

**Climate Smart Communities
Annual Progress Report 2022
Hastings-on-Hastings**



Photo Credit: Linda Loeb, 2022

***Produced by the
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). The 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 adopting 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 that year, we were awarded 440 points from 69 completed actions. As of year-end 2022, 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 2022. This is the village's third Annual Report (the 2020 report can be found [HERE](#), and the 2021 Report can be found [HERE](#)). A key action to reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) undertaken in 2022 was drafting a **Climate Action Plan** (see [HERE](#)).

Climate Smart Communities Actions

During 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson continued to gather documentation to elevate its status under the CSC program, and this **Annual Report** documents actions that were accomplished or updated in 2022. The Report describes results achieved as well as implementation status, with reference to new funding where relevant.

1. Build a Climate-Smart Community

Reaffirmation of CSC Task Force and CSC Coordinators: In September of 2022, the Village passed a resolution reaffirming the status of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force and affirming the Village Manager and the Village Clerk as CSC Coordinators. Hastings-on-Hudson also reaffirmed its membership in ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (USA). ICLEI is supporting the Village in creating a Climate Action Plan and invited the Mayor to present at #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency a Climate Week event that took place in New York City in September 2022. The Village is also a member of 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). In addition, Hastings-on-Hudson is a member of two regional climate programs: NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities and Sustainable Westchester.

Partnerships with Other Entities: Hastings-on-Hudson has an ongoing partnership with Sustainable Westchester on a number of issues ranging from Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to promoting recycling through the **Recycle Right!** App. In recent years the Village has conducted a range of community campaigns with Sustainable Westchester with the goal of reducing energy usage in the Village. These campaigns include Solarize, Community Solar, EnergySmart Homes and the Demand Response GridRewards™ program.

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

Government Operations and Community GHG Inventories: The Village has both a current **Inventory of Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (see [HERE](#)) as well as an **Inventory of Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (see [HERE](#)). For the Community GHG Inventory, the key findings were that transportation and mobile sources are the largest contributors to GHGs, accounting for 49 percent of emissions, followed by commercial energy with 31 percent of emissions and residential energy with 18 percent of emissions, and finally solid waste and water & wastewater were responsible for the remaining 2 percent of emissions. For the Municipal GHG Inventory, the key findings were that municipal buildings and facilities account for 54 percent of GHG emissions, followed by the Village's vehicle fleet sector with 37 percent of emissions, and streetlights and traffic signals responsible for the remaining 9 percent of emissions. These inventories were created using the ICLEI Clear Path Tool. Since creating the inventories, the Village has implemented additional actions that will further reduce GHGs, including adopting the New York Stretch Energy Code. The Inventories have been key inputs for the climate action planning work the Village is undertaking. In 2023, the Village hopes to update the **Inventory of Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions**.

Climate Action Plans. The Village is in the process of developing both a ***Community Climate Action Plan*** and a ***Municipal Climate Action Plan***, which will delineate the next steps in reducing GHG emissions and increasing resiliency. The plans are strategy documents that set goals, define GHG reduction targets, and identify priority actions. The ***Municipal Climate Action Plan*** will be created under the auspices of the Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI) where the Village is working collaboratively with Westchester County and nine other municipalities (see [HERE](#)). Preparation for launching CAPI has been ongoing and it will formally begin in 2023.

3. Decrease Energy Use

Government Building Energy Audits: Several years ago the Village commissioned a ***Government Building Energy Audit*** (see [HERE](#)) to assess the potential for energy savings. Several less expensive high payback recommendations were implemented in 2021 and 2022. Based on recommendation in the audit, in 2022, the Village applied for and received a grant, to explore installing geothermal energy for the Library and Village Hall.

Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings: Early in 2022, the Village produced an ***Energy Benchmarking Report*** for the prior year which is posted on the Village website as required under the law (see [HERE](#)). The most recent report indicates energy reduction improvements in the Hook and Ladder, Protection Engine Company #1, the Community Center, the Library and at Village Hall. These improvements may be partially attributable to reduced buildings usage due to the pandemic, but also reflect energy efficiency investments in several areas of government operations during the past year. Each of these investments was designed to substantially reduce both costs and GHGs.

Clean Energy Upgrades: The Village has 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 CO₂e and save the Village over \$7,000 in energy costs, moving us toward cleaner municipal energy. This also serves as a qualifying New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program Action.

