

PE8 Action: Green Economic Development Plans

4 Points

A. Why is this action important?

For the purposes of this section, green industries are *businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment, conserve natural resources, and/or mitigate climate change*. Such goods and services are those that support research, development or deployment of renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, recycling, pollution prevention or abatement, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, natural resource conservation, environmental compliance, or training and education in these fields.

Local governments can incorporate specific plans for development of green industries into their short-term and long-term economic development plans. Identifying needs for particular green industries or markets, and assessing existing assets should be part of this planning process.

B. How to implement this action

Local governments can implement this action by performing an assessment of green economy opportunities, assets, and needs in the community, setting specific goals and objectives for increasing green businesses and green jobs, and identifying initiatives for accomplishing these objectives.

It would be useful for local governments to identify the green economy sectors within their jurisdictions and high-growth employment opportunities. This can be done through a focused effort to contact green industries to help identify job shortages and needed skills. Green industry development can be tracked through workforce response teams.

A green industry-development plan could be a standalone effort or be included in an existing effort to develop or update an economic development, sustainability, or comprehensive plan. This effort could take place at the local level or the regional level, perhaps in collaboration with the regional economic development council and neighboring jurisdictions. Local governments should contact their [regional economic development council \(REDC\)](#) to get a copy of their regional sustainability plans and work to incorporate the relevant goals and strategies from those plans.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

Most local governments will likely include this action in the scope of an existing effort to develop a new plan or update an existing plan. Thus, the additional effort to achieve this action will be minimal, if the planning process is already underway. However, if a local government elects to include an additional task in the scope of work, to perform a green economic development assessment, it could incur additional costs in staff time or consultants. The costs for such a study will vary based on the size of the jurisdiction and the number of economic sectors to be analyzed.

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 any local government and will most likely require engagement from planning staff, economic development or workforce development staff, and other relevant stakeholders from within and outside the local government. Local government economic development staff should participate in any regional effort and involve regional economic development council staff in any local efforts, as appropriate.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Points are earned for this Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action by incorporating baseline assessments, goals and objectives, and initiatives for developing green industries into new economic development plans or for updating existing plans with this new information.

F. What to submit

Submit a link to or copy of a formally adopted economic development plan or other plan with economic development component that has incorporated goals, objectives and initiatives for promoting development of green industries in the community. Submit a memorandum or report summarizing and pointing to the sustainability sections or actions in the plan. The plan must have been created or updated within five years prior to the application date.

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

- [Albany, NY, Albany 2030 Plan](#)
- [New York State Regional Economic Development Councils](#)
- [Greening Your Business, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [Green Business Partnership](#) (GBP): The GBP is a green certification program that recognizes organizations that complete a rigorous process to reduce environmental impact. See this link for a list of members.
- [New York Sustainable Business Council](#)
- [New York State Pollution Prevention Institute](#)
- [US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor and Statistics - Measuring Green Jobs](#)
- [California Clean Energy Jobs Plan](#)
- [United Nations Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\) Policies for Supporting Green Industry \(2011\)](#)

H. Recertification requirements

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