Incorporating Climate Smart

Contents

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.

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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
Pledge Element 3: Decrease community energy use		**138**
Building and stationary equipment		**55**
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
Fleet and vehicle fuel		**18**
3.10		3

3.14	Implement a car-sharing program for local government staff	4
Outdoor lighting		**17**
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
Government solid waste		**13**
3.19	Adopt a waste management strategy for government hosted and permitted events	2

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 u g20 0.24 72.299 208.7412(rol)0.

Pledge Element 4: Increase community use of renewable energy

Action #	Action Name	Points
Pledge Element 4: Increase community use of renewable energy		**62**
Policies, planning, and financing		**20**

4.1

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
Resource-efficient transportation		**52**
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
Natural Resource and Open Space Preservation		**17**
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.

Planning and policy		**15**
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

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

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:

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 10: Commit to an evolving process of climate action

Action #	Action Name	Points
Pledge Element 10: Commit to an evolving process of climate action		**11**
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
Innovation		**15**
11.1	Implement a new innovative action	10
11.2	Implement an action using an innovative approach	5
Performance Bonus		**230**
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-

	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

3.16

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 communiti

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

7.2	Develop a climate resilience vision and associated goals	2
Planning and policy		**15**
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation	

7.25	Implement a source water protection program	6
Action #	**Action Name**	**Points**
Pledge Element 8: Support a development of a green innovation economy		**56**
Training and Education		**5**
8.1	Create a green jobs training program	3
8.2	Hold green vendor fairs	2
Planning and Leadership		**9**
8.3	Include green industries in economic development plans	4
8.4	Incorporate sustainability requirements in local government funded programs or projects	5
Local Business Engagement and Support		**9**
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
Siting and Incentivizing Green Business/Industry		**21**
8.8	Redevelop a brownfield site	10
8.9		

10.3	Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies	3
Action #	**Action Name**	**Points**