

# New York State Climate Smart Communities Program Certification

## Assessment: Town of Esopus, 2022

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### Summary

To take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, the Town of Esopus intends to submit for bronze-level certification in the New York State Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. The CSC program provides a robust framework to guide climate action efforts, engage and educate local governments, and recognize communities' achievements. CSC is organized around twelve pledge elements. Each pledge element has a list of actions a community can take, all associated with points. A community must complete and document actions to earn enough points for a bronze, silver, or gold certification to become certified. The criteria required for bronze level certification are:

1. Two mandatory actions—creating a CSC Task Force and identifying a CSC Coordinator,
2. Three priority actions,
3. 120 action points, and
4. At least one action in four different pledge elements (PEs).

Each action has an in-depth description and specific action requirements detailed in the New York State Climate Smart Communities Program Online Portal<sup>1</sup>.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) assisted in performing a thorough assessment of Esopus' previous, current, and planned climate adaptation and mitigation efforts to identify those that align with CSC actions. CCEUC staff worked closely with the Chairman of Esopus' Environmental Board and Chairperson of Climate Smart Esopus during this process. This document describes the assessment results, including completed pledge element actions, in-progress actions that will earn points once completed to meet CSC criteria, and recommended actions for the Town to consider pursuing. At the end of this document are available funding sources for implementing recommended CSC actions.

The assessment revealed that the Town of Esopus has completed the two mandatory actions—creating a CSC Task Force and identifying a CSC Coordinator—for bronze-level certification. Additionally, the Town has completed six priority actions and a likely 111 action points across six different pledge element categories. The Town can earn an additional 22-54 points by completing in-progress actions to achieve bronze-level certification. Other recommended actions to pursue in over the next five to ten years are included in this document. Additional recommendations for long-term actions not recommended at this time are in the CSC Assessment spreadsheet.

Town of Esopus CSC Task Force members can use this document and the CSC Assessment spreadsheet to guide their certification efforts. Within the Town's established CSC portal account, completed actions listed in the tables below can be marked as "planned." Members can begin to gather and upload documentation of completed actions as listed in the chart below. As documentation is uploaded to the portal, mark actions as "complete" once all criteria are met. Simultaneously, members can continue working toward completing in-progress actions and begin planning to implement recommended actions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

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## Completed Mandatory Actions to Achieve Bronze Level CSC Certification

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	Why this Action?	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit
<b>Pass a Resolution Adopting the CSC Pledge</b>	1	--	This action is mandatory to access the portal and achieve CSC Certification.	Pass the CSC pledge as a municipal resolution to join the program and become a Registered Climate Smart Community. Use the model CSC resolution as a template for drafting your local resolution. Municipalities may amend the "whereas" statements in the preamble, but all ten points of the CSC Pledge must be adopted verbatim. The final resolution document must include a signature from the municipal clerk verifying the authenticity of the resolution and indicating the date of passage.
<b>CSC Task Force (Mandatory)</b>	1.2	20	This action is mandatory to achieve CSC Certification.	To receive points for this action, local governments must demonstrate that the task force includes representatives from the community and from the local government (i.e., staff and/or elected officials) and that it has met at least twice during the year prior to the certification application date. Submit the following: 1) A copy of the resolution, executive memorandum, or executive order establishing the CSC task force, 2) A list of the task force members and the organizations they represent, and 3) Meeting minutes, including sign-in sheets or other records of attendance, from two task force meetings held within the past year.
<b>CSC Coordinator (Mandatory)</b>	1.3	10	This action is mandatory to achieve CSC Certification.	To earn points, a local government must define the responsibilities of the CSC coordinator and appoint a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to act in this role. The coordinator may be appointed by the governing body or by the chief executive officer (or by the chief executive's designee). Submit documentation demonstrating that a staff member, contractor, or volunteer has been appointed to serve as the CSC coordinator and is active. At a minimum, include an executive memorandum or resolution appointing the coordinator and describing their responsibilities.

## Completed Actions to Achieve Bronze Level CSC Certification

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
CSC Task Force	1.2	20	Submit the following: 1) A copy of the resolution, executive memorandum, or executive order establishing the CSC task force, 2) A list of the task force members and the organizations they represent, and 3) Meeting minutes, including sign-in sheets or other records of attendance, from two task force meetings held within the past year.	Completed. Esopus established Task Force.
CSC Coordinator	1.3	10	Submit documentation demonstrating that a staff member, contractor, or volunteer has been appointed to serve as the CSC coordinator and is active. At minimum, include an executive memorandum or resolution appointing the coordinator and describing his/her responsibilities.	Completed. Esopus established Coordinator.
National/Regional Climate Program	1.5	3	Provide a demonstration of local govt. active engagement within the past year. Documentation includes membership invoices, summary of services obtained, report on progress of actions related to program. NYSERDA CEC Designation qualifies.	Completed. Esopus is participating in the program with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).
Government Operations GHG Inventory	2.1	12	Submit a copy of a local govt. GHG inventory report completed within five years prior to application date. Include Scope 1 (direct emissions) and 2 (indirect). The report can be a standalone document or integrated into a separate report or plan. Demonstrate that it is publicly accessible.	The Town is using a portfolio manager to track emissions through a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant. The contact person for this action is Ellie Gartenstein.
Water-efficient Fixtures	3.4	1	Submit total # of fixtures across entire gov't portfolio. If the specific # of water fixtures are not available, applicants may obtain points based on square footage. Provide the following information: Total building square footage across the local government's entire building portfolio % of building square footage containing fixtures that were installed within 10 years prior to the application date and that they meet the flow rates described above in Section B and/or have a WaterSense label Location: building(s) in which the fixtures were installed Previous type: type of fixture that was replaced (for upgrades of existing fixtures only) Efficiency: the type of fixtures installed (brands and model numbers from procurement records, for example) or other documentation demonstrating that the fixtures meet the flow rates described above in Section B/or have a WaterSense label.	In discussions with Esopus, park pump station were identified as an opportunity for upgrades if they installed BEMS for controlling lighting or 10% of buildings or for controlling both in 5% of buildings (by square footage) for 1 point.
Building Energy Management System	3.5	1	Install a building energy management system (EMS)	This may already be included in the Town's in-progress energy audit (Government Buildings Energy Action).

