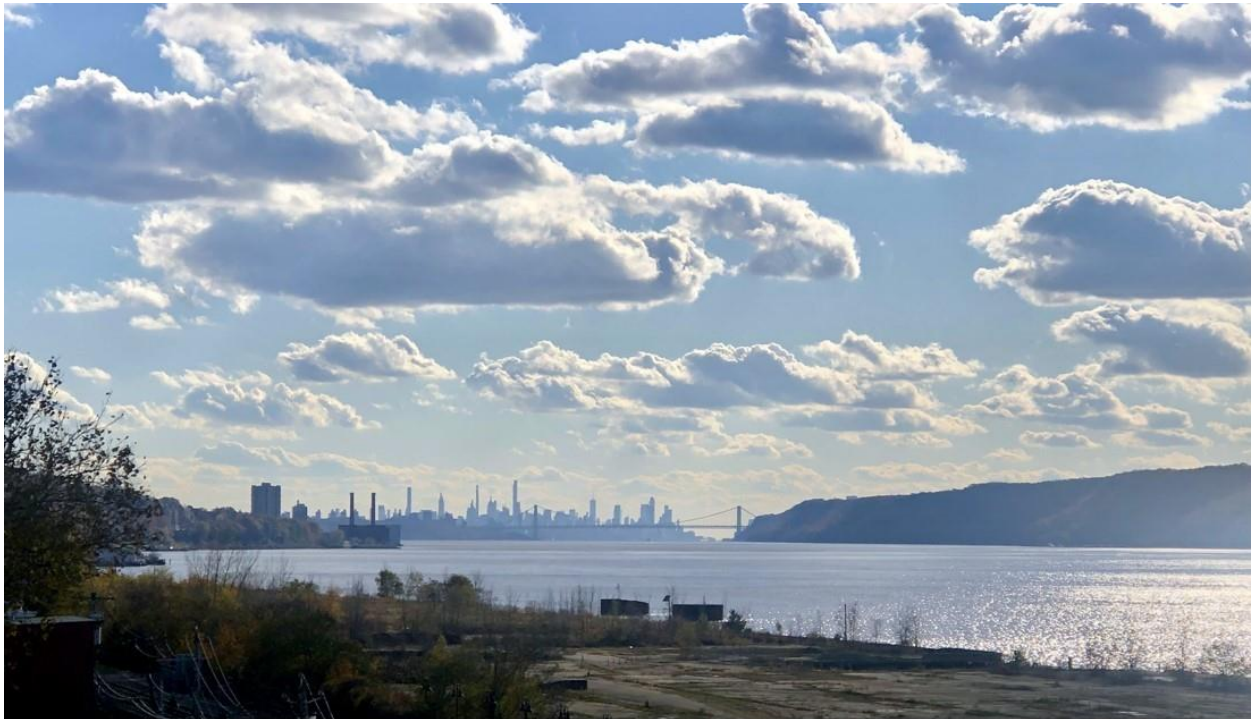


**Climate Smart Communities  
Draft Annual Progress Report 2021  
Hastings-on-Hastings**



*Photo Credit: Linda Loeb, 2021*

***Produced by the  
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson***

**Village of Hastings-on-Hudson  
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# Background

## Climate Smart Communities Program

The New York State Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is an interagency initiative launched in 2009 that encourages local communities to take action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The CSC program is jointly sponsored by six New York State agencies: the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); the Department of Public Service; the Department of State; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Health; and the New York Power Authority (NYPA). DEC acts as the main administrator of the program.

The original focus of the program was on encouraging local governments to commit to acting on climate change by passing a resolution containing the 10-point CSC Pledge. The certification program, announced in 2014, was the next step in the evolution of the program and provides specific guidance on how to implement the CSC pledge. In order to be designated a Certified Climate Smart Community, a municipality must go beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting a number of actions that result in climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level. The CSC program provides a framework for implementing these climate-smart actions and recognizes communities for their accomplishments through a rating system leading to three award levels: bronze, silver, and gold (the gold level is currently under development).

There are numerous benefits for a municipality that becomes CSC-certified. Certification actions generate cost reductions; result in ecological restoration and climate change adaptation; improve public health and environmental quality; foster energy efficiency and independence; and ultimately improve the sustainability and resiliency of a community. In addition to the advantages of the actions themselves, CSC-certified communities receive better scores on certain state grant applications, state-level recognition for their leadership, and access to a network of other certified communities, resources, training, tools, and expert guidance. CSC status can also be a factor taken under consideration by rating agencies such as Moody's as evidence of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) compliance.

