



Columbia County Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning Opportunity

On August 11, The Columbia County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to engage in a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning led by Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia/Greene, on behalf of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). This assistance is funded through NY DEC's Climate Smart Communities Outreach Coordinators Program and is available at no charge to the county, and additionally to any municipality within the county that would like to join this effort. Municipalities that participate will be able to develop their own community adaptation plan as well.

Municipalities who would like to engage in this county planning effort, including a plan for their own community, will need to adopt a resolution confirming your commitment to undertake the plan. As part of the process, the community should create a local advisory committee and appoint someone to serve as the main point of contact for the process.

What is a Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Action Planning?

Developing a vulnerability assessment involves identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing the effects of climate hazards and risks, like flooding, heat stress or short-term drought. The goal of creating a climate adaptation plan or chapter is to address vulnerabilities uncovered in your vulnerability assessment. Climate adaptation planning outlines a vision and set of strategies to improve a community's resilience to climate change based on its local physical, economic, and social vulnerabilities. When local leaders work with their communities to adapt to climate change, they build the capacity to evolve with changing conditions and protect resources for generations to come.

Who will be the technical lead on this project?

Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia/Greene will be the lead for this planning effort, which is offered at no-cost to the community. .

How will our municipality engage?

We are asking each municipality to create an advisory committee and appoint a lead person who will represent the community in the planning effort. This lead person will be the community's primary contact for CCE during the planning process. The committee can be an existing climate smart committee for the community, a newly identified sub-committee, or a newly formed committee. The main role of the committee will be to provide local knowledge and information to CCE and to provide general guidance and input toward the development of their community's plan.

How long will this plan take?

We anticipate the process taking 10 months to a year.

Will our community get CSC Certification Credit for this plan?

Yes, all of the plans undertaken in this process will be eligible for points in the DEC's Climate Smart Communities Program for both *PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment* and *PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan*.

Is there a deadline for a community to join this effort?

We are asking communities to adopt a resolution and select a committee and leader by October 31, 2022.

Does the plan require the community expend funding for implementation?

No. The plan is a guidance document for the community. Any future implementation funding is at the discretion of the community.