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings	3.32	4	Develop and adopt legislation requiring benchmarking of govt. energy use for buildings and submit documentation of formal adoption. Define size thresholds and types of buildings covered by mandate. Use model legislation from NYSERDA CEC program. 2 points are obtained by adopting benchmarking requirements and 2 for implementation. Must be in effect at time of submittal. Provide documentation that at least 1 report has been publicly disclosed w/in the year.	Esopus has already adopted an energy benchmarking requirement for government facilities, but the Town needs to complete, submit, and make the report publicly available. We recommend Esopus complete the report and make it publicly available to receive two additional points for a total of four points.
LED Street Lights	3.15	4	At minimum, provide the following information: Baseline: As per the street light inventory, provide the total number of streetlights in the community. For this CSC action, the percentage of streetlights is based on the total number of municipally- and utility-owned streetlights within the jurisdiction that are actively in use at the time of application. Percentage converted: Provide the number of streetlights that were converted to LEDs. Documentation should indicate that the updated streetlights are actively in use.	Recommended as this is a NYSERDA CEC High Impact Action. Esopus has 415 utility-owned streetlights, the number of LED streetlights installed was 415 according to Mark Ellis.
Community Repair	NA	4	Submit documentation that includes the date, time, and location for at least two Community Repair events that were held within the last five years. Documentation of the events should include flyers for the events and/or photographs, where available. To help track results, provide attendee sign-in sheets that include the approximate number of items that were brought in for repairs. Include information about the local Community Repair team and its goals to show a commitment to continue the program long-term. Applicants must also submit information on the role played by the local government. This can consist of a copy of the announcement on the municipal website and/or a description of the government's assistance in providing a rent-free meeting place, such as a town hall.	The Town is already hosting repair events at cafes. Two were held in summer.
Compost Bins for Residents	5.1	2	Submit documentation that describes the compost bin distribution program, including the type of bin, the original cost per bin and the discounted cost, if residents were charged a fee. Provide copies of promotional and educational materials. Provide the number of bins purchased and distributed. Compost bins must have been distributed within five years prior to the application date. Any statistics about the reduction in waste because of the program are also encouraged.	Compost program completed in 2020 (residents participated in a workshop and 50 compost bins given out).
Residential Organic Waste Program	5.11	2	Submit documentation that describes the scope of the organics program including types of materials collected, when and how it is collected, where it goes, and any other requirements for residents related to this program. The documentation should confirm that the program is currently active. Links to websites with this information are acceptable. Information on the quantities collected and estimates of GHG reductions are encouraged.	Already established a community curbside pick-up yard waste program (with pick-up at least two times per year) and drop-off yard waste program. Establish a drop-off yard waste program is worth 2 points.

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Unified Solar Permit	6.3	5	Submit a dated copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates completion of the Clean Energy Communities Unified Solar Permit High Impact Action.	Esopus already submitted this to NYSERDA.
Traffic Calming	6.14	3	Indicate which of the above point tiers you are applying for. Submit evidence that the traffic calming measures have been implemented by providing project maps, plans, or reports. At minimum, photographs (with dates) showing traffic calming features (before-and-after installation) must be included that indicate the project location (address). Provide public meeting records (before and after implementation) demonstrating community involvement. Surveys of affected residents to demonstrate if the project was successful are highly recommended. If a project impacts a state road, concurrence by NYS DOT must be documented. The measure(s) must have been implemented within the last 10 years to be eligible for points.	Recommended to find photographs and evidence documenting completed traffic calming project(s) in Esopus. Implementing traffic calming at more intersections is worth 3 points.
Climate Vulnerability Assessment	7.1	4	Submit a copy of the most recent climate vulnerability assessment report, created within 10 years prior to the application date. Also submit documentation of the public outreach process (such as public meeting invitations, list of attendees and meeting minutes, surveys or other outreach means), if this is not included in the report. The report should include a summary of the assessment process and the individuals involved, climate change projections of future conditions, a description of what climate hazards were covered, what community assets/systems were assessed for impacts, and what vulnerable populations were considered. If the vulnerability assessment was developed more than 10 years ago, local governments may update it with any new or updated data or projections and submit the updated report for credit. If the vulnerability assessment was completed through the NY Rising or Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, documentation of DOS approval of the local plan must be submitted.	Recommended to submit for 4 points for the Riverfront Access and Connections study report which assessed sea level rising. A comprehensive climate vulnerability assessment is not recommended at this time (to get an additional 12 points) but this would be good in the future to get FEMA support if need. 12 additional points not recommended at this time but maybe down the road the Town could get FEMA support needed in the event of major flooding for example. Ulster County multi-hazard mitigation plan due 2023.
Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience	7.3	6	Submit a copy of the completed CSRP tool and the summary report of the findings. At minimum, the summary report must describe the evaluation process (including a record of engaging municipal staff and officials across departments) and the gaps that were identified in local plans, policies, and projects as they relate to community vulnerability to climate change. The CSRP process must have been implemented within five years of the application date.	Esopus has already completed the Climate Smart Resilience Planning (CSRP). Recommended to apply for 6 points.