Hastings-on-Hudson was designated by New York State as a Climate Smart Community in 2010, with the goal of mitigating and adapting to climate change and reducing its carbon footprint. The Village secured Bronze level certification in March 2020 (213 points from 39 actions) and Silver certification in September 2020 (340 points from 56 actions). In July 2021, we resubmitted for Silver status and in September of this year, we were awarded 440 points from 69 completed actions. As of year-end 2021, we are the highest-ranking CSC in New York State.

This report documents the achievements by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, its municipal staff, its various Boards and Commissions and its residents under each of the major CSC action areas from January to December 2021. This is the village's second Annual Report (the 2020 report can be found [HERE](#)). Key actions to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) undertaken in 2021 were the creation of a Community Operations GHG Inventory, planning efforts for a Climate Action Plan and declaring a climate emergency (see [HERE](#)).

# Climate Smart Communities Actions

During 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson submitted documentation under the CSC program to update its silver certification (July 2021), as such, this Annual Report will document actions that were accomplished or updated in 2021. The Annual Report describes results achieved and implementation status, with reference to new funding where relevant.

## 1. Build a Climate-Smart Community

**Reaffirmation of CSC Task Force and CSC Coordinators:** In October of 2021, the Village passed a resolution reaffirming the status of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force and reaffirming the Village Manager and her Assistant as CSC Coordinators.

**National/Regional Climate Program:** In 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson reaffirmed its membership in ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (USA), as well as other global and national climate programs including the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, We Are Still In (USA), and Climate Mayors (USA). Hastings-on-Hudson is also a member of two regional climate programs: NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities and Sustainable Westchester. As an example, ICLEI provided valuable assistance to the Village in creating the Community Operations GHG Inventory and is supporting the village in creating a Climate Action Plan.

**Partnerships with Other Entities:** In 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson partnered with Sustainable Westchester on campaigns related to Community Solar, EnergySmart Homes and Electric Vehicles (see [HERE](#)). In addition, the Village worked with Sustainable Westchester and the Villages of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Irvington on a joint Demand Response GridRewards™ program to reduce energy usage during peak times. The GridRewards campaign is described in detail in section 9 “Energy Reduction Campaign” later in this report.

## 2. Inventory Emissions, Set Goals, and Plan for Climate Action

**Community GHG Inventories:** In June 2021, the Village produced a *2019 Inventory of Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions* using the ICLEI Clear Path Tool (see [HERE](#)). The key findings were that transportation and mobile sources are the largest contributors to GHGs, accounting for 49% of emissions, followed by commercial energy with 31% of emissions and residential energy with 18% of emissions, and finally solid waste and water & wastewater were responsible for the remaining 2% of emissions. In 2019, community-wide GHG emissions for Hastings-on-Hudson totaled 65,475 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e). The Village has already identified a number of actions it has taken that will reduce GHGs, including adopting the New York Stretch Energy Code and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). This GHG inventory will be a critical input for the Climate Action Plan and, moving forward, the Village plans to identify additional reduction strategies as part of its Climate Action Plan.

## 3. Decrease Energy Use

**Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings:** In 2021, the Village produced a 2020 Energy Benchmarking Report which is posted on the Village website as required under the law (see [HERE](#)). The most recent report indicates that while there have been some improvements, most notably with the Library, energy efficiency investments in several areas of government

operations have the potential to substantially reduce both costs and GHGs. Benchmarking also serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action and during 2021, the Village completed “Advanced Benchmarking” under the CEC program.

**LED Street Lights and Traffic Lights:** Prior to 2021, the Village converted all of its cobra head street lights to LEDs and in 2021, the Village installed LEDs in 45 out of 88 decorative street lights, representing 51% of decorative street lights. The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson owns and operates two traffic lights, and one illuminated school speed zone sign. The total number of light bulbs in these traffic signals is 22 light bulbs. In October 2019, 13 of the 22 light bulbs were replaced with LED bulbs, which will result in an estimated \$131.28 total savings per bulb. The lights that were replaced are all currently in use.

