



Climate Showcase Communities
Local Climate and Energy Program

In 2009, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a competitive grant program to assist local and tribal governments in establishing and implementing climate change initiatives.

The overall goal of the Climate Showcase Communities grant program is to create replicable models of sustainable community action that generate cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions while improving the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in a community.

Programs and policies to mitigate climate change and advance clean energy—energy efficiency, renewable energy, and combined heat and power—can provide multiple benefits to state and local governments and their constituents including:

- Increase energy security and reliability
- Reduce air pollution
- Promote economic development
- Improve public health and quality of life

Local governments grapple with tightening budgets, but nearly one-third of the energy used to run typical government buildings can be conserved.

Energy Management

The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) **Energy Management program** provides a comprehensive range of services related to energy planning and development within Central New York including:

Municipal Energy Planning

The CNY RPDB assists local governments with accessing funding and technical assistance through state and federal agencies and offers services including inventorying energy use; implementing energy reduction strategies, clean energy projects, and policies to support renewable energy technologies.

Project Development

The CNY RPDB manages the clean energy project development process for municipal

and institutional energy users, including identifying project opportunities, leading feasibility studies, securing funding, and working with technology providers.

Public Education and Outreach

The CNY RPDB educates the public about the benefits of clean energy and promotes participation in utility and public programs. We conduct customized informational workshops residential, commercial, municipal, and institutional energy users.

The CNY RPDB is a public agency that was established in 1966 by Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties under the provisions of Article 12B of the New York State General Municipal Law.

For more information contact:

Central New York
Regional Planning and Development Board
126 N. Salina Street
100 Clinton Square, Suite 200
Syracuse, New York 13202
315.422.8276
315.422.9051 fax
www.cnyrpd.org

energy management



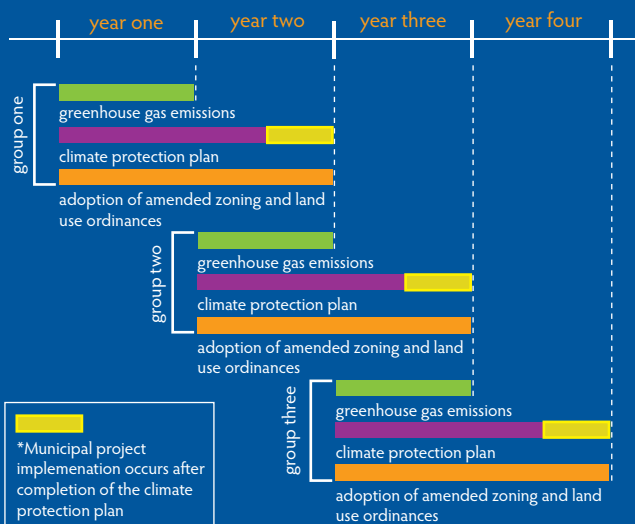
Fostering sustainable community action that generates cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions while improving the environmental, economic, public health, and social conditions in our communities.

The Central New York Climate Change Innovation Program

Governments can lead by example by implementing programs within their own buildings and operations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy and money.



Project Timeline



The Problem

Despite remaining unanswered questions, the scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify taking steps to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Because carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases can remain in the atmosphere for many decades, centuries, or longer, the climate change impacts from greenhouse gases emitted today will likely continue well beyond the 21st century.

At the present time there is no single solution that can eliminate future warming. Personal, national, and international choices have

an impact; for example driving less, regulating emissions, and clean energy technologies would all help reduce emissions.

Municipal Action

Local governments have an important role to play in advancing clean energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Governments can lead by example by implementing programs within their own buildings and operations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy and money. They can also implement policies to increase clean energy and reduce greenhouse gases across numerous areas.



Program Overview

Over the next **three years** the CNY RPDB will provide **technical assistance** and **financial incentives** to nine Central New York local governments to:

- improve energy performance in local government operations; and
- remove barriers for greenhouse gas management and the reduction of vehicle miles traveled through the development of effective local government programs, policies, and outreach in the areas of land use, transportation, and community master planning.

Local governments that receive grants will be **required to quantify and report greenhouse gas emissions inventories and to develop an overall climate protection plan.**

To help local governments, the CNY RPDB will conduct outreach and provide training to local government staff, as well as financial assistance in the form of sub-grants in the amount of \$1,000 to subscribe to ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability's "Clean Air Climate Protection" (CACP) emissions management software.

Local governments that receive grants **must also commit to become a pledge driver for the US EPA's "Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR" pledge campaign.** The CNY RPDB will provide technical assistance for local government staff and officials to develop effective public education materials, events and programs to support this effort.

Program Awards

Municipalities will be **required** to attend a **program workshop** in order to be eligible to participate in the program.

Grantees will receive up to \$30,000 for projects to retrofit their municipal facilities or upgrade their municipal vehicle fleets and make them more energy efficient.

The CNY RPDB will select local governments through a competitive process. Projects must provide ongoing annual reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases and additional environmental, behavioral, health, social, or programmatic outcomes.

The CNY RPDB will reserve one of the three sub-grants in

each program year for a local government representing a population of less than 10,000 citizens.

Additionally, the CNY RPDB will assign priority to counties designated by the NYS DEC as potential environmental justice areas.