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Climate Adaptation Plan	7.2 & 7.4	3	Vision: Submit a copy or web address of the final climate adaptation and resilience vision statement and a summary of the inclusive public engagement process that was used to create the vision, including evidence of event outreach and attendance. (See guidance on inclusive public engagement processes in Section B). Plan: Submit a copy or web address of the climate adaptation plan or chapter (of a related climate plan). Indicate the scope of the planning effort (limited, moderate, or comprehensive). Submit documentation that the plan was adopted by the local government. The plan or chapter must contain the following: The most recent New York State climate change projections and climate hazard data, as of the date of publication of the plan, A list of strategies to address local vulnerabilities and build adaptive capacity, A summary of the inclusive public engagement process that was used. If a regional entity (other than the applicant) led the planning process, submit evidence of substantial involvement in that process, as per these guidelines.	Esopus' Master Comprehensive (pg. 47) includes a vision statement relating to climate resilience. Recommended to submit for 3 points for the vision statement, at this time it's not recommended to complete the plan due to limited resources (point in time, money).
Green Vendor Fairs	8.2	2	Submit copies of event posters or advertisements, a list of vendors in attendance, local government departments or staff members in attendance, and an estimated number of attendees. Local governments must demonstrate that the green vendor fair occurred within one year prior to the application date.	The Town hosts an Earth Day environmental fair annually where green vendors are invited to participate and market their goods and services.
Climate Change Education & Engagement	9.1	4	Provide a description of local gov't community engagement strategy consistent with the requirements (see action link). Provide documentation of at least two public educations, outreach, and/or engagement activities focused on climate change within the past year where the local gov't played a key role. Documentation may include meeting minutes, attendee sign-in sheets, summaries of information gathered from the community, photographs of events, copies of educational materials, presentations, etc. Demonstrate engagement with a variety of community stakeholders through outreach activities such as public meetings, targeted stakeholder meetings, educational materials, etc. To receive full credit, demonstrate that the community engagement program has covered both climate change mitigation (2 points) and climate change adaptation (2 points).	Recommended as the Town already participates in Earth Day, Honey Jar Jubilee, and conducts stormwater education.
Climate-related Public Events	9.3	3	Submit documentation that includes the topic, date, time, location, subject, and partners for at least one event held within the past year that was related to climate change. Types of events could include seminars, workshops, conferences, summits, or fairs. Local gov'ts are eligible for points if they are the lead organizer or a supporting participant in an event organized by a partner. Support for a partner organization could be in form of donating the use of a local gov't facility, covering some of the costs of the event, serving on an advisory committee, speaking at the event, and/or using staff time to prepare for or facilitate the event(s). Documentation may include the agenda, attendee sign-in sheets, photographs of the event, website posts, and/or educational materials distributed at the event. Applicants must provide information on the role played by the local gov't.	Recommended as the Town already participates in Earth Day, Honey Jar Jubilee, and conducts stormwater education.

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Anticipated Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Local Climate Action Website	9.4	3	<p>Submit a link to at least one webpage that contains the three minimum components: 1) a description of the local government's efforts related to local climate change mitigation and adaptation, 2) how residents and businesses can participate in those efforts, and 3) a summary of actions that residents and businesses in the community can take to reduce their GHG emissions. These components can be on separate webpages.</p> <p>In addition, provide a description of new content that was posted to the website within the past year. If available, also submit any staff training materials, user guides, and/or web policies.</p>	<p>Recommended to apply for points. Esopus already has information on its Town's webpage.</p>
GHG Tracking System	3.31	5	<p>Submit documentation demonstrating that the GHG tracking system is operational (such as a report from the system or a screenshot of the system in use) and contains at least 12 months of GHG data. Submit a copy of the protocols developed by the local gov't for entering GHG data, reporting results, and maintaining the tracking system over time.</p>	<p>Esopus is already tracking GHG emissions with an EPA and NYSEB benchmarking tool.</p>
NYStretch Energy Code	NA	10	<p>Submit a dated copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates completion of the Clean Energy Communities NY-Stretch Energy Code High Impact Action.</p>	<p>Recommended because of the Town's participation in NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities.</p>

## In Progress Actions to Achieve Bronze Level CSC Certification

In Progress CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Government Building Energy Audits	3.1	3.1	Provide copies of the ASHRAE Level-1, Level-2, or Level-3 energy audit report for each building (or group of buildings) where an audit was performed. Be specific as to which type of audit was performed for which building. Audits must have been conducted within seven years prior to the application date. If several buildings were audited, local governments may submit a summary report if it provides the key findings and recommendations for each facility. As background for calculating the percentage of buildings audited, submit a listing of all buildings owned by the local government. If the percentage is based on square footage, include the square footage of each building.	The Town participated in the NYSERDA Flex Tech funding from which was used to upgrade the lighting after auditing.
Interior Lighting Upgrades	3.2	3.2	Increase the % of interior lighting in govt. buildings to be energy-efficient according to a standard set by ASHRAE. Fixtures must exceed ASHRAE 90.1 by at least 3 %. Installation must have been performed within 7 years prior to the application date. Provide the number of existing lighting fixtures upgraded in proportion to total interior fixtures across govt. buildings or use the % of total building portfolio sq. ft. as a proxy for estimating the scope of installations. Points are tiered based on % of lighting exceeding ASHRAE 90.1.	The Town hall building is relatively new, and energy-efficient lighting was applied for Flex Tech funding to implement the upgrades. The contact person for this action was identified.
HVAC Upgrades	3.3	3.3	Install HVAC equipment that is energy-efficient and exceeds the ASHRAE 90.1 Standard by 3%. Installation must be performed within 10 years prior to application date. Provide total building sq. footage across building portfolio, % of building sq. footage covered by HVAC upgrades, location of upgrades, installation date, efficiency and make/model of HVAC equipment installed. Points are tiered based on % of total building portfolio covered by HVAC upgrades.	Esopus has solar that was completed >10 years ago on the Town Hall. However, two new projects are currently in progress (one on landfill), and one is on its way (also at the landfill).