Advanced Vehicles, Fleet Inventory and Fleet Efficiency Policy: In 2022, the Village has continued efforts to implement its Green Fleet Policy (see [HERE](#)), with the goal of improving fleet efficiency and fleet electrification. In April 2022, the Village purchased two Ford Mustang 2022 Mach-Es (battery powered electric vehicles with a 312-mile radius) for use by the Police Chief and as a patrol vehicle. In June, the Village received \$15,000 in rebates for the police vehicles. The Village created its first fleet inventory in November 2019, which is updated each year in January and records when new vehicles are purchased and old vehicles are retired.

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, is effective for 3 years, and is currently active.

Energy Code Enforcement Training: The Village's Building Inspector is accredited by NYSERDA as an energy code enforcement officer. 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 2022, the Village continued 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.

Renewable Energy Feasibility Study: In 2022, the Village began planning to commission a geothermal energy feasibility study for the Library and Village Hall. The study will also examine roof-top solar as a supplementary energy supply for the Library.

5. Use Climate-Smart Materials Management

Organic Waste Management: In 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson continued its community-wide curbside pick-up yard waste program and expanded its food waste drop-off program. Yard waste diversion in the Village's residential sector has averaged around 317 tons per year (203 tons in 2016; 240 tons in 2017; 264 tons 2018; 390 tons in 2019; 336 tons in 2020; 421 tons in 2021; and, 364 tons in 2022. In 2019, the Village generated 57 tons of food scraps and in 2022 that number grew over 44 percent to 82 tons a year. In 2019, the Village partnered with [Hudson Compost Services](#) (HCS) to pilot a curb-side food waste collection service locally. HCS began operations in the fall of 2019 with 14 households in Hastings-on-Hudson, and by year-end 2022, HCS membership had increased to 165 homes with plans to continue expansion in 2023. After factoring in food waste density (3.7 lbs/gallon), HCS determined it was hauling a total of 2,014.6 lbs of food waste per week, and that each participating home was producing 12.21 lbs of food waste per week. Over the lifetime of the collaboration, HCS estimates that a total of 149,602 lbs of food waste was diverted in Hastings-on-Hudson (from when operations began in 2019 until year-end 2022). The Village currently has 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.

Recycling and Organic Waste Programs for Government Buildings: In 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson continued to operate its recycling and organic waste programs in municipal buildings.

Reuse Program and Community Repair. In April 2022, in collaboration with the Zero Waste Committee of the Conservation Commission and Andrus on Hudson, the Village launched a Take It or Leave It (TILI) Garage where residents can donate items they no longer want and pick up things they need (see [HERE](#)). In 2023, the Village is planning to provide a cloth recycling bin and a book bin to support residents in their efforts to recycle. The TILI Garage diverts many tons of items that would otherwise find their way to landfill sites. In 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson held a Repair Café event that took place at the James Harmon Community Center on October 15, 2022 (see [HERE](#)).

6. Implement Climate-Smart Land Use

Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements and Smart Growth Principles. During 2022, the Village began efforts to update its **Comprehensive Plan** and to draft a **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)**. A citizen-led CPU/LWRP Committee was formed and a consultant was hired to guide the work. The Village plans to incorporate sustainability elements and smart growth principles into both of these plans, and will reference the **Natural Resources Inventory** and other key reports produced under the CSC program.

Green Building Codes. The Village has hired a consultant to assist in the process of updating its Green Building Code. Building on the decision to adopt the New York Stretch Energy Code (see [HERE](#)), the Village applied for and was awarded a grant by NYSERDA to develop a Stretch to Zero Code.

Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, Traffic Calming and Access to Public Transit: The Village adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2014 and has developed a reporting tool to document improvements that link directly back to the Complete Streets Policy: **Appendix A - Complete Streets**. 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 Appendix A list helps the Village to assess performance with respect to the Complete Streets Policy on a regular basis. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee (active in 2022 see [HERE](#)), has made recommendations which have been implemented by the Village including adding new crosswalks, upgrading sidewalks, and improving signage at multiple locations in the Village, as well as introducing traffic calming measures at various intersections. An example of traffic calming implemented during 2022, was to give a major artery in the Village a “road diet” by painting lines thinning the available roadway and adding bike lanes (Farragut Avenue repaving, undertaken in collaboration with Westchester County). The Village also improved access to public transit by upgrading a stairway and several sidewalks that are used on a daily basis by residents who are commuting into New York City by train (specifically, along Warburton Ave and Main Street as well as the Chauncy Lane/Reynolds Field Playground area).

