

# Climate Smart Communities Pledge

## Summary Text

The Climate Smart Communities Pledge contains all the elements of a successful local climate program.

To become a recognized Climate Smart Community, the municipality's governing body must adopt a resolution that explicitly includes all ten elements of the **Pledge**. Additional pledge elements or legislative findings may be added. The required ten elements of the Pledge are as follows:

1. **Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.**
2. **Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action.**
3. **Decrease community energy use.**
4. **Increase community use of renewable energy.**
5. **Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.**
6. **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.**
7. **Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.**
8. **Support development of a green innovation economy.**
9. **Inform and inspire the public.**
10. **Commit to an evolving process of climate action.**

## Model Resolution for Community Adoption

Council member \_\_\_\_\_ moved and Council member \_\_\_\_\_ seconded that:

*WHEREAS, the Town/Village/City/County of \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and*

*WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and*

*WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and*

*WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still*

*be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,*

*IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town/Village/City/County of \_\_\_\_\_, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:*

1. Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.
2. Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action.
3. Decrease community energy use.
4. Increase community use of renewable energy.
5. Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.
6. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.
7. Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.
8. Support development of a green innovation economy.
9. Inform and inspire the public.
10. Commit to an evolving process of climate action.