

PE8 Action: Community Choice Aggregation

12 Points

15 Points

18 Points

21 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) allows local governments to choose where the energy comes from for their community. CCA is a municipal energy procurement model that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity for virtually all homes and small businesses within the jurisdiction. CCA puts control of choosing energy supply in local hands. By pooling demand, communities build the clout necessary to negotiate competitive rates with private suppliers and are able to choose cleaner energy. CCA programs that incorporate Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation (CDG) provide potentially thousands of customers access to community-scale renewables. A CCA can allow whole communities to participate in the clean energy economy by ensuring that a greater percentage of electricity is coming from renewable sources.

Participating in a CCA enables a rapid shift to greener power resources and gives municipalities control over the source of their energy supply, which can be responsive to local economic and environmental goals. This commitment expands customer choice and spurs renewable energy development, while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a much larger scale than individual actions.

B. How to implement this action

This action awards Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification points for the successful completion of one of the two options under the NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Community Choice Aggregation high-impact action: 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix or Opt-Out Community Distributed Generation (CDG).

For guidance on implementation, see the Community Campaigns Toolkit available at www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec.

Municipalities interested in this action can receive free technical assistance from the Clean Energy Communities Coordinators that are available across New York State. Contact cec@nyserda.ny.gov for more information.

Municipalities complete this action by adopting legislation that authorizes participation in an opt-out CCA program, and then entering into an agreement with an energy services company (ESCO) to supply electricity with a default 100% renewable clean energy product mix. Please note that in New York State, only cities, towns and villages are eligible to pass a local law that enables participation in a CCA; county governments are not eligible. However, cities, towns, and villages may wish to join together to pool demand and build market clout.

For Opt-Out CDG, municipalities submit a completed Opt-Out CDG Certification Form attesting that no less than 600 accounts or 50% of residential and small commercial electricity accounts within the applying jurisdiction have been enrolled into active CDG projects on an opt-out basis. Applicants must complete the CCA - 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix action to qualify. Date of completion is the date of enrollment for the Opt-Out CDG program.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame will be dependent on the size of the municipality and its legislative process. Project costs may include staff and consultant time, where applicable.

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 cities, towns and villages. County governments are currently not eligible for points under this action. Municipal attorneys will be involved in reviewing legislative language and related agreements. Municipal staff (e.g., from planning departments) and/or other partners may assist in implementation of the program.

E. How to obtain points for this action

For Opt-Out CDG, municipalities are eligible for 12 CSC points. CSC points for the 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix option are tiered based on the population of the community covered by the CCA.

	<i>POSSIBLE POINTS</i>
Enroll in Opt-Out CDG Program	12
Population under 5,000	15
Population 5,000 to 39,999	18
Population 40,000 or more	21

F. What to submit

Submit a copy of the approval from NYSDERDA that indicates completion of one of the two options under the Clean Energy Communities Community Choice Aggregation high-impact action. When seeking points for the tiers related to the 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix option, also submit confirmation of the population of the community.

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

- [NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program](#)

H. Recertification requirements

As part of recertification, applicants must submit proof that the agreement with an ESCO to supply electricity with a default 100 percent renewable clean energy product mix is still in effect. Otherwise, the recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.