**Advanced Vehicles, Fleet Inventory and Fleet Efficiency Policy:** In 2021, the Village continued its investment in electrifying its fleet by purchasing fully electric vehicles that were funded using proceeds from bonds. In March 2021, the Village purchased a 2020 Nissan Leaf SL Plus (a battery powered electric vehicle with a 226-mile radius) for use by the Village Manager. In June, the Village received a \$7,500 rebate for the Nissan such that the final cost of the car was \$26,247. Earlier in 2021, the Village received a \$5,000 rebate for a Tesla Y used by Police Detectives purchased in 2020. The Village is in the process of purchasing a Ford Mustang Mach E as a Police Chief vehicle as well as an electric truck. The Village created its first fleet inventory in November 2019, which is updated after new vehicles are purchased and old vehicles are retired. In 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson adopted a Green Fleet Policy, to improve fleet efficiency and provide guidance on fleet rightsizing (see [HERE](#)). The Green Fleet Policy specifies that within two years the Village aspires to electrify 10% of the fleet and to fully electrify the fleet by 2035 (note that heavy-duty vehicles are exempted). The policy mandates that the Village must maintain a fleet inventory that is updated by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. It includes definitions of different vehicle types by tier and minimum efficiency levels for a variety of vehicle types. The policy has a fleet rightsizing section that outlines the vehicle replacement plan. The policy requires that the Village provide periodic reports to the public on implementation efforts, and that the policy be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

**Clean Energy Upgrades:** The goal of this action is to achieve a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from municipal buildings. To that end, in October 2021, the Village enrolled its municipal accounts in Community Solar as an anchor subscriber, in partnership with Sustainable Westchester. To date, four Village meters have been enrolled, with an anticipated usage of 287,677 kWh/year. This represents a 33.3% reduction in GHGs, that in turn will offset 204 Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and save the Village over \$70,000 in energy costs, moving us toward cleaner municipal energy. This also serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action.

**Waste and Energy Provisions in Government Contracts.** In 2021, the Village incorporated energy efficiency specifications into its landscaping contract with the Village landscaper, Ryan & Ryan Landscapers. Article 3 of the contract references the requirement of energy efficiency equipment, specifically electric power tools where feasible and effective. The contract was executed on March 3, 2021 and is currently active.

**Energy Code Enforcement Training:** In December 2021, the Village’s Building Inspector took the NYSERDA certified energy code enforcement training in Merrick, NY. This also serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action.

#### 4. Shift to Clean, Renewable Energy

**Green Power Procurement:** In 2021, the Village held discussions with NYPA about the possibility of greening municipal energy sources with the goal of ensuring that 100 percent of its power will come from renewable sources.

#### 5. Use Climate-Smart Materials Management

**Recycling and Organic Waste Programs for Government Buildings:** In 2021, government buildings were less occupied than in prior years, due to the pandemic, however, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson continued operations of its recycling and organic waste programs.

**Organic Waste Management:** Despite the pandemic, in 2021 the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson continued its community-wide curbside pick-up yard waste program and expanded its food waste drop-off program. In total, yard waste diversion in the Village’s residential sector has averaged around 287 tons per year (203 tons in 2016; 240 tons in 2017; 264 tons 2018; 390 tons in 2019; 336 tons in 2020; the 2021 numbers will be available in the spring). In 2019, the Village generated 57 tons of food scraps and in 2020 that number had grown over 90% to 109 tons). In 2019, the Village partnered with [Hudson Compost Services](#) (HCS) to pilot a curb-side food waste collection service locally. HCS began its operations in 2019 and by mid-year serviced 60 households in Hastings-on-Hudson. These households produce a total of 195 gallons of food waste, or 3.36 gallons per home. After factoring in food waste density (3.7 lbs/gallon), HCS determined it was hauling a total of 721.5 lbs of food waste per week, and that each home was producing 12.43 lbs of food waste per week. By year-end, HCS membership had increased to 120 with plans to continue to expand its reach in 2022. In June 2021, the Village adopted an Organics Management Plan (see [HERE](#)), which outlines efforts to reduce organic waste to date, as well as strategies and short, medium and long term recommendations for improving food waste management.

**Reuse Program.** In 2021, the Village began the process of planning to implement a Take It or Leave It (TIOLI) Shed where residents can donate items they no longer want and pick up things they need. The tentative launch date for the TIOLI Shed is spring 2022.

