas	5
7.15	Promote community flood prevention strategies through the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System	3
7.16	Use green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas	7
7.17	Conserve wetlands and forests to manage stormwater, recharge groundwater and mitigate flooding	8
7.18	Use natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection	8
7.19	Extend areas in which the two-foot freeboard requirement applies	3
7.2	Require consideration of sea-level rise in planning coastal development	3
7.21	Right-size bridges and culverts, and remove unnecessary and hazardous dams	5
7.22	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans	4
<b>Strategies to address drought</b>		<b>14</b>
7.23	Implement a water conservation and reuse program	6
7.24	Encourage xeriscaping	2

7.25	Implement a source water protection program	6
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Pledge Element 8: Support a development of a green innovation economy</b>		<b>56</b>
<b>Training and Education</b>		<b>5</b>
8.1	Create a green jobs training program	3
8.2	Hold green vendor fairs	2
<b>Planning and Leadership</b>		<b>9</b>
8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans	4
8.4	Incorporate sustainability requirements in local government funded programs or projects	5
<b>Local Business Engagement and Support</b>		<b>9</b>
8.5	Adopt a green procurement policy that emphasizes local sourcing	4
8.6	Create and promote local farmers' markets	3
8.7	Create a “buy local/buy green” campaign	2
<b>Siting and Incentivizing Green Business/Industry</b>		<b>21</b>
8.8	Redevelop a brownfield site	10
8.9	Establish incentives for green industry or businesses to locate in community	4
8.1	Support alternative transportation fuel supply infrastructure	7
<b>Creating Demand for Green Jobs</b>		<b>12</b>
8.11	Adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings	5
8.12	Establish a residential energy efficiency financing program	7
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Pledge Element 9: Inform and inspire the public</b>		<b>18</b>
9.1	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation	4
9.2	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge	5
9.3	Host climate-related educational seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs	3
9.4	Maintain a website on local climate protection efforts	3
9.5	Use social media to inform the community about the progress of local government's efforts	3
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Pledge Element 10: Commit to an evolving process of climate action</b>		<b>11</b>
10.1	Report on progress annually	4
10.2	Update strategies and plan(s)	4

10.3	Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies	3
<b>Action #</b>	<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Innovation</b>		<b>15</b>
11.1	Implement a new innovative action	10
11.2	Implement an action using an innovative approach	5
<b>Performance Bonus</b>		<b>230</b>
12.1	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned facilities	40
12.2	Reduce GHG emissions from government owned vehicles	15
12.3	Increase use of renewables for local government operations	40
12.4	Reduce waste volume from local government operations	15
12.5	Reduce community-wide waste volume	20
12.6	Reduce community-wide GHG emissions from transportation	50
12.7	Reduce community-wide GHG emissions from buildings	50