

Moving Our Community Towards Sustainability:



Progress in the Town of Poughkeepsie

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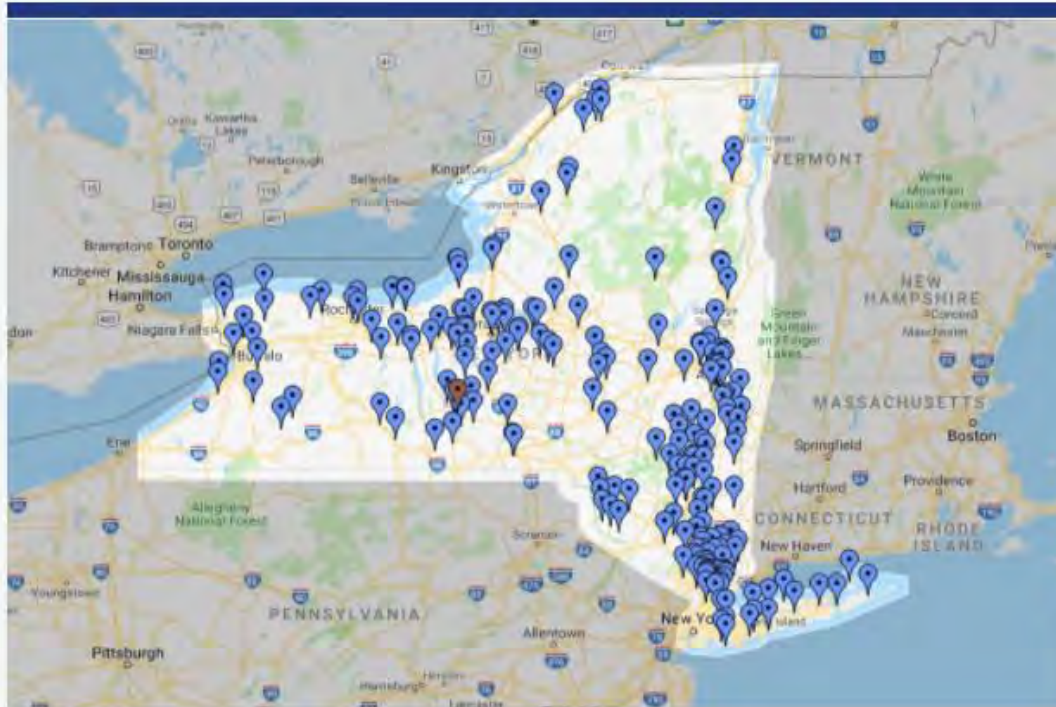
Climate Smart
Communities

About

Actions & Certification

Support

SIGN IN



State Support for Local Climate Action

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

Registered communities have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge. **Certified** communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level.

> [LEARN MORE](#)

CSC: NYS Climate Smart Communities

- NYS program to assist local governments in reducing GHG emissions and adapting to the changing climate
- 360+ registered communities have pledged to act (town, city, village, county)
- Certification at bronze (85), silver (9), or gold level
- Based upon completion of prescribed actions in various areas of climate change **mitigation** (prevention) and **adaptation** (response planning)
- Certification positions communities for further grant funding

CSC, continued

- Began in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State
- Jointly sponsored by
 - Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (administrator)
 - Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
 - Department of Public Service
 - Department of State
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Health
 - Power Authority

- 1. Build a climate-smart community.
- 2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
- 3. Decrease energy use.
- 4. Shift to clean, renewable energy.
- 5. Use climate-smart materials management.
- 6. Implement climate-smart land use.
- 7. Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- 8. Support a green innovation economy.
- 9. Inform and inspire the public.
- 10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.
- 11. Innovation
- 12. Performance