**WasteWise Program:** In 2021, the Village reaffirmed its membership in the EPA WasteWise Program and our status is “Active Participant.” This year, we submitted an annual report for 2020, which was accepted by the EPA. Our annual report indicates that from 2019 to 2020, municipal solid waste disposed of via an incinerator was reduced by 28 tons and the number of pounds of food and mixed organics waste increased by 57 tons. These improvements can be partially attributed to the education and outreach provided by our Zero Waste Committee promoting food scrap recycling and healthy yards (mulching leaves in place) and the partnership with the Hudson Compost Service. The Village is currently in the process of drafting the 2021 WasteWise Report.



**Community Repair:** In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson held both virtual and in person Community Repair events, including a virtual Repair Café on February 20, 2021 (see [HERE](#)) and a Hastings Repair Café event that took place in the Library Parking lot on June 19, 2021 (see [HERE](#)).

## 6. Implement Climate-Smart Land Use

**Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements.** In the fall of 2021, the Village was awarded \$20,000 by the Hudson River Valley Greenway toward updating its Comprehensive Plan, as well as \$169,263 by the New York Department of State to update its Comprehensive Plan and to draft a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Plan. The Village intends to incorporate sustainability elements into both of these plans and will reference the Natural Resources Inventory and other reports produced for the CSC program.

**New York Stretch Code:** The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to adopt the New York Stretch Energy Code (see [HERE](#)) on June 18, 2020 but this action was not formally included as a CSC action until 2021. The Village applied for and was awarded points for this action in 2021 under the CSC program. This also serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action. The Code will be an important factor in supporting the Village's efforts to achieve its energy/GHG reduction goals and will be a pivotal tool in supporting our energy/climate goals. The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is one of the first municipalities in New York State to adopt the Code and is the first in Westchester County. The Village intends to integrate the NY Stretch Code into an update of the Green Building Code that was adopted on October 1, 2013.

**Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School:** The Hastings Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee remained active in 2021 (see [HERE](#)). As a result of recommendations of the Committee, the Village implemented a number of crosswalk, sidewalk, and signage improvements at multiple locations in the Village, as well as traffic calming measures at various intersections. The Village has developed a reporting tool to document improvements that link directly back to the Complete Streets Policy: **Appendix A - Complete Streets**. The 2020 progress report can be found [HERE](#) and the 2021 progress report can be found [HERE](#). The Complete Streets Appendix A list is used on an ongoing basis as a guide for various committees in setting agendas and planning for change. These committees include the Safe Routes to School Committee and the Hastings PTSA Safety Committee. The list helps the village to assess performance with respect to the Complete Streets Policy on a regular basis.

**Planning & Infrastructure for Bicycling & Walking:** In June 2021, the Board of Trustees adopted a **Bicycling and Walking Infrastructure Master Plan** (see [HERE](#)), which summarizes recommendations from prior plans and addresses needed improvements to bike and walking paths, bike lanes and sidewalks, bike parking, bike and pedestrian signage. It also evaluates the merits of creating a bike share program. In 2021, the Village and County began planning to install a bike lane on Farragut Ave and the Village re-raised the issue of bike lanes on Route 9 (Broadway) with the State. In January 2020, the Village had been awarded a grant of \$150,000 to improve sidewalks in the downtown, for which the Village provided a \$150,000 match using bond proceeds in 2021. In addition, in July of 2020, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution

approving \$250,000 for new sidewalks to improve walkability near the schools (see attached). These sidewalks projects will be implemented in 2022. As a result of extensive traffic studies, in 2021, stop signs, pedestrian walkways and curb ramps were installed on High Street, and a no left turn sign was installed at James Street in an effort to calm traffic.

**Natural Resources Inventory:** In June of 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson adopted by resolution an updated version of its Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which is a comprehensive inventory of the village's natural resources. The NRI not only documents the natural assets of the Village but also serves as a tool for future plans, ordinances or overlay zones. The final report titled *Hastings-on-Hudson 2020 Natural Resources Inventory (Updated June 2021)* can be found [HERE](#).

