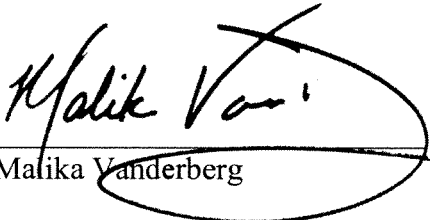


STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing Resolution, Resolution No. 154 - 2015, with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole, of said original Resolution, which was duly adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, of said County on December 14, 2015.

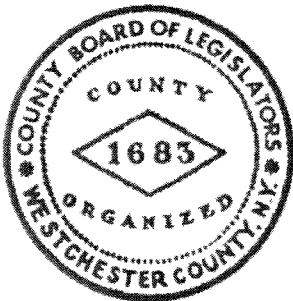
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of said County Board of Legislators on this 14th day of December, 2015.



Malika Vanderberg

Acting Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators

County of Westchester, New York



Res 154-2015

WHEREAS, given the predicate of climate change, the effects of climate change will endanger Westchester County's infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, climate change will 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, the Climate Smart Community Pledge 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 infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the scale of greenhouse gas emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will necessitate sustained and substantial effort; and

WHEREAS, even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, Westchester County would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Westchester County Board of Legislators hereby believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Westchester County Board of Legislators, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, supports the New York State Climate Smart Community 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators shall forward copies of this resolution to all the cities, towns and villages throughout Westchester County, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Climate Change, and all those deemed necessary and proper.

Date:

November 23, 2015

20 P. 127

Cathy for

Alon Goh
Cather Park

Budget & Appropriations

Environment & Energy

MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Catherine Parker, Chair, Committee on Environment & Energy

From: Christopher Crane, Legislative Advisor

Date: November 20, 2015

**Subject: Summary of Fiscal Impacts and Description of Implementation;
Climate Smart Communities Pledge for Westchester County**

This memorandum summarizes fiscal impacts and describes the implementation of a Climate Smart Communities Pledge (“CSC Pledge”) by Westchester County, currently being considered by the County Board.

Summary of Fiscal Impacts

The County’s initial adoption of the CSC Pledge does not have a fiscal impact. Westchester County is not bound by the CSC Pledge, and the scope and pace of the County’s actions are entirely decided by the County. Participation in the program is free and voluntary.

The CSC program guides communities to use existing resources in a thoughtful manner to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resiliency. The implementation of climate-smart projects associated with the CSC pledge can generate significant financial savings from efficiencies achieved in the areas of energy, water, and solid waste.

The County’s implementation of the pledge elements, priority actions, and other actions will require operating and capital expenditures. As shown below, Westchester County has already attained substantial progress in completing the CSC Pledge elements. The County’s significant efforts so far, as well as its current programs, offset the operating and capital costs that would be associated with starting a new program.

Operating costs for county staff should not increase much above existing levels. Most County departments already have professional staff that are knowledgeable about climate change and that incorporate sustainable practices and climate adaptation into their job functions and department programs. Notable departments with this expertise are the Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Environmental Facilities, Department of Information Technology, Department of Planning, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, and Department of Public Works and Transportation. Some pledge actions may require assistance by private consultants and vendors, but the bulk of work can be, and is being, performed by existing County staff. Operating costs can be further minimized through economies of scale by collaborating with the many other Climate Smart Community municipalities in Westchester and the Hudson Valley region, Sustainable Westchester, and non-profit organizations. If the County pursues

formal certification from New York State for its program, then staff time will be needed to prepare the County's application and provide documentation of the County's actions.

Capital outlays are required for new energy-efficient buildings and equipment, stormwater mitigation, and hardening County infrastructure from flooding and storm surges. The current County capital program has appropriations for these types of projects. As it has in the past, the County can realize savings in design and construction on some of the projects, through the County's agreement with the New York Power Authority. The incorporation of green building principles or similar criteria will reduce building energy requirements and lower fossil fuel energy consumption and its related greenhouse gas emissions. This will result in energy savings over time, thus reducing operating costs. Stormwater management projects can include emerging physical trends (e.g., water level rise or larger runoff volumes) in project development and construction. Capital costs and benefits for such projects would be evaluated upon individual project review.

