



# Climate Smart Communities Certification Report

 BRONZE CERTIFIED

This is the Climate Smart Communities Certification Report of Putnam County. Putnam County is a bronze certified Climate Smart Community.

Consideration for Putnam County bronze level certification.

The certification for Putnam County will expire on September 30, 2029.

## Contact Information

**The designated Climate Smart Communities contact for Putnam County is:**

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## Actions Implemented


Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Putnam County was approved for in 2024 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

### 1. Build a climate-smart community.

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## PE1 Action: CSC Task Force

20 Points

 Bronze Mandatory

**Program Summary:** The County first began its Climate Smart program in June 2019 when the legislature passed the Climate Smart Communities Pledge (attached) which initiated this effort. Following our registration as a participating community, the former County Executive, MaryEllen Odell, selected the Executive Capital Projects Committee to serve as the CSC Task Force. In 2023 we revitalized the Task Force to include more members of the community as well as personnel from multiple county departments. The County held Climate Smart Task Force meetings in December 2023 with a successive meeting in February 2024. Meetings will be held quarterly going forward. The attached documentation includes the original pledge, appointment of the new Task Force and Coordinator, an updated Task Force member chart, meeting agendas, meeting attendance, and meeting minutes. The Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation is responsible for leading and maintaining climate smart initiatives.

PDF: [CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PLEDGE - 2019](#)

PDF: [PC CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDAS.PDF](#)

PDF: [EXECUTIVE MEMO. APPOINTING CSC TASK FORCE AND COORDINATOR 12.7.23.PDF](#)

PDF: [PC CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE MEETING ATTENDANCE \(HYBRID\).PDF](#)

PDF: [PC CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE CHART.PDF](#)

PDF: [PC CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES - COMBINED.PDF](#)

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## PE1 Action: CSC Coordinator

10 Points

 Bronze Mandatory

**Program Summary:** Putnam County officially designated Ms. Ilona Campo, a Planning Assistant in the Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation, as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator on December 7, 2023. The attached executive memo from December 2023 details the membership of the 2023 Task Force as well as the appointment of the Coordinator.

PDF: [EXECUTIVE MEMO. APPOINTING CSC TASK FORCE AND COORDINATOR 12.7.23.PDF](#)

## PE1 Action: Partnerships with Other Entities

3 Points

**Program Summary:** Putnam County previously and currently partners with multiple different agencies/municipalities in an effort to mitigate climate change and improve regional planning and transportation. Those agencies/municipalities include, but are not limited to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County (CCE), nonprofit Sustainable Putnam, the County's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), town boards, the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC), Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress, Putnam County Land Trust, NY Ag. & Markets, Second Chance Foods, Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, and more. Climate action work such as storm water runoff mitigation, land conservation/preservation, planning for EV charging stations, and transitioning to low emission bus fleets, is regularly implemented by County staff who manage projects and grant funding. The Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District most notably partners with CCE on a variety of programs, including annual native seedling sales, pollinator pathways, and summer community festivals. The attached documentation details some of the collaborative efforts organized by the County such as flyers, screenshots, MOUs, and the most recent adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

PDF: [CORNELL POLLINATOR PATHWAY MOU - SIGNED.PDF](#)

PDF: [2023 CCE SEEDLING SALE MOA - SIGNED.PDF](#)

PDF: [PUTNAM - CCE TREE AND SEEDLING SALE FLYER 2023.PDF](#)

PDF: [S&WCD SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES.PDF](#)

PDF: [NYMTC ADOPTED PUTNAM TIP FFY 23-27.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [PCLT WEBSITE SCREENSHOT.PNG](#)

## 2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.

### PE2 Action: Community GHG Inventory

16 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** As part of the CSC program, Putnam County created a Community GHG Inventory utilizing 2020-2022 data which identifies and quantifies the sources of GHG emissions from community activities and establishes a baseline from which future emissions reductions and progress can be measured. The attached Community GHG Report was developed using a template provided by the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC). The finalized report is publicly available at <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/climatesmart>.