**Develop a Local Forestry or Tree Planting Project or Program:** Carbon sequestration through planting trees, especially native species, is an important way to reduce CO2 and protect our natural resources. The Village has had a long history of conservation and was recognized as a Tree City USA Community by the National Arbor Day Foundation 36 years ago, a designation it continues to hold today. As part of the ongoing commitment, the Board of Trustees proclaimed April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day (see [HERE](#)) and organized several events to commemorate the occasion (see [HERE](#)). The Recreation Department team planted three trees in Draper Park and one tree at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Park and Plaza. In addition to these plantings, in observance of Arbor Day, on Friday, May 14, 2021 the Village hosted a ceremony at Fulton Park (outside the Municipal Building and the Hastings Public Library) celebrating the planting of a new Lilac Ivory Silk tree. This tree was funded under the NYS Urban Forestry Council Tree City USA Reward Grant Program. The Village has a tree preservation ordinance, and in 2021 strengthened the provisions of that ordinance to ensure that a permit must be obtained to cut down trees with a dbh of 8 inches or more, including those on private property (see [HERE](#)). In December of 2020, the Village received news that it had been awarded two grants by DEC. One of the grants was to conduct tree inventories and create a community forest management plan in several wooded areas, namely Zinsser Park, Uniontown Park, Pulver's Woods and Rowley's Bridge Trail. The other grant was to conduct tree maintenance in Hillside Woods. The inventories were conducted in 2021 and the final report can be viewed [HERE](#). The Village initiated an extensive tree planting project in Hillside Woods and to date over 450 trees have been planted by volunteers - details about the planting efforts can be found [HERE](#). In May of 2021, Village volunteers also initiated a tree planting campaign by the side of Boutillier's Brook which is a tributary to the Saw Mill River, using funding from the DEC's Trees for Tribes grant program. On May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, over 350 trees and shrubs were planted (see [HERE](#) for a description of the campaign).

## 7. Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change

**Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience:** In June 2021, the Village published the results of its Climate Smart Resiliency Planning (CSRP) exercise. The exercise was designed to enable the municipality to better assess its resilience to the extreme weather associated with climate change. The CSRP evaluation exposed gaps and vulnerabilities, enabling the Village to identify



possible modifications to plans and policies so as to better prepare for climate change. The ***Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Report*** can be found [HERE](#). **Climate Action Plan.** During 2021, the Village began the process of developing a ***Climate Action Plan*** to delineate the next steps in reducing GHG emissions and building resiliency. The Plan will be a strategy document that sets goals, defines GHG reduction targets, and identifies priority actions. It will require substantial community engagement. The [Village was selected to work with the Climate Action Planning Institute \(CAPI\)](#) and Westchester County to develop a climate action plan in collaboration with nine other municipalities.

**Climate Resiliency Vision and Climate Adaptation Plan.** During 2021, the Village adopted a climate resiliency vision that will provide the focus for a ***Climate Adaptation Plan***, building on the 2020 ***Heat Emergency Plan*** and ***Climate Vulnerability Assessment*** (see [HERE](#)).

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates.** During the fall of 2021, the Village worked with County-hired consultants to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which is an annex to the County HMP (the plan can be seen [HERE](#)). The Board of Trustees adopted the HPM by resolution in December 2021 (see [HERE](#)).

**Cooling Centers.** In 2021, the Village upgraded its existing cooling center (which is the James Harmon Community Center) by extending its hours of operation during a heat emergency and we identified strategies to improve use of the center. Availability of the cooling center was actively promoted to the public during the heat emergencies.

**Conservation of Natural Areas.** On February 16, 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson dedicated by resolution 112 acres of open space as parkland (see [HERE](#)). These parcels, combined with 44 acres that had been previously dedicated, constitute 156 acres of dedicated parkland. This is 84% of all the open space owned by Village (excluding rights of way), and more than 8% of the 1,882 acres comprising the Village as a whole. Each of the parcels that make up the newly dedicated 112 acres of parkland are named in the Parkland Dedication Resolution with their respective tax ID numbers specified.

**Riparian Buffers.** On May 15, 2021 the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson undertook a revegetation project at Boutillier's Brook with support from NYS DEC. The area that was planted is a 160-ft section of the tributary (35 to 75 ft width on either side of the brook) and the approximate area planted is 17,000 sq ft. The brook flows from the Ravensdale area of the Village between Farragut Avenue and Farragut Parkway and into the Saw Mill River at Exit 12 off the Saw Mill River Parkway. Over 350 trees and shrubs were planted (65 trees and 285 shrubs). The DEC approved planting and maintenance design plan showing the size of the project can be seen [HERE](#) and before-and-after photos of the project proposal as well as a list of the trees and shrubs that were planted can be found [HERE](#).