Climate Smart Communities ("CSC") Overview

The CSC Pledge by municipalities seeks the furtherance of projects and initiatives by local government and within the local community to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.¹ Towards this end, the CSC pledge contains 10 elements that municipalities pledge to implement. Once a municipality has demonstrated progress in completing these elements, the municipality may obtain a certification by New York State. The certification is structured similar to the U.S. Green Building Council LEED certification system, with categories of 'Certified', 'Bronze', 'Silver,' and 'Gold'. Municipalities that adopt the pledge (aka Climate Smart Communities or "CSCs") and that go on to obtain certification can receive preference in applications for grant funds, such as the NYSERDA Cleaner, Greener Communities funds.² NYSERDA instituted a three year program (2012-2015) to fund several regional coordinators to assist CSCs in developing and implementing climate action plans. Technical support is expected to continue in Spring 2016 under the NYS Community Partnership. Presently, twenty-nine (29) municipalities in Westchester County have resolved to become CSCs.³

CSC Pledge Elements

There are 10 elements in the CSC Pledge that each municipality adopts. A municipality demonstrates implementation of each pledge element through its actions. Westchester County has performed many actions towards these pledge elements. The following table lists the 10 pledge elements, as well as actions undertaken by Westchester County.⁴

¹ See NYSDEC web portal at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html> .

² Three rounds of funding with a total of \$90 million in potential funding available. See <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Cleaner-Greener-Communities/Implementing-Smart-Development-Projects>

³ See <http://www.midhudsoncsc.org/communities.html> .

⁴ The listed actions are categorized using the CSC Certification Manual, available at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/certman.pdf .

Pledge No.	Pledge Element	Actions by Westchester County
1	Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resolution is before BOL committees.
2	Set goals, inventory emissions, plan for climate action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County completed the 2008 Westchester Action Plan for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (“2008 Action Plan”) for county government, local governments, businesses, schools, and households.⁵ • The 2008 Action Plan contained reduction targets of 20% base year 2005 GHG emissions by 2015 and 80% by 2050. • Completed a greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions inventory for government operations.
3	Decrease community energy use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westchester County has conducted an energy audit of 68 County facilities. • Installed a building management system for 50 County facilities. • Substantially funded the Gateway Center, a new green building at Westchester Community College. • Adopted fuel efficiency standards for County vehicle fleet.⁶ • Utilizing LED technology in new streetlights.
4	Increase community use of renewable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County has conducted feasibility studies for renewable energy installations. • Installed solar photovoltaic panels at County facilities.⁷
5	Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County operates a household hazardous waste materials recycling facility for County residents. • Supports reduction of food waste through recovery and redistribution of food, composting food waste, and job-training.⁸ • Facilitates composting of yard waste for participating district municipalities. • Operates Materials Recovery Facility for recyclables from district municipalities.

⁵ The 2008 Action Plan is available at <http://climatechange.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/GblWrmAction2008FINAL.pdf> .

⁶ Local Law No. 4-2015, available at https://www.municode.com/library/ny/westchester_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTVIIRUREDEENFA_CH836PUSAEQSU_S836.42MOVE .

⁷ Solar PV panels are located at the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant, Laboratory building (Grasslands), Low-Rise building, and DES Support building.

⁸ See <http://environment.westchestergov.com/residents/food-waste> .

Pledge No.	Pledge Element	Actions by Westchester County
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides building space for privately-operated Furniture Sharehouse, exchange for household furniture.⁹
6	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated regional land use plan to include sustainable policies.¹⁰ • Host county agricultural district to support local agriculture.¹¹ • Adopted a Complete Streets policy.¹² • Obtained approval for Westchester County Greenway Compact Plan, The Greenprint for a Sustainable Future.¹³ • Adopted anti-idling law.
7	Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westchester County completed a countywide multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan, which has been submitted to FEMA and NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for approval.¹⁴ • In 2011, the County enacted a stormwater management law, leading to the development of regional stormwater advisory boards. The County has developed regional stormwater reconnaissance plans to plan for flood mitigation within each major watershed.¹⁵ • The County capital plan includes several projects to incorporate storm hardening and resiliency into County facilities.
8	Support development of a green innovation economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded green jobs training at Workforce Investment Board.¹⁶ • Promote sustainable practices in the private-sector through the Westchester Green Business Challenge.¹⁷

⁹ See <http://furnituresharehouse.org/>.

¹⁰ See Context for County and Municipal Planning in Westchester County and Policies to Guide County Planning (2008, amended 2010), available at http://westchester2025.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/context2025_policies.pdf

¹¹ See <http://planning.westchestergov.com/agriculture-and-farmland>.

¹² Act 2013-170, available at http://westchestercountyny.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?&ID=6419.

¹³ See <http://planning.westchestergov.com/land-use-development/greenway-compact/sustainable-future-greenprint>.

¹⁴ See <http://planning.westchestergov.com/hazard-mitigation-planning> for information and access to draft plan.

¹⁵ See <http://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/flooding-and-recon-plans>.

¹⁶ See <http://westchesterputnamonestop.com/employer/business-sector-partnerships/green-sector>.