In Progress CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Alternative-fuel Infrastructure	6.11	6.11	<p>The charging/fueling station(s) must be owned or leased by the municipality. The use of external funding is permitted. An electric vehicle charging station must consist of two or more Level 2 charging ports, or one or more direct current (DC) Fast Charge ports. Equipment may be installed any time prior to the application date but must be active at the time of submittal. Submit documentation to demonstrate the implementation of at least one EV charging station or CNGV fueling station. Documentation should include equipment installation date and proof that the station is still active. To obtain the two points for making the charging/fueling station available to the public, describe how/when the station is available for public use.</p>	<p>The Town has a dual port EV charging station. A dual port charging station is worth 4 points. An EV charging station is defined here as either a) a Level 2 station with two charging ports, or b) a direct current (DC) Fast Charge with at least one port.</p>
Natural Resources Inventory	6.17	6.17	<p>Submit a copy of an NRI report completed within the last 10 years. In addition, provide a description of the process followed for development of the NRI, if not described in the report. For full points, also submit a clerk-certified copy of the local law adopting the inventory.</p>	<p>Esopus already created a natural resource inventory and has conducted the riverfront study and will be updating the county's NRI (worth 8 pts), but it still needs to be adopted through local law (2 pts). It is recommended that the NRI be adopted through local law.</p>

## Recommended Policy Actions (2022-2023)

Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?	Suggested Time for Completion
Efficiency	3.1	2-3	Provide a copy of the vehicle efficiency policy that is consistent with the guidelines above. Submit signed documentation of the policy's adoption and enactment by the local government. The policy may have been adopted at any time prior to the application date but the local government must be actively implementing it.	Recommended with fleet inventory and fleet rightsizing actions.	2022-2023
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy	3.24	1-4	Submit documentation of the written policy as well as signed documentation of its adoption by the local government. Additionally, provide reference to and/or a copy of any definitions, specifications, and/or standards referenced in the adopted policy. The policy should have been adopted or updated within the past 5 years of the application date or include specifications that account for the availability of new, more efficient and/or environmentally preferable products.	Recommended given its fit with the Town's goals and current programs.	2022-2023
Renewable Energy Policy	4.1	2-4	Submit a policy that is consistent with the guidelines described above and provide evidence that it was formally adopted by the local government. The policy may have been adopted any time prior to the application date. For full points, also submit the plan or strategy for implementing the policy. The implementation plan can be included in the policy or could be a standalone document. Applicants should also provide information on progress toward meeting their renewable energy targets, if applicable.	The Town already is using solar energy and is planning to add more over the next two years. Recommended to adopt a resolution to increase the use of renewables and develop a plan or strategy for increasing the use of renewables.	2022-2023
Smart Growth	6.2	1-10	Submit a link or copy of the updated zoning or associated policies and an explanation of how the zoning meets the defined smart growth principles. The zoning may have been updated any time in the last 15 years prior to the application date to be eligible for points. For smart growth principles related to municipal decision-making processes (e.g., "encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions") submit an explanation of how this principle has been incorporated into those processes.	Recommended as the Town's waterfront advisory board has been working on this in its part of the objectives and goals in the Town's master comprehensive plan. Every time the planning board approves a contract or permit; it is supposed to look at smart growth principles before approving. So, recommended because policy needs to be written.	2023-2028

Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?	Suggested Time for Completion
for Local Systems	6.7	1-4	The revised zoning ordinance or new policy must be submitted electronically to receive points for this action. Submit a memorandum highlighting the specific sections of the zoning or ordinance that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens, and urban or rural agriculture. These changes may have occurred any time in the last 15 years to be eligible for points.	Recommended given the Town's farmer's markets and other plans for farm to table establishments.	2023-2028
Parking Lot	6.8	1-4	Submit a copy of (or a link to) each zoning code or ordinance that adopts one or more green parking lot policies. Indicate when each policy was adopted; the policies must have been adopted within the past 10 years.	Already have assessments related to parking and stormwater management. Could fit well with the Greenway grant. Could bring in Dennis Doyle to speak to potential for non-motorized transportation. Add to the to-do list to be added to the things for the board to consider in the packet of "Climate-Smart Initiative Policies." The more the Town builds on blacktop, the more runoff, and more flooding so this is likely something that would be well accepted.	2023-2028
Complete Streets	6.9	4	Submit a copy of (or link to) the Complete Streets policy, which must be actively in use at the time of submittal, as well as a copy of the meeting minutes where the policy was formally approved.	Recommended as this could be included in the "Climate Smart Initiative Policies" packet.	2023-2028
Shade Structures	7.8	4	Submit a copy of the policy requiring that development projects on municipally owned properties integrate shade structures. Include evidence that the policy was approved by local elected officials. The policy may have been adopted at any time prior to the application date. If available, also provide any documentation on implementation of the policy and the increase in shade structures in the community.	The Town is putting in three more pavilions. Recommended because of the need for trees or carports/solar canopies with EV charging stations for people to park under.	2023-2028
Freeboard Policies	7.19	4-19	Submit a copy of (or link to) the expanded freeboard policies. Provide an explanation of the types of policies that were implemented and how they correspond to the point tiers in Section E. Provide documentation that the policies were approved by the NYS Codes Council. Show that the policies were adopted within the previous 15 years.	Recommended due to the Town's interest in stormwater management.	2023-2028