Planning & Infrastructure for Bicycling & Walking: The Board of Trustees is in the process of implementing recommendations made in its **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. As part of these efforts, in 2022, at the request of the Village, the County installed bike lanes on Farragut Avenue and the Village re-raised the issue of bike lanes on Route 9 (Broadway) with the State. In 2022, the Village continued efforts to improve sidewalks in the downtown and improve walkability near the schools. These efforts will continue in 2023.

Natural Resources Inventory: The Village has a current **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 (see [HERE](#)). The NRI is being used as a key reference for the **Comprehensive Plan Update** and **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)**.

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 38 years ago, a designation it continues to hold today. As part of the ongoing commitment, the Board of Trustees proclaimed April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day (see [HERE](#)), and to commemorate the occasion the Recreation Department team planted three trees in Draper Park (see [HERE](#)). In addition to these plantings, in memory of William Crosby, an avid local conservationist, on Friday, October 28, 2022 the Village hosted a ceremony at Fulton Park (outside the Municipal Building and the Hastings Public Library) celebrating the planting of an American Hornbeam tree in his honor. This tree was funded under the NYS Urban Forestry Council Tree City USA Reward Grant Program. In 2020, the Village initiated an extensive tree-planting project, and to-date, over 450 tree and shrub seedlings have been planted by volunteers in Hillside Woods, and 900 trees and shrubs have been planted along Farragut Parkway - details about the replanting efforts can be found [HERE](#). The Farragut Parkway effort began in May of 2021, when Village volunteers initiated a tree planting campaign by the side of Boutillier's Brook which is a tributary to the Saw Mill River. The project used funding from the DEC's Trees for Tribes grant program and latest round of planting happened in October 2022 (see [HERE](#) for a description of the campaign). The project is ongoing.

7. Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change

Climate Vulnerability Assessment: The Village has a current *Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report*, which addressed vulnerability risk levels, priorities, and goals for future climate action (see [HERE](#)). The Village licensed ICLEI's Temperate Tool to help build out a climate model for the municipality which was used to create the assessment. The results are being incorporated into the *Climate Action Plan*, the *Climate Adaptation Plan*, the *Comprehensive Plan Update* and *Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)*.

Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience: The Village has undertaken a Climate Smart Resiliency Planning (CSRP) exercise to better assess the municipalities 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](#). These findings are being incorporated into the *Climate Action Plan*, the *Climate Adaptation Plan*, the *Comprehensive Plan Update* and *Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)*.

Climate Adaptation Plan. The Village is in the process of developing a *Climate Adaptation Plan* (see [HERE](#)), as part of its *Community Climate Action Plan*. The Plan will build on the *Climate Vulnerability Assessment* and *Heat Emergency Plan*.

Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Village has an active Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) (see [HERE](#)), which was adopted by the Board of Trustees in December 2021 (see [HERE](#)). The Village HMP is an annex to the County HMP (see [HERE](#)).

Heat Emergency Plan, Shade Structures Policy and Cooling Centers. The Village has a current *Heat Emergency Plan* (see [HERE](#)), which addresses protocols for a heat emergency in the Village, strategies to support vulnerable populations, and modalities for working with emergency services and utility companies. It also describes triggers, actions, and alerts, and the importance of identifying an adequate number of cooling centers. The Village has a current Shade Structures Policy (see [HERE](#)), which covers all new construction and development of Village-owned properties, as well as upgrades to existing Village properties. As required under the policy, in 2022, shade trees were planted in the Village-owned Quarry Park, and as part of the sidewalk replacement project in the downtown. In addition, as part of the 2022 NYPA Tree Power Program, 12 trees were planted in various parts of the Village (the Boulanger Parking lot, on Mt. Hope Blvd. near Lefurgy, and on the Farragut Island near the school). In 2021, the Village upgraded its existing cooling center (the James Harmon Community Center) by extending the JHCC hours of operation during a heat emergency, and identified other strategies to improve use of the center. Availability of the cooling center was actively promoted to the public during the heat emergencies of 2022.

