

PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities

3 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Actions to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate require local, regional, state, and national cooperation and involvement. Local governments can often achieve economies of scale and greater impact by cooperating with neighboring communities to implement complementary initiatives or collaborate on one cross-cutting issue that spans jurisdictional boundaries such as flooding.

B. How to implement this action

Collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions or partner agencies can take many forms and depends on the topic to be addressed. Local governments may elect to collaborate to jointly fund a climate and energy manager or sustainability coordinator position, develop a regional building retrofit program, deliver technical assistance or green jobs training, develop a regional adaptation plan, engage the public on topics of joint interest, or implement actions from the regional sustainability plan.

While developing a climate action plan, or as part of the implementation process, local governments should identify actions that require collaboration or support from other jurisdictions, regional agencies, or state departments.

Local governments should consider the following when determining how to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and partner organizations:

- Define how collaboration will help all parties achieve their objectives.
- Assess existing platforms for collaboration (e.g., regional sustainability planning consortia, CSC task forces).
- Determine the best suited person(s) within the partner organizations or jurisdictions to address the reason for collaboration.
- Identify the process by which the initiative can be executed, funding sources for implementation, etc.
- Develop a memorandum of understanding or similar document outlining the shared objectives, approach to collaboration, and specific actions for the various participants.
- Determine the best platform to celebrate the outcomes of the collaboration.

Local governments can also be eligible for points for this action if they have devoted significant resources to training or mentoring staff, volunteers, or residents of another community in climate or clean energy action.

C. Time frame, project costs, resource needs

The time frame for implementing this action depends on a range of factors, including the number of stakeholders involved and complexity of the action. Project costs may include staff time, funds to support an action or purchase, consulting services if the initiative requires analysis the stakeholders are unable to conduct, etc. Resource needs may include meeting space, information-technology equipment, and food and beverages for working meetings and the launch event (if one is held to inform and engage the public about the initiative).

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is applicable to all types of local governments. The department or office with the responsibility for leading the

climate efforts is most likely to be responsible for this action, although it depends on the nature of the collaboration. These activities are typically led by the chief elected official's office, the city manager's office, or the departments of environment or planning, with assistance from the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) task force. Cross-department involvement and support are recommended.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Local governments that demonstrate cooperation with neighboring communities and relevant agencies in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines described here are eligible for three points.

F. What to submit

Local governments must submit meeting minutes, memorandum of understanding, or a report that explains how the local government collaborated with neighboring jurisdictions or partner agencies and the outcome. The collaboration must have taken place within three years prior to the application date or be currently active. If submitting meeting minutes, local governments should submit documentation for three meetings.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [NYS Association of Regional Councils](#)
- [NYS Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#)
- [Sustainable Westchester](#)
- [Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Intermunicipal Watershed Agreements](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.