## Recommended Actions (not policy) (2022-2023)

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Partnerships with Other Entities	10.3	3	Submit meeting minutes, memorandum of understanding, or a report that explains how the local govt collaborated with neighboring jurisdictions or partner agencies and outcome. The collaboration must have taken place within 3 years prior to the application date or be active. If submitting meeting minutes, local govts should submit documentation for 3 meetings.	Esopus is part of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council known as the “Hudson 7” and Ulster County Climate Smart Committee. In discussions with Esopus, parks, and pump station were identified as an opportunity for upgrades if they are municipal-owned buildings.
Clean Energy Upgrades	NA	10	Submit a dated copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates completion of the Clean Energy Communities Clean Energy Upgrades high-impact action.	This is a NYSERDA CEC High Impact Action. The Town has already participated in the FlexTech program which identifies how best to implement clean energy and/or energy efficiency technology.
Fleet Inventory	NA	4	Submit a copy of a fleet inventory completed within the last two years prior to the date of application. The inventory must include the 11 categories of information listed above and must cover every four-wheeled vehicle owned or operated by the local government. Also provide a copy of the procedures describing when the inventory will be updated, how to do it, and who will do it.	Recommended as Central Hudson offered to do Esopus' fleet inventory assessment. Laura is taking the lead and submitted the form required to complete the inventory.
Fleet Rightsizing	3.11	1-3	Describe the steps taken to reassign and better utilize the fleet and to reduce the total # vehicles. Provide information on how the % reduction was calculated. Provide evidence that the rightsizing was completed within 5yrs prior to application date.	Recommended with fleet inventory and fleet efficiency policy actions

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Energy Code Enforcement Training	NA	5	Submit a dated copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates completion of the Clean Energy Communities Energy Code Enforcement Training high-impact action.	This is a NYSERDA CEC High Impact Action. Mark & Laura will check if at least one code official completed a NYSERDA-approved Energy Code Enforcement Training series. If so, this could be marked as complete. If not, this is recommended.
Organics Management Plan	NA	2-16	Submit an organics management plan, published in the last five years, that includes, at minimum, the following four elements: 1. A record of community engagement 2. The goals of the program 3. A list of the proposed organics management strategies 4. An implementation timeline. Provide documentation the plan was adopted by the municipality and is currently available online for public viewing.	The education part (first categories of points) in this action seems reasonable. The Town composts leaves and yard waste. Town gave out compost bins (~50) after residents participated in a workshop and could potentially do this again.
Recycling Bins in Government Buildings	3.2	3	Submit evidence that the local government has a policy requiring placement of recycling bins wherever there is a trash bin; this can take the form of a resolution, executive memorandum, executive order, or it can be part of an employee handbook. Submit at least one photograph for each type of location (common areas and employee desks in government buildings), as a sample to demonstrate proximity to trash receptacles and accompanying signage. Submit information on the number of trash and recycling bins provided in each of the two categories to demonstrate an approximate match between the two types of bins. If possible, provide procurement records indicating the acquisition of the equivalent number of recycling bins.	The Town already has a recycling program and may just need to be updated to have bins in all government buildings and a policy requiring bins where there is a trash bin. This action would likely require new signage.

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Reuse Programs	5.6	1-7	<p>For each type of reuse program or initiative, please submit the following information. If submitting for multiple tiers, distinct and specific documentation should be submitted for each tier the applicant is applying for. Small scale: A brief description outlining how the program fits under the small-scale tier. Documentation confirming that the program was active within the last two years. Documentation outlining the event (event description, date, time, location, etc.) and types of materials exchanged. Any materials demonstrating outreach and education to the community regarding the event. Where possible, submit metrics identifying the quantity of materials donated, number of residents donating and reusing materials, and GHG emissions avoided. For estimating the avoided GHG emissions, local governments can use the US EPA’s Waste Reduction Model, known as WARM. Medium scale: A brief description outlining how the program fits under the medium scale tier. Documentation confirming that the program was active within the last two years. Documentation outlining rules and regulations for use (location, staffing, hours, a list of accepted materials, condition of accepted materials, etc.). Any materials demonstrating outreach and education to the community regarding the program. Where possible, submit metrics identifying the quantity of materials donated, number of residents donating and reusing materials, and GHG emissions avoided. For estimating the avoided GHG emissions, local governments can use the US EPA’s Waste Reduction Model, known as WARM. Large scale: A brief description outlining how the program fits under the large-scale tier.</p>	<p>This is recommended as the Town hosts pop up events (repair cafe; recommended to apply for the 1-point for the repair cafe and consider other points after bronze certification. Townwide yard sales/clothing reuse events could be explored in the future. The Town could share educational material on reuse.</p>

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
			<p>Documentation confirming that the program was active within the last two years. Documentation outlining rules and regulations for use (location, staffing, hours, a list of accepted materials, condition of accepted materials, etc.). Any materials demonstrating outreach and education to the community regarding the program. Where possible, submit metrics identifying the quantity of materials donated, number of residents donating and reusing materials, and GHG emissions avoided. For estimating the avoided GHG emissions, local governments can use the US EPA’s Waste Reduction Model, known as WARM.</p>	
Recycling Program for Public Places & Events	5.9	2-6	<p>Recycling Program in Public Places: Submit documentation describing the program and confirming that it has been active within the last two years. For a recycling program in public places, details should include when (i.e., the pickup schedule), where (i.e., pickup locations), what is collected, and who (i.e., hauling service or municipal) is picking up the recyclables. Submit educational materials (e.g., signage, brochures) and photographs of a sample of the receptacles to demonstrate any differences in the styles and placement of bins by location should also be submitted. Recycling Program or Policy for Large Events: Submit documentation describing the program and confirming that it has been active within the last two years. Submit details regarding the venues served, the company/service used, protocol for securing and distributing necessary receptacles, and what recyclables are collected. Alternatively, submit a copy of the government policy and supporting materials which outline the requirements for waste</p>	The Town already has a recycling program where they put recycling containers at public places and at events (e.g., food truck festival).