Green Infrastructure and Culverts and Dams. After Hurricane Ida in 2021, the Village experienced severe flooding that damaged the Village pool and tennis courts. In anticipation that we would experience more extreme flooding events in the future, the Village engineer recommended rightsizing several culverts and day-lighting parts of Sheckler's Brook, a stream located in the Village. In 2022, the Village implemented these recommendations.

Conservation of Natural Areas. The Village has already dedicated 156 acres of open space as parkland (see [HERE](#)). 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. In October 2022, the Village received the *Final Landfill Closure Certification Report* for the remediation of Quarry Park (see [HERE](#)), and in 2023 will add that park to the list of dedicated parkland in the Village.

Water Conservation & Reuse. The Village is an active promotional partner for the EPA WaterSense Program. As part of its commitment, 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.

8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

Financing Program for Building Energy Efficiency: The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson adopted an Open C-Pace law to provide financing to qualified property owners (commercial property owners and not-for-profits) for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures (see [HERE](#)). The financing was available in 2022.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA): The Village is an active participant in Westchester Power's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, and has opted for a 100% renewable default supply for residents. CCA is a municipal energy procurement model that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity and ensures that a greater percentage of electricity is coming from renewable sources. In October 2015, Hastings-on-Hudson passed a [CCA](#)

[Participation Resolution](#) and a [CCA Local Law and Resolution](#). In September 2020, the Village reconfirmed its commitment to the [CCA via resolution](#). The CCA program was active in 2022. Hastings is also a founding member of the Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation (CDG) Coalition, which empowers local governments to increase access to clean energy by automatically enrolling LMI residents in community distributed generation (see [HERE](#)).

Farmers' Markets: The Hastings-on-Hudson Farmers Market is immensely popular not only among residents, but also among patrons from other municipalities. In December 2022, the market was featured in "[The Best Winter Farmers' Markets to Visit in Westchester](#)" and in May 2022 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. The Farmers Market website can be found [HERE](#), and the origins and history of the market are described [HERE](#).

Buy Local/Buy Green Campaign and Green Vendor Fair. In 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson promoted "buy local" through [Destination Hastings](#), a branded identity and initiative created by our Downtown Advocate. She also produces an annual "Gift Guide" every fall (see [HERE](#)), which lists local establishments where holiday gifts can be purchased and she promotes the *Destination Hastings Downtown Dollar\$ Community eGift Card*, which is similar to 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](#)). On May 15, 2022, the Village hosted a *Spring Thing!* with a Green Vendor Fair and activity zone, that promoted local green businesses (see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)).

Brownfield Clean-up & Redevelopment. The Village is home to a New York State superfund site, which is undergoing remediation. In recent years, two remedial Certificates of Completion have been issued by the DEC for the southern portion of the site: one for Tappan Terminal - Eastern Portion under the NY DEC Superfund Program (see [HERE](#)); and one for Tappan Terminal - Western Portion under the NY DEC Superfund Program (see [HERE](#)). Remediation efforts continue on the remainder of the site. Visioning for the future use of the brownfield site is a central concern of the **Comprehensive Plan Update** and **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)**.

Community Campaigns. In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson completed the requirements for four community campaigns (see [HERE](#)), but we continued to promote the programs in 2022. The results were better than we had hoped, and by December 31st 2022: 306 households had signed up for GridRewards™; 77 families had signed up for Community Solar; 70 residents had requested building permits to install clean heating and cooling devices (HVAC and geothermal); and as of year-end 2022, a total of 306 Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) were registered as being on the road in our zip code. 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 2022, the Village created a ***Public Engagement and Education Plan Achievements Report*** that measures achievements as of June 2022, against planned 2021 goals (see [HERE](#) for current and prior plans and achievements).

Energy Reduction Campaign: In 2021, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson initiated a campaign to promote electric vehicles (EVs), entitled: *Charge Up Hastings!* The objective was to educate residents on the benefits of EVs and to ramp up the EV adoption rate in the Village. The campaign encouraged public conversations about EV adoption, promoted successful EV adoption stories, and educated Village residents on the value of electric vehicles, focusing on long-term cost savings and environmental benefits. The initial campaign ran from March 23, 2021, until December 31, 2021, and documentation of results was submitted to NYSEERDA on January 31, 2022. During the time of the campaign 51 EVs were purchased in our zip code (an additional 22 were leased), and a total of 206 Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) were registered as being on the road. The campaign continued throughout 2022, and as of year-end, according to the [NYSEERDA Electric Vehicle Registration Map](#), a total of 306 BEVs & PHEVs were registered as being on the road (indicating that an additional 100 BEVs & PHEVs were registered after the original campaign ended).