**Water Conservation & Reuse.** In 2021, the Village signed up to be a promotional partner for the EPA WaterSense Program. As part of its commitment, during the weeks of May 17 to 28, 2021 the Village ran "Water Weeks" where several experts joined the community by zoom to talk about the importance of water conservation and reuse. A webpage devoted to water

conservation and reuse was set up on the Village website (see [HERE](#)) and resources were made available to the community.

**Water-smart Landscaping.** In 2021, the Village provided education for the public about the benefits of water-smart landscaping and implemented water-smart landscaping as part of its remediation efforts at Quarry Park, which is a government-owned open space. This remediation will be completed in 2022.

## 8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

**Farmers' Markets:** The Hastings-on-Hudson Farmers Market has remained open throughout the pandemic. It is popular not only among residents, but also among patrons from other municipalities. In December 2021, the market was featured in "[The Best Winter Farmers' Markets to Visit in Westchester](#)" and in May 2021 it was featured in "[Shop for Fresh Fruits and Veggies at Westchester's Farmers' Markets.](#)" Ongoing support provided by Village includes promoting the market on [Destination Hastings](#), a website created by the Village that describes local events and activities, as well as in other newsletters and emails to the community. In addition, the Village hosts the market on Village land and in Village facilities at a minimal fee. In 2020 and 2021, the most important support provided to the market was simply enabling it to stay open during the pandemic. The Farmers Market website can be found [HERE](#), and the origins and history of the market are described [HERE](#).

**Buy Local/Buy Green Campaign.** In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson promoted "buy local" through "[Destination Hastings](#)," a branded identity and initiative created by the Downtown Advocate. She also produces an annual "Gift Guide" every fall, which lists all the local establishments where holiday gifts can be purchased and she promotes the *Destination Hastings Downtown Dollar\$ Community eGift Card*, which is like a regular credit card but can only be used in Hastings-on-Hudson with a participating Destination Hastings Downtown Dollar\$ merchant. For more on how it works and for the list of 40 local businesses that accept it see [HERE](#).

**Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment.** In June 2021, the Village was notified that the current owners have received a remedial Certificate of Completion for Tappan Terminal - Eastern Portion under the NY DEC Superfund Program.

**Community Campaigns.** In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson initiated four community campaigns (see [HERE](#)), and completed the requirements for two, specifically Demand Response GridRewards™ and Community Solar. By April 30th 2021, 113 people had signed up for GridRewards™ and 29 people had signed up for Community Solar. The Village is documenting the results of its EnergySmart Homes and Charge Up Hastings! campaigns, and preliminary indications are that sufficient residents signed up to assure success. NYSERDA's *Electric Vehicle Registration Map* (see [HERE](#)) indicates that as of year-end 2021, 206 electric vehicles were registered in our zip code from 2012 to 2021, and NYSERDA's *Drive Clean Rebate Primary Statistics* (see [HERE](#)) indicate that more than half of these vehicles (121) were purchased and received rebates in 2021. Each of these community campaigns serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action.

## 9. Inform and Inspire the Public

**Climate Change Education & Engagement:** In 2021, the Village created a *Public Engagement and Education Plan Achievements Report* that measures achievements as of June 2021, against planned 2020 goals (see [HERE](#) for the 2020 plan and [HERE](#) for the 2021 achievements).

**Energy Reduction Campaign:** In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson joined with the Villages of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Irvington to launch a Demand Response GridRewards™ Campaign in partnership with Sustainable Westchester, Logical Buildings and Con Edison. The campaign is part of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program. The goal of the campaign was to encourage residents to use less energy, especially on peak usage days in the summer, which in turn reduces reliance on dirty peaker plants that are responsible for substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GridRewards is an app that sends consumers a message on peak energy usage days alerting them to reduce usage. If residents lower their usage on those days, Con Edison will send them a check for helping to lower the burden on the grid. Through the initiative, the municipalities worked to educate residents about reducing their energy usage, their carbon footprints and the load on the grid. The Mayors of the four communities spearheaded the campaign, which they promoted as a Mayors' Challenge, and volunteers from each of the communities helped to spread the word. The campaign reached out to home-owners, renters, businesses and not-for-profits, within the Rivertown communities to explain how residents can save energy in their homes, and to motivate them to reduce their energy use during peak times on the hottest days in the year. In Hastings-on-Hudson, a webpage was set up (see [HERE](#)) which provided links to the [flyers](#) and [promotional zoom events](#). Flyers were also distributed at a [Mini Eco Fair](#) held at the Farmer's Market. Messages were sent to the community promoting the initiative (see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)). Hastings-on-Hudson Mayor Armacost spoke at the Campaign Launch Event with the other Rivertowns Mayors (see [HERE](#)) and promoted the campaign in her Mayor's Messages (see [HERE](#)). Information about the campaign was also shared via an article in the local newspaper. As of April 30th 2021, which was the last day to register to participate, 113 people had signed up, and in December 2021 participants began to receive checks.