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
			<p>and recycling management practices at events. Show that the policy has been implemented within the last two years. Submit documentation showing that municipal staff worked with concessionaires, staff, and volunteers to ensure they were aware of the recycling program and that they helped to promote it. Documentation can also be submitted to highlight the use of bin monitors. Submit educational materials (e.g., signage, brochures) and photographs of a sample of the receptacles to demonstrate any differences in the styles and placement of bins by location should also be submitted. GHG Emissions Reductions: For at least one of the above types of programs, submit the quantity of recyclables collected, when they were collected, and an estimate of the emissions reductions (in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) that were achieved through implementation of the program. Show how the calculations were done using the US EPA's Waste Reduction Model.</p>	
Waste Reduction Education Campaign	5.13	2	<p>Implement a waste reduction, composting, and/or recycling campaign to educate the public and encourage waste reduction and recycling. Submit a description of the scope of the campaign, including the timeframe, the topics covered, and which audiences in the community were targeted. Provide information regarding attendance at events and copies of the primary outreach materials of the campaign (e.g., website link, flyer). The campaign must have taken place within the past three years.</p>	<p>This is recommended as it aligns with current activities in the Town. The Town's website has recycling facts, information about composting, and a pollinator guide. At the Earth Day event in 2022, Esopus gave out composted bamboo toothbrushes and shared information comparing to conventional toothbrushes.</p>

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Water-smart Landscaping	7.24	1-6	<p>For the outreach tier: Submit copies of educational materials as well as a description of the method of distribution (mailed pamphlets, board presentations, table events, training programs, etc.), dates of distribution, and recipient groups (e.g., public, local boards, staff, etc.). Educational efforts must have occurred within the last five years.</p> <p>For demonstration sites: Submit before and after photos with dates. The installation must have occurred within the last ten years. Provide project address, description, size in square feet. Also submit site plans, if available. For ordinance: Submit copies of (or links to) the adopted ordinance/regulation requiring or incentivizing water-smart landscaping in new commercial/industrial developments. The ordinance/regulation may have been adopted at any time prior to the date of application.</p>	Apply for 1 pt. for outreach. Provide education for the public, local boards, and/or staff about the benefits of water-smart landscaping, conduct rain barrel education and/or distribute rain barrels.
Reduce Solid Waste from Government Operations	12.4	3-10	Submit documentation that describes the three steps involved in this action: the baseline measurement of the solid waste volume, a summary of the actions implemented to reduce solid waste from government operations, and the calculations behind the percentage reduction. These materials should include dates, since points are only eligible for measurements completed over a period of no longer than 10 years prior to the application date.	Recommended as Laura Petit is writing a zero-waste plan that the Town will then hopefully adopt.

## Recommended Actions (2023-2028)

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Green Building Standard for Government Buildings	3.7	2-4	Documentation of the written policy as well as signed documentation of its adoption and enactment by the government official or body authorized to enact such policies. Additionally, local governments should submit a memorandum outlining how the policy has incorporated an existing green building standard directly or incorporated aspects of the standard into the policy. The policy may have been adopted at any time prior to the application date to receive points.	Esopus adopted NY Stretch codes and stakeholders participating in this assessment want to recommend this action. Mark will look for a good example of a resolution (e.g., City of Kingston, New Paltz, Woodstock).
Outdoor Lighting Reduction	3.17	1-4	For one-point, local governments must submit a copy of their outdoor lighting reduction strategy (or similar engineering planning document). The strategy document should include the total number of outdoor light fixtures owned by the local government, identification of opportunities to reduce outdoor lighting, a review of minimum design standards, and feedback from affected residents or businesses. For full points, also provide documentation of the number of fixtures reduced or modifications made to the lighting schedule because of implementing the strategy. Implementation must have taken place within five years prior to the application date.	Recommended that a board member consult with a NYSERDA Clean Energy Coordinator to complete the inventory/come up with the plan which is worth 1 point and then decide on what changes can be made for potential additional points.
Outdoor Lighting Upgrades	3.18	1-4	At minimum, provide the following information: Baseline: As per the inventory, provide the total number of off-street outdoor lights owned by the local government. Percentage converted: Provide the number of off-street outdoor lights that were converted to high-efficiency fixtures (such as LEDs) and/or to solar technology. Documentation should indicate that the updated off-street outdoor lights are actively in use (through photographs or utility bills, for example). Applicants may also provide invoices or purchase orders that indicate the type of lights purchased and the date of purchase. If available, also provide cost and energy savings	This action is recommended depending on the results of the outdoor lighting reduction plan action.

			(estimated or actual) resulting from the conversion. The lights must have been upgraded within ten years prior to the submittal date.	
Waste & Energy Provisions in Government Contracts	3.26	1-3	Submit copies of all relevant specifications included in government contracts. The contracts must be active or executed within one year prior to the application date.	This is recommended as the practice is already happening but may not currently be in contracts.
Heat Pumps	4.5	9-22	Submit a brief description of the heat pump installation(s), including location, installation date, size, specification, or purchase documents, and, if available, estimates of energy savings. Show that the installation is actively in use at the time of applying for CSC certification. Also provide evidence that the systems were designed and installed by qualified professionals, such as those approved by NYSERDA. For each installation, submit one photograph of posted educational signage, a press release, and a description of activities announcing the installation for public education. For three additional points, submit a copy of the approval from NYSERDA indicating completion of the Clean Energy Communities Clean Heating and Cooling Demo high-impact action.	Recommended as Town is looking into heat pumps.
Solar Energy Installation	4.6	9-20	Submit a brief description of the solar installation(s), including nameplate capacity in kW, location, installation date, specification or purchase documents, and, if available, estimates of energy savings. Provide evidence that a qualified installer was employed. Show that the installation is actively in use at the time of application. For each installation, also submit one photograph of posted educational signage and a description of activities announcing the installation for public education.	If solar farms are owned by the municipality and if that energy is supporting government-owned buildings, it is recommended Esopus apply for points under this action.
Power Purchase Agreement for Renewables	4.7	9-20	Local governments should submit a copy of the power purchase agreements that outlines the duration of the contract, energy load and location of the system, and other relevant details. Show that the energy installation(s) are actively in use.	Recommended as the Town is purchasing solar from the solar farm.
County-hosted Trainings	NA	3-15	Submit documentation of approval from NYSERDA for completion of one or more of the trainings that are part of the Clean Energy Communities County-hosted Training high-impact action. Indicate the approximate start and end date of each county training.	Recommended given the Town's involvement with NYSERDA.