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze

Taking Local Action to Combat Climate Change

THE TOWN OF

Poughkeepsie

IS A

Bronze Certified

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY

2021



Town of
Poughkeepsie

COMPLETED ACTIONS

- Appointment of Task Force & Coordinator
- Participation in a regional climate program
- Creation of a vehicle fleet inventory
- Installation of LED street lights
- Solar array on our Town Hall
- Waste reduction campaign
- Residential organic waste program
- Smart growth policies
- Green parking lot policies
- Infrastructure for biking and walking
- Natural Resources Inventory
- Zoning for protection of natural areas
- Climate vulnerability assessment
- Evaluation of policies for climate resilience
- Support for Farmers' Market
- Brownfield clean-up and redevelopment
- Climate Change Education and Engagement Plan
- Climate-related public events
- Climate action website and social media



- Town Board +
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF)
- Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC)
- Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) +
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Fire Advisory

[Home](#) > [Government](#) > [Boards & Commissions](#) > Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF)

Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF)



The Town of Poughkeepsie has achieved initial Climate Smart Certification!

[Read the full press release](#) detailing this exciting milestone.

Recently we also completed our Solar for All Community Campaign, resulting in our designation as a Clean Energy Community in New York State and making us eligible for a variety of grants to further our work!

www.nyserda.ny.gov

Clean Energy Communities

[How it Works](#)

[Tracking Progress](#)

[Find A Coordinator](#)

[Stay Connected](#)

A PROGRAM OF NYSERDA

Clean Energy Communities

The Energy to make it Happen



CEC: NYS Clean Energy Communities

- Separate from Climate Smart but a number of actions overlap
- To push forward on clean energy
- Administered by NYSERDA
- Resources, support, and funding for high-impact clean energy actions
- Certification and certain actions leading to grants

CEC High Impact Actions

- Unified solar permit ✓
- Energy code enforcement training for municipal personnel
- Clean energy financing for commercially owned buildings
- Clean energy upgrades
- Municipal clean heating/cooling demo site
- Municipal operations on 100% renewables

CEC High Impact Actions, continued

- Climate Smart certification ✓
- Community campaigns ✓
- LED streetlights ✓
- Municipal benchmarking to identify opportunities to reduce waste
- Clean fleets
- Community Choice Aggregation

The Town of Poughkeepsie was designated as a **CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY** in 2022



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CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES GRANTS

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CAC: Conservation Advisory Commission

- Conservation Advisory Commission
- Established by NYS General Municipal Law
- Advisory to local governing, planning and zoning boards
- Focused on stewardship, development, management, and protection of local natural resources
- Natural Resource Inventories (NRI) - Open Space Plans

CAB: Conservation Advisory Board

- Upon completion of Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan, the local legislature may pass a resolution to designate the CAC as a CAB
- More formal involvement in review of land-use applications

www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com



TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE Natural Resource Inventory & Open Space Plan



HOME

ABOUT

GET INVOLVED

DOCUMENTS

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Catskill Overlook from Peach Hill Park. Photo credit: Jim Challey

Welcome

EMC: Environmental Management Council

www.dutchessemc.org

Dutchess County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Working to Protect Dutchess County's Natural Resources



NYSERDA: NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

- Promotes energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources
- Resources for homeowners and renters:
 - Energy saving
 - Products
 - Carbon footprint
 - Contractors
 - Etc.

www.nyserda.ny.gov

NYSERDA

**Business
& Industry**

**Communities
& Governments**

**Residents
& Homeowners**

**Partners
& Investors**

**Researchers
& Policymakers**



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Residents & Homeowners

Take control of your home's energy

All New York residents—whether homeowners or renters—have opportunities to make their homes more efficient, comfortable, and affordable.