**Climate-related Public Events:** The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has held many climate-related public events within the past year including a virtual Earth Month Zoom-a-Palooza!, an Eco Fair, an Arbor Day event, Repair Cafés, events related to various Community Campaigns (including Demand Response GridRewards™, Community Solar, EnergySmart Homes, Electric Vehicles and HeatSmart), the Hastings Flea Market, as well as community meetings on improving bike safety in the Village.

**Local Climate Action Website:** The *Hastings-on-Hudson Climate Action Website* (see [HERE](#)) provides an overview of climate-related activities initiated by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, its Boards and Commissions and its residents. The site outlines the Village's major initiatives related to building community resilience and mitigation efforts. It also provides external resources related to sustainability, energy efficiency, and other information on how citizens can make a difference. The site was updated multiple times in 2021.

**Social Media:** During 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson was active on social media providing information and promoting initiatives that inform and involve residents on how they can support a green and sustainable environment. This includes information on the effects of climate change locally and how residents can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## 10. Engage in an Evolving Process of Climate Action

**Annual Report:** In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson produced its second annual report documenting achievements under each of the major CSC pledge elements. The original 2020 report can be found [HERE](#).

## 11. Innovation

**New Innovative Actions (Low-Embodied Carbon Concrete):** In 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson was the first municipality in New York State to adopt a resolution committing the local government to promoting the use of low-embodied carbon concrete (LECC) (see [HERE](#)). Since concrete production accounts for 7-8% of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) globally, this initiative could potentially have a significant effect in addressing climate change in the Village and beyond.

A key part of the resolution was a commitment by the Village to promote knowledge about LECC and to that end, the Village created a dedicated [Low Carbon Concrete Resources page](#) on its website with information designed to educate local residents, contractors and architects, as well as other municipalities in Westchester County and New York State about low carbon concrete. The Village hosted a number of webinars and promoted LECC to the media. On February 28, 2021, the *Washington Post* published an article titled “Bendable concrete, other CO2-infused cement mixes could dramatically cut global emissions” (see [HERE](#)). The article, which is a reprint of a piece in *The Conversation* (see [HERE](#)), mentions the pioneering role of Hastings-on-Hudson and provides a link to the Village LECC webpage. A Policy Brief titled “Concrete Solutions to Climate Change: How Local Policy Can Promote Sustainable Construction Activities” featuring the Hastings resolution, was recently published by the Rockefeller Institute (see [HERE](#)).

The Mayor and members of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force advocated for the adoption of similar resolutions in neighboring municipalities and at the State level. The sister Village of Ardsley adopted a similar resolution on February 1, 2021. The New York State Senate Bill S542A and Assembly Bill A2591A relating to the provision in state contracts of low embodied carbon concrete were passed by each respective House and sent to Governor Cuomo for signature in June 2021. The bills were finally signed into law by Governor Hochul on December 22, 2021.

In 2021, the Village implemented two projects using LECC. The first project was for a retaining wall on Cliff Street. The village requested that the wall was poured using LECC, and as a result of using LECC for this project we reduced the global warming potential of the concrete by about 16%. The second project that was recently completed using LECC was for a retaining wall in the Senior Citizens Vest Pocket Park, and as a result of using LECC for this project we reduced the global warming potential of the concrete by almost 19%, a 3% improvement from the Cliff Street project. The Village also used LECC in curbing projects in 2021. Upcoming plans for

utilization of LECC are to use it sidewalk projects that will be implemented in 2022. Once completed, this use of LECC in curbing and sidewalk paving will hopefully set a precedent for other municipalities to lower the embodied carbon of the concrete they use in common and recurring municipal construction projects

**New Innovative Actions (Declaring Climate Emergency):** In November 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson adopt a resolution declaring a climate emergency (see [HERE](#)), where it noted its participation in the Race to Zero advocated by Climate Mayors and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, and committed to a “fair share” science-based target of 62.8% per capita reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 (substantially more than the US commitment).