Pledge No.	Pledge Element	Actions by Westchester County
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided QECCB bonds to support PACE financing of commercial buildings through funding Energy Improvement Corporation.
9	Inform and inspire the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support energy reduction through the Westchester Green Business Challenge.¹⁸
10	Commit to an evolving process of climate action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with other communities in Hudson Valley Regional Council on materials management and other subjects. • Participated in and supported the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Sustainability Plan.¹⁹

The Mid-Hudson regional coordinators have met with almost all of the Westchester CSCs and produced a profile of CSC progress in completing the 10 pledge elements.²⁰ Many of the Westchester CSCs have completed a majority of the 10 elements through their actions.²¹

Priority Actions

The Certification Manual lists numerous action items that are part of the 10 elements, and for which CSCs may obtain points. Certain actions items, “Priority Actions”, must be completed to obtain certification. The table below lists the Priority Actions required for Silver or Gold level certification, as well as the measures completed or initiated by Westchester County.²²

Action No.	Priority Action	Priority Actions by Westchester County or Communities
1.1	Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge	A resolution is before BOL committees.
1.2	Create a community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	A Westchester County Climate Advisory Council was created after issuance of the 2008 Action Plan, but this group no longer meets. Sustainable Westchester has emerged as a municipal collaboration on sustainable initiatives.
1.3	Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator	A potential coordinator is the Energy Conservation and Sustainability (“ECS”) Director. In 2015, the

¹⁷ See <http://climatechange.westchestergov.com/wgbc-main> .

¹⁸ See, Id.

¹⁹ WCBOL Resolution 2013-15, available at http://westchestercountyny.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?&ID=5899 .

²⁰ See <http://www.midhudsoncsc.org/communities.html>, showing profiles for each CSC community [updated in 2015].

²¹ Id.

²² Certified- level certification requires completion of Priority Actions 1.1, 1.3, and 4 other priority actions. Bronze-level certification requires completion of Priority Actions 1.1, 1.3, and 6 other priority actions.

Action No.	Priority Action	Priority Actions by Westchester County or Communities
		Westchester County Office of Energy Conservation was created, headed by the ECS Director. The ECS Director has the power and duty to recommend sustainability, utility management and energy conservation policies.
1.4	Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation	Knowledgeable department staff (e.g., DPWT, Planning, DEF, etc.) should be available to perform these functions. Departments are already incorporating resiliency and energy efficiency into capital projects.
2.1	Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory	The EECBG grant award included funds for developing a GHG emissions inventory for County government. A County government operations GHG emissions inventory has since been completed.
2.2	Establish a government operations emissions reduction target	The 2008 Action Plan set an overall reduction target of 20% of year 2005 GHG emission by year 2015 and 80% reduction by year 2050. BOL Resolution No. 149-2008 adopted these targets.
2.3	Develop a community GHG emissions inventory	The 2008 Action Plan reported county-wide GHG emissions of 12,954,000 tons CO ₂ e for base year 2005 (community and government emissions). This equals 11,751,671 metric tons CO ₂ e. The Mid-Hudson Regional GHG emissions inventory reports 9,417,199 metric tons CO ₂ e for base year 2010 for Westchester County.
2.4	Establish a community emissions reduction target	The 2008 Action Plan set an overall reduction target of 20% of year 2005 GHG emission by year 2015 and 80% reduction by year 2050. BOL Resolution No. 149-2008 adopted these targets.
2.5	Develop a government operations climate action plan	The 2008 Action Plan provides short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions for County government to pursue in the following areas: energy, transportation, land use, water resources, waste, and green purchasing.
2.6	Develop a community climate action plan	The 2008 Action Plan provides short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions for municipal governments, businesses, schools, and households to pursue in the following areas: energy, transportation, land use, water resources, waste, and green purchasing.
3.1	Conduct energy audits of local government buildings	The EECBG grant award included funds for conducting energy audits of County facilities. ASHRAE Level 1 energy audits have been completed at 68 County facilities. In addition, several targeted energy-efficiency studies were conducted.
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment	In 2015, Westchester County completed a countywide multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan, which has been submitted to FEMA and NYS Division of

Action No.	Priority Action	Priority Actions by Westchester County or Communities
		Homeland Security and Emergency Services for approval. ²³ The plan includes sections related to climate-induced vulnerability, such as flooding, severe storms, and extreme temperatures.
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies as well as policies or projects that may increase vulnerability	The countywide hazard mitigation plan identifies initiatives to mitigate hazards from climate change, including from coastal flooding, storm surges, and severe storms.

Conclusion

Westchester County has taken significant steps to achieving the 10 elements in the CSC Pledge. The principles of the pledge elements are found in many existing County policies and programs. As such, the County should be able to achieve certification as a Climate Smart Community without significant operating or capital expenditures above those for existing County programs.

²³ See <http://planning.westchestergov.com/hazard-mitigation-planning> for information and access to draft plan.