Climate-related Public Events: The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has held many climate-related public events within the past year including an Eco Fair, a Village Clean Up weekend, an Arbor Day event, a Repair Café, events related to various Community Campaigns (including Demand Response GridRewards™, Community Solar, EnergySmart Homes, and Electric Vehicles) the Hastings Flea Market, as well as community meetings on our Climate Action Plan.

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 2022.

Social Media: During 2022, 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 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson produced its third annual report documenting achievements under each of the major CSC pledge elements. The 2020 report can be found [HERE](#), and the 2021 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 promote 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. The resolution included a commitment by the Village to promote knowledge about LECC and in 2022 the Mayor spoke at several events about LECC. In 2022, the Village used LECC in multiple curbing and sidewalk projects.

New Innovative Actions (Declaring Climate Emergency): In November 2021, Hastings-on-Hudson adopted 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).

New Innovative Actions (Mayors Climate Youth Council): In September 2022, with the support of two High School students, the Mayor launched a Climate Youth Council (CYC). The goal of the CYC is to bring students together to combat climate change on a local level, by setting achievable goals, and taking productive action. Students will work closely with the Mayor as well as mentors to create concrete steps to accomplish their plans.

Conclusion

During 2022, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson 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 2022, Hastings-on-Hudson continued its efforts to maintain its silver CSC certification and elected to document additional actions to submit at a future date. The main physical challenges we encountered related to extreme weather events. We continued to focus on actions on planning efforts, specifically the ***Climate Action Plan*** and ***Comprehensive Plan Update***, which are both major undertakings that require substantial community input. These documents will create a vision plan for us for the future.

Next Steps

The critical next step for the Village is to develop a community ***Climate Action Plan***, which will outline an actionable strategy that set 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 municipal Climate Action Plan in collaboration with nine other municipalities. The Village will also focus on ensuring that sustainability elements are incorporated into the ***Comprehensive Plan Update***. In parallel, the Village will continue to pursue CSC actions that support its goal of reducing GHGs and building community resilience.

Annex 1: 2022 Funding Summary

Funding Committed in Prior Years but Received in 2022

In September 2021, the Village was awarded a grant of \$88,256 to renovate the Library Roof (with the expectation that it will support solar). This project will be implemented in 2022.

In December 2021, the Village was awarded \$189,000 to implement a Comprehensive Plan Update and a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program that will include sustainability and smart growth elements. The final contracts were signed in 2022 and implementation is ongoing.

New Funding Committed in 2022

In January 2022, the Village was awarded two Community Development Block Grants for a total \$396,000 for sidewalks to be installed in the downtown in 2023 and 2024 (a prior grant of \$178,000 covered the cost of the sidewalks installed in 2022).

In May 2022, as a result of completing two community campaigns under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson was awarded grants in the amount of \$10,000, which will be used for energy efficiency projects within the Village.

In May 2022, the Village was awarded two grants from NYSERDA, one for \$50,000 for third-party support on building department applications and one for \$75,000 to improve building department software.

In June 2022, the Village was awarded a grant for \$785,000 for to improve pedestrian access.

In July 2022, the Village received \$15,000 in ZEV grant funding/rebates for two fully electric Ford Mach-Es for police use.

In July 2022, the Village was awarded a grant of \$25,000, requested and sponsored by Assemblyman Abinanti, from the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation to expand the electric charging infrastructure near the municipal building.

In Aug 2022, the Village was awarded a grant of \$500,000 from NYSERDA to develop the Stretch to Zero Energy Code.

In December 2022, as part of a Community Project Funding initiative, requested and sponsored by Congressman Bowman, the Village was awarded a federal appropriations grant of \$750,000 to install geothermal energy for Village Hall and the Library.

During 2022, the Village also applied for funding from FEMA to cover damage caused by extreme weather at the pool, the tennis courts and in other locations, including funding to right-size several culverts and daylight a stream.