



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY  
NEW YORK

Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938  
Office: (518) 382-5000  
Cell: (518) 424-0483  
[gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov)

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### PRESS RELEASE

## City of Schenectady Earns State Recognition for Local Climate Action and Clean Energy Leadership

City of Schenectady designated Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA and certified Climate Smart Community by DEC

City of Schenectady leads Capital Region with 2,100 points in new Clean Energy Community Leadership Round

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Gary McCarthy announced that the City of Schenectady has been recognized by the State of New York for local climate action and clean energy leadership. The City of Schenectady was designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The City also recently received Climate Smart Community [certification](#) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in January 2021, the second phase of the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) initiative, the \$17 million CEC Leadership Round supports and recognizes local government leaders across the state by providing grants to eligible municipalities to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in their communities. Achievements by Clean Energy Communities help support Governor Cuomo's nation-leading climate and clean energy goals as outlined under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

The City of Schenectady received the CEC designation for completing four high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. To date, the City of Schenectady has completed seven high-impact actions and leads the Capital Region in the new CEC Leadership Round [point-based system](#) with 2,100 points. These high-impact action items include the City's electric vehicle fleet, LED streetlights, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing, municipal solar arrays, and Climate Smart Community certification.

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification program was launched in 2014 to document and celebrate the accomplishments of communities taking climate action. The City of Schenectady received certification by completing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory to calculate emissions at the local level, and the City's CSC Task Force completed a [Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan](#).

“The City of Schenectady has a proud and rich history of innovation,” **Mayor Gary McCarthy said**. “In this spirit, it is critical that we build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently and sustainably to strengthen our community and our environment for future generations to come. We are proud to receive this recognition and thank NYSERDA and DEC for their support of our local actions to lead the way on climate.”

“Municipal leadership in the fight against climate change creates a more sustainable future that benefits residents and businesses alike and strong community engagement creates a compelling wave of participation that inspires more residents to embrace cleaner, greener energy and transportation options,” **Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO, NYSERDA, said**. “As part of the State's clean energy and climate plan, our collaborative efforts are spurring long-term change that provides New Yorkers with options to lower their carbon footprint in the heart of where they live and work each day.”

“DEC applauds the work of communities like Schenectady who are helping address the climate crisis by acting locally and bolstering New York State’s climate leadership by doing so,” **DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said.** “We look forward to working with Climate Smart Communities and other local leaders who are incorporating clean energy, climate resiliency, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, among other actions, in plans that benefit local residents and New York State.”

In 2018, the City of Schenectady received national recognition by [placing first](#) in the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Awards for energy and climate protection efforts, increased energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy, and reducing carbon emissions.

For more information on Clean Energy Communities, visit [www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec). For more information on Climate Smart Communities, visit the [DEC’s website](#).