CLCPA, NYS 2019: The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act)

- Nation-leading
- Targets are among the most rigorous of any major world economy
- Committed NYS to a transition to renewable energy
- Various NYS legislation

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Home energy improvements and reduction of fossil fuels - the big 3:
DECARBONIZE!
SOLAR – EV/HYBRID – HEAT PUMPS
- Plastic reduction, composting, sustainable landscape
- Lobby your local, state, and federal legislators
- Support candidates who favor climate strategies *local elections
- Attend public meetings in your town to demand change

What is Community Solar?

subscribe to a local solar farm



add clean, solar energy to your utility grid



receive credits from your utility and save on your annual electricity cost



The Pollinator Pathway



Pollinator Pathways


Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife

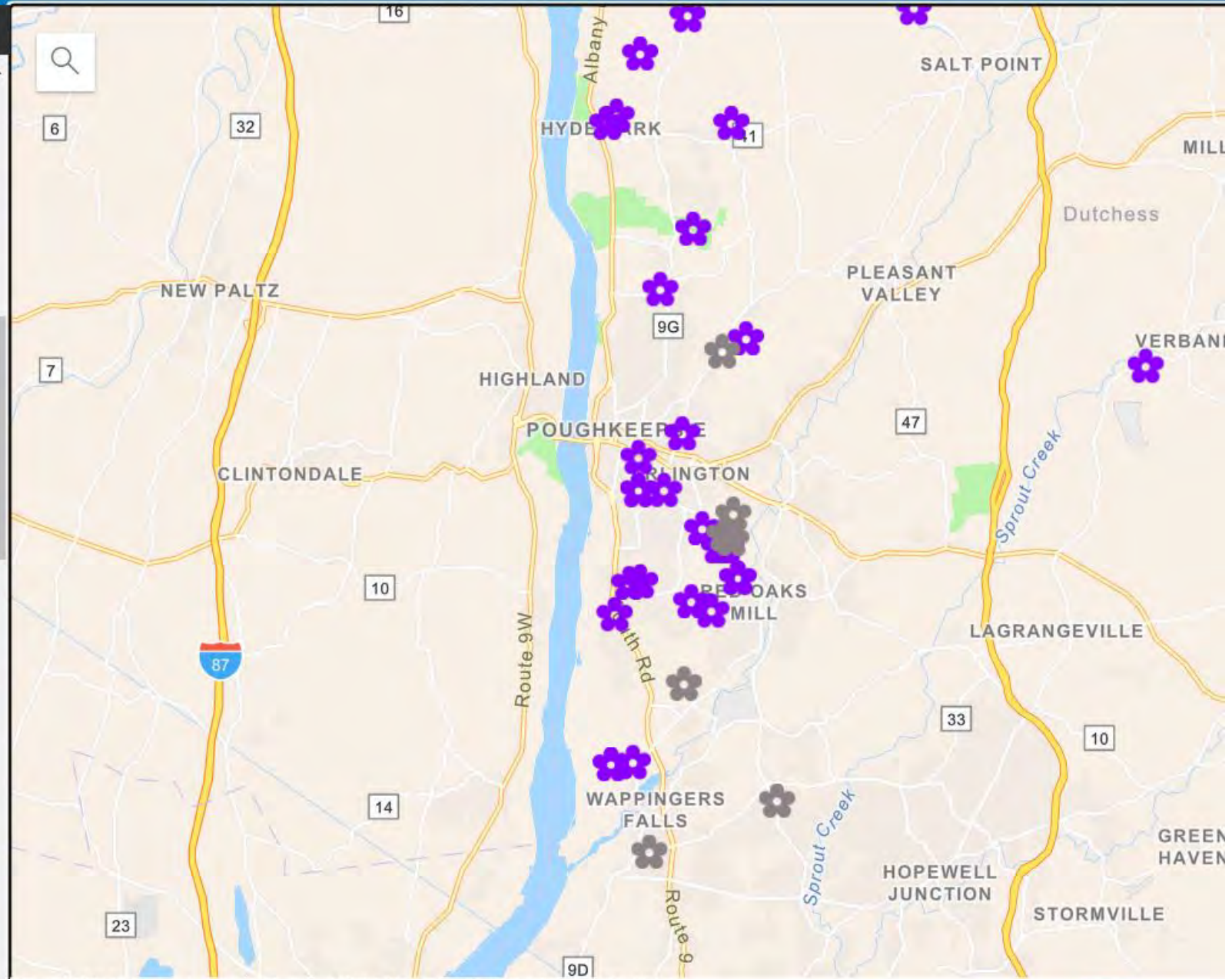
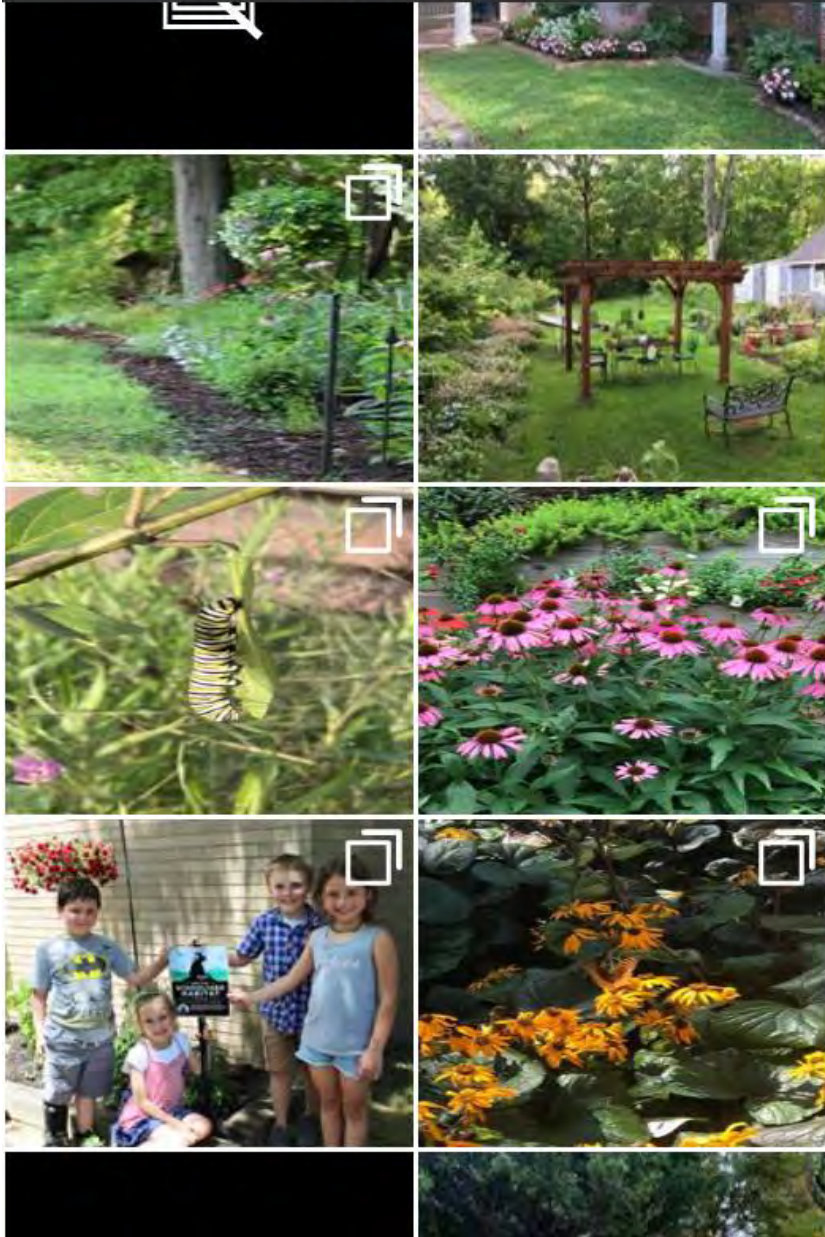
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Protect our Pollinators! Join a Nationwide Day of Action by Buying Bee-Safe Plants. [Click here.](#)

Dutchess County Pollinator Pathway

 Gardens



Town of Poughkeepsie pollinator gardens



Ward 5
Crown Heights Park



Ward 2
Red Oaks Mill Park



Ward 6
Hagantown Park



Thank you!