PDF: [HVRC - COMMUNITY-GHG-REPORT - PUTNAM COUNTY 2.24 FINAL.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [COPY OF MID-HUDSON 2021 SUMMARY DATA.XLSX](#)

## 3. Decrease energy use.

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## PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits

16 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** In December 2019, Ameresco, a renewable energy/energy efficiency engineering company, completed the attached Investment Grade Audit (IGA) for Putnam County, New York. As the file was too large to upload as one document (788pgs), it was split into two separate attached documents as well as uploaded to the Putnam County Climate Smart website at <https://putnamcountyny.com/climatesmart> for public viewing. In the IGA, Ameresco, together with Putnam County, set forth a plan to identify, manage, and conserve energy at County owned and operated buildings through a variety of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). By implementing these ECMs with Ameresco, each facility within the County has/will become a more safe, productive and cost-effective environment for taxpayers and employees alike. The IGA evaluated 23 municipally owned and operated buildings with the highest occupancy rates (i.e. greater than five employees present 5+ days a week) with the exception of the Transit Facility which is federally funded and has already undergone several energy efficiency upgrades. The County owns several other buildings as well, however, their occupancy rates and utility usage were so low that they did not qualify to be audited (i.e. newly built, seasonal/unmanned, barn building shells, storage shelters, etc.). Additional documentation includes an Excel spreadsheet maintained by the Department of Public Works (DPW) to monitor ECM progress for 24 buildings, this spreadsheet is regularly updated. The County is requesting 16 points for this action.

PDF: [ARTICLE 9 GOVERNMENT BUILDING ENERGY AUDITS \(1-392\).PDF](#)

PDF: [ARTICLE 9 GOVERNMENT BUILDING ENERGY AUDITS \(393-788\).PDF](#)

EXCEL: [ARTICLE 9 - ECMS BY BUILDING 02.2024.XLSX](#)

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## PE3 Action: Interior Lighting Upgrades

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Throughout 2020-2022, the County's energy efficiency contractor, Ameresco, upgraded an approximate 430,407 square feet of municipal building lighting fixtures. The attached Excel spreadsheet details those upgrades as well as simultaneous HVAC/BEMS upgrades. Of the total 456,216 square feet of municipal buildings (most of which identified in the Article 9 Government Building Energy Audit), 94% of that square footage was upgraded to energy efficient lighting fixtures. The details and specifications of those fixtures and before/after example pictures are attached as additional documentation. The County is requesting five points for this action.

PDF: [INDOOR LIGHTING CUT SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [INDOOR LIGHTING UPGRADES BY BUILDING.PDF](#)

PDF: [LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT SPECS..PDF](#)

EXCEL: [PE 3 INTERIOR LIGHTING AND HVAC UPGRADES - PUTNAM COUNTY.XLSX](#)

IMAGE: [INTERIOR LIGHTING UPGRADE COLLAGE \(1\).PNG](#)

IMAGE: [INTERIOR LIGHTING UPGRADE COLLAGE \(2\).JPG](#)

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### PE3 Action: HVAC Upgrades

3 Points

**Program Summary:** Throughout 2020-2023, the County's energy efficiency contractor, Ameresco, upgraded an approximate 142,382 square feet of municipal building HVAC fixtures. The attached Excel spreadsheet details those upgrades as well as simultaneous BEMS and interior lighting upgrades. Of the total 456,216 square feet of municipal buildings (most of which identified in the Article 9 Government Building Energy Audit), 31% of the that square footage was upgraded to more efficient HVAC fixtures (RTUs, oil-fired boilers, natural gas fired burners, etc.). Examples of HVAC fixture specifications and before/after pictures are attached as additional documentation. The County is requesting three points for this action.

EXCEL: [PE 3 INTERIOR LIGHTING AND HVAC UPGRADES - PUTNAM COUNTY.XLSX](#)

PDF: [CUT SHEETS - HVAC AIR HANDLER.PDF](#)

PDF: [IGA - 19 AHU REPLACEMENTS.PDF](#)

PDF: [CUT SHEETS - DBS BUILDING #2 AHU REPLACEMENTS.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [TRANSIT FACILITY BOILERS - BEFORE&AFTER.PNG](#)

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### PE3 Action: Building Energy Management System

3 Points

**Program Summary:** Throughout 2020-2022, the County's energy efficiency contractor, Ameresco, upgraded or installed computer-based building/energy management systems (BEMS) for approximately 373,084 sq. ft. (87%) of county owned buildings. The attached Excel spreadsheet details those upgrades as well as simultaneous HVAC and interior lighting upgrades. Screenshots of the active BEMS dashboard are attached as additional documentation. The County is requesting three points for this action.