## Conclusion

Despite the ongoing pandemic, 2021 was a productive year for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. The Village actively pursued initiatives to address climate change and put in place key policies that will guide action in future years, enabling us to build more community resilience.

This Annual Report reflects the many hours of time committed by volunteers who are members of our Climate Smart Communities Task Force, our Conservation Commission, our Parks and Recreation Commission, our Senior Council and our Youth Council to name a few. It also reflects the dedication of our Village Manager and her staff, and that of our Board of Trustees, who have each played important roles in supporting efforts to reach our climate related goals. The Report provides a snapshot in time of our efforts to date and the Village is firmly committed to an ongoing process of review, improvement and new actions.

## Challenges Encountered

In 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson had achieved its goal of reaching silver CSC certification but elected to submit a revised certification report to document additional actions. The main challenges we encountered related to the global pandemic. We adapted our CSC strategy to focus on actions that could be completed remotely, with a strong focus on research, creating inventories and adopting policies that were climate-friendly. At the same time, many residents found themselves working from home, and some of them chose to channel their energy into volunteer work for the community with a particular focus on conservation efforts as this work could be completed outdoors with social distancing protocols in place. As a result of this shift in strategy, by year-end, the Village made substantial advancements in its CSC program despite the pandemic, and completed a number of additional actions some of which were submitted for review earlier this year.

## Next Steps

The critical next step for the Village is to develop a ***Climate Action Plan***, which will be an actionable strategy document that sets goals, defines GHG reduction targets, and identifies priority actions. The plan development process will require substantial community engagement and Village staff involvement. The Village is working with CAPI to develop the climate action plan in collaboration with nine other municipalities. In parallel, the Village will continue to pursue CSC actions that support its goal of reducing GHGs and building community resilience.



## **Annex 1: 2021 Funding Summary**

### **Funding Committed in Prior Years but Received in 2021**

In late 2019, Assemblyman Tom Abinanti nominated Hastings-on-Hudson for Capital Funding in the amount of \$250,000 from the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) to restore Hillside Woods. In December 2019, County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky committed an additional \$100,000 from the County for this project. Both contracts were confirmed in 2020 but not finalized due to delays caused by the pandemic, and both tranches of funding were eventually released to the Village in April and October respectively of 2021.

In late December 2019, The Village was notified it had been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop a plan addressing erosion at MacEachron Waterfront Park. The grant was not released in 2020 due to delays caused by the pandemic, and the funding was finally released to the Village in June 2021.

In January 2020, Senator Andrea Stuart-Cousins nominated Hastings-on-Hudson for Capital Funding in the amount of \$75,000 from the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) to improve the commuter stairs from the downtown to the train station. The grant was not released in 2020 due to delays caused by the pandemic, and the funding was finally released to the Village in August 2021.

In February 2020, Assemblyman Abinanti committed \$50,000 in multi-modal funding to improve sidewalks and street crossings. The funding was received in 2021 and was used to for sidewalk and crosswalk improvements at Mount Hope Boulevard and Rosedale Avenue for school safety and traffic calming.

In July of 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution approving of \$250,000 in bond financing for sidewalks that will improve walkability near the schools. These projects will be implemented in 2022.

### **New Funding Committed in 2021**

In June of 2021, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution approving bond financing in the amount of \$150,000 as part of its match, for a 2020 CDBG grant of \$150,000 to improve sidewalks in the downtown. The sidewalks will be installed in 2022.

In 2021, the Village received ZEV grant funding/rebates for two electric vehicles, including \$5,000 for a Tesla Y purchased in 2020, and \$7,500 for a Nissan Leaf SL Plus.

In 2021, as a result of reaching 5,000 points under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson was awarded grants in the amount of \$115,000, which will be used to install HVAC systems in the Police Station, located within Village Hall.

In the fall of 2021, the Hudson River Valley Greenway awarded \$20,000 to update the Comprehensive Plan, and the New York Department of State awarded \$169,263 to update the Comprehensive Plan and draft a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Plan.