Government Solid Waste Audit	3.23	2	The audit must have been completed within five years prior to the application date to be eligible for points under this Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action. Documentation of the methods used to complete the waste audit should be provided along with information about the date and location(s) of the audit. A document or report summarizing the results of the audit should also be provided.	The Town may have participated in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WasteWise Program.
WasteWise Program	5.3	1-2	Local governments should review the EPA WasteWise program requirements and determine if it could be useful to them, and then make a commitment to join. The next step is to select which participation level is most appropriate for staffing levels and waste reduction goals. To participate, local governments can apply online at <a href="https://www.epa.gov/smm/wastewise">https://www.epa.gov/smm/wastewise</a> . Submit evidence of enrollment and active participation in the US EPA WasteWise program over the year prior to CSC application, including current listing as a partner or endorser on the EPA website. For the full points, provide a copy of the local government's annual program report submitted to the WasteWise program, demonstrating how the local government is making progress toward meeting its waste reduction goals.	The Town may already be participating in EPA's Wastewise program.
Policies for Local Food Systems	6.7	1-4	The revised zoning ordinance or new policy must be submitted electronically to receive points for this action. Submit a memorandum highlighting the specific sections of the zoning or ordinance that support or incentivize farmers' markets, community gardens, and urban or rural agriculture. These changes may have occurred any time in the last 15 years to be eligible for points.	Recommended given the Town's farmer's markets and other plans for farm to table establishments.
Planning for Biking & Walking	6.1	3	Submit a copy or web address of the completed plan. If the plan is incorporated into another document, please provide references (including page numbers) where the information can be found. The plan must have been created (or updated) within ten years of the application date and cover the entire geographic area of the municipality to be eligible for points.	Recommended given interest from Town residents in Town Comprehensive Plan. Public input in the Plan: "Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town and establish mountain biking trails." The stakeholders involved in this Assessment discussion were not sure about the bike-share program, but Esopus may be too rural, thought bike racks are in the Town's new floating mixed-use code.

Infrastructure for Biking & Walking	6.1	2-12	Indicate which types of infrastructure have been implemented. Provide photographs, websites, press releases, project plans for installed infrastructure, or other materials that demonstrate implementation of at least one of the four strategies listed above. All strategies must have been implemented within the last 15 years.	Recommended given interest from Town residents in Town Comprehensive Plan. Public input in the Plan: "Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town and establish mountain biking trails." The stakeholders involved in this Assessment discussion were not sure about the bike-share program, but Esopus may be too rural, thought bike racks are in the Town's new floating mixed-use code.
Access to Public Transit	6.12	1-9	Indicate which strategies you are seeking points for and submit documentation for each strategy that has been implemented. Show that these strategies have been implemented or utilized within the last 10 years. Documentation should include shuttle website and schedules, funding source and photographs of upgraded sidewalks or bikeways, funding source and photographs of bike and car parking near bus stops, specific incentives provided to riders, incentives provided to employees and the employer(s) that offer those incentives, tiered rate structure for transit fares, and any partnerships with regional transit agencies or neighboring communities.	Recommended as stakeholders involved in this Assessment discussion think 6 points is possible. However, Esopus is unlikely to "develop shuttle system to trains and/or buses." Stakeholders discussed the possibility of Caslandy adding a bus stop, especially if a bike rack was added to that stop. There is another bus stop in Port Ewen on W. Main and there is a stop at BOCES. It would be nice if there could be a bus stop farther down (e.g., West Park) that would help with environmental justice, increasing access to communities that currently lack access. The Town could also approach UCAT about a stop on 9W. The Town could at minimum advertise the transportation system and make residents aware of it.
Local Forestry Program	6.18	1-10	Submit the completed tree inventory, adopted tree preservation ordinance, documentation of a large-scale planting project, and/or documentation of participation in one of the state's forestry programs and/or in Tree City USA. All strategies must have been completed within 10 years of the application date.	This is recommended given the Town's interest in natural resources. The Town could obtain funding through the NYS DEC Community Forest Conservation Grant Program and/or NYS DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants.

Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas	6.19	2-6	Submit a copy of (or a link to) the zoning amendment, ordinance, or other regulation that protects natural areas. Show that the regulation was implemented (or updated) within the last 15 years. For the additional two-point tier, describe how the regulation protects an area that was identified in a natural resource inventory, open space plan, or similar planning document.	Recommend because the Town's Open Space Plan (in-progress) has historic areas, Black Creek, federal and state wetlands.
Conserve Natural Areas	7.13	1-21	For the open space plan, submit a copy of the plan or provide the web address. Also submit a copy of the meeting minutes where the plan was formally adopted by the local government. For the conservation finance feasibility study, submit a copy of the study or provide the web address. For the conservation finance mechanism, submit a copy of ballot measure language and official election results from an open space bond, property tax, or real estate transfer tax passed. For the finance measure, submit a description of the measure, a copy of ballot measure language and official election results from an open space bond, property tax, or real estate transfer tax passed. Show that the finance mechanism is actively in use. For the protection of natural areas, submit a copy of the meeting minutes where the expenditure toward a land protection project was approved by the local governing body, a map showing the property protected with tax parcel ID, size of the property in acres, and a copy of the deed. Where applicable, also submit a copy of the recorded conservation easement demonstrating the acreage that is permanently protected under easement.	Recommended the town apply for 4-pts for the Open Space Plan after that is formally adopted by the local government. The conservation finance mechanism is also recommended in the future but not immediately until after submission for bronze.
Watershed-based Flood Mitigation Plan	7.1	2-5	Submit a copy of (or a web link to) a watershed-based flood mitigation plan. The plan should clearly demonstrate consideration of current and future conditions, community engagement, field work, hydrologic/hydraulic assessment, and flood mitigation strategies. Specify and illustrate whether the assessment covers 50 to 74%, or 75% or more of the community area. The plan must have been created or revised within ten years from the application date.	Recommended due to the Town's interest in stormwater management.

Design Flood Elevation & Flood Maps	7.2	2-14	<p>Training: Submit documentation of staff training sessions, including dates, name of attendees, and resources utilized, completed within the previous 5 years.</p> <p>Increased DFE: Submit a copy of (or link to) the updated zoning law demonstrating the increase in DFE. Show that it was completed within the previous 15 years. Provide an explanation of the method used to create the increased DFE and how it corresponds to the point tiers in Section E.</p> <p>Updated flood maps: Submit a copy of (or link to) the amended flood hazard areas map. Show that the update was completed within the previous 15 years. Provide an explanation of the method used to create the map and how it corresponds to the point tiers in Section E.</p>	Recommended due to the Town's interest in stormwater management.
Green Infrastructure	7.16	1-14	<p>For plans, policy changes, and/or feasibility studies, submit copies of them (or the web addresses where they can be found online). If trainings were completed, submit the names and titles of the staff that attended and documentation describing the scope, date, and length of the training.</p> <p>For NGICP support, show that NGICP-certified community members were used in implementing a project and/or submit maintenance plans that require the use of NGICP-certified community members for installation, inspection, and/or maintenance.</p> <p>For implementation of green infrastructure projects, provide before and after photos, in addition to evidence of project design, a maintenance plan, and the estimated amount of water treated or captured.</p>	Recommended to apply for 1 pt. to complete at least two hours of green infrastructure training for 50% or more of community's code enforcement officers, MS4 stormwater officers, engineers, and zoning and planning board members.
Water Conservation & Reuse	7.23	2-6	<p>Community outreach: Submit examples of how, what and when education materials were shared with the community and/or demonstrate participation in the WaterSense program by submitting proof of partnership (e.g., your listing on EPA's WaterSense Partners Directory) and the most recent annual data submitted to the program.</p> <p>Program for government facilities or the community: Submit a summary of the program with evidence of one or more water conservation strategies implemented.</p>	Recommended given the Town's interest in water conservation.

Incentives for Green Businesses	8.9	4	Documentation should be submitted on the incentives established, including any policies or ordinances adopted as well as the criteria used to determine applicability of such incentives. Incentives for green industry may have been established any time prior to the application date and must be actively in use.	Add this to the policy document for consideration, seems to fit well with the buy local/green campaign.
Social Media	9.5	3	Submit the website address of at least one social media account managed by the local govt. Demonstrate how the accounts have been used to support clean energy and climate initiatives. New content must have been posted within one year prior to application date. If applicable, local governments should submit their social media guidelines as well.	Recommended as Esopus already has information on the Town's webpage and an active social media page that could be utilized.

## Recommended Actions (2028-2033)

CSC Action Name	Legacy Action Number	Possible Points	How to Obtain Points and What to Submit	Why this Action?
Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements	6.1	3-21	<p>Submit the following documentation to apply for points for this action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A copy of the approved comprehensive plan with sustainability elements, adopted within ten years prior to the application date</li> <li>2. A copy of the meeting minutes where the plan was formally approved by the local governing body, or where the amendments were approved</li> <li>3. A memorandum explaining how the plan reflects the sustainability elements, including the specific page numbers where the relevant information can be found (The memorandum should provide details on all of the required sustainability elements and any elements for which points are being requested. It should also note the page number(s) in the plan where the required public outreach description can be found.)</li> </ol>	<p>Recommended the Town include the following in its comprehensive plan to earn points: Support alternative modes of transportation (including strategies for bicycles, pedestrians, public transit, and electric vehicles), Promote smart growth principles in land-use policies, Conserve natural areas, promote a healthy and safe community, and foster equity (including strategies for housing, schools, transportation, recreation, food, and environmental exposures). These are all required for this action. Additionally, the Town should consider including in its comprehensive plan: fostering green economic development, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels and support energy efficiency and renewable energy production, fostering the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., water conservation), promoting the development of (or the conservation of) local food systems, minimizing solid waste (including strategies to promote recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion of organic materials), protecting drinking water sources from pollution, and promoting adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement).</p>

## General Funding Sources for Implementing Recommended CSC Actions

- NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Grant Program: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html>
- NYSDEC Grant Applications: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html>
- NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program Grants: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html>
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>
- FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (formerly Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program): <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>
- FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>
- NYS Department of State Grants (including Local Waterfront Revitalization Program): <https://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/>
- NYS Greenway Compact Program Grants: <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>
- NYSDEC Environmental Protection Fund Grants: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html>
- NYS Public Service Commission Clean Energy Fund: <https://www.energy.gov/savings/search?keyword=NYP&>
- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Apply-for-Grants>