PDF: [PUTNAM COUNTY BEMS DASHBOARD PICS.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [PE 3 INTERIOR LIGHTING AND HVAC UPGRADES - PUTNAM COUNTY.XLSX](#)

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### PE3 Action: Outdoor Lighting Upgrades

4 Points

**Program Summary:** The attached documentation details the 434 upgraded LED outdoor light fixtures of the total 547 at 22 County operated buildings (79% upgraded). These upgrades took place between 2020 - 2023. Product specifications and before/after/aerial pictures of outdoor lighting locations are attached as additional information. The County is requesting four points for this action.

PDF: [OUTDOOR LIGHTING CUT SHEETS.PDF](#)

PDF: [OUTDOOR LIGHTING UPGRADES BY BUILDING.PDF](#)

PDF: [PUTNAM COUNTY OUTDOOR LIGHTING UPGRADES - PICS BY LOCATION.PDF](#)

PDF: [OUTDOOR LIGHTING BEFORE AND AFTERS.PDF](#)

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#### 4. Shift to clean, renewable energy.

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##### PE4 Action: Solar Energy Installation

20 Points

**Program Summary:** With capital projects funding, the County installed rooftop solar arrays on the Kern Building in 2021, on the County Office Building (COB) in 2022, and on buildings 1, 2, and 3 of the Donald B. Smith (DBS) Government Campus in 2023. The peak capacity for all five buildings is roughly 371 kW. All building solar arrays are currently active, however, only the Kern Building and DBS Government campus buildings are fully integrated into the SolarEdge monitoring dashboard. The COB will be fully uploaded to the system later in 2024/early 2025. The Kern Building's solar panel installation was advertised via The Examiner News in 2021, the link to the press release is as follows <https://www.theexaminernews.com/putnam-county-goes-solar-with-panels-on-kern-building/>. All installations have been announced for public education via educational posters on department bulletin boards and on the County's Climate Smart website at <https://putnamcountyny.com/climatesmart>. All energy generated from the arrays goes back into the building to reduce the charge from the utility provider (NYSEG). In instances when the building is drawing less power than currently being generated (i.e. weekends and holidays) the extra power is exported back to the utility grid (NYSEG) and the County receives a credit on their utility bill. The attached Energy Services agreement between Ameresco, Inc. and Putnam County details the scope of services on page 29 (Attachment B) and the maintenance services for solar PV arrays on page 35 (Attachment H). Additional documentation details the date of installation, the qualified installer, aerial photographs, proof of activity on the SolarEdge system, educational poster pics, and panel specs. The County is requesting 20 points for this action.

PDF: [PUTNAM COUNTY AND AMERESCO ARTICLE 9 CONTRACT 12.24.19 - COPY.PDF](#)

PDF: [SOLAR PANEL SPECS..PDF](#)

EXCEL: [PC SOLAR ARRAY INSTALLATION BY BUILDING.XLSX](#)

PDF: [SOLAREEDGE MONITORING DASHBOARD ACTIVITY.PDF](#)

PDF: [SOLAR INSTALLATIONS BY BUILDING - PICS.PDF](#)

PDF: [SOLAR EDUCATIONAL POSTERS \(DBS, COB, KERN\).PDF](#)

## 5. Use climate-smart materials management.

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### PE5 Action: Recycling Bins in Government Buildings

3 Points

**Program Summary:** In 2016, the Putnam County Health Department implemented and distributed recycling bins to all municipal office buildings. Each municipal building now has communal recycling bins as well as access to personal bins. Putnam County currently employs roughly 715 trash bins and 38 communal recycling bins throughout the properties it owns and operates (as per Health Dept. estimate). Personal recycling bins (in independent offices/cubicles) are a bit difficult to estimate as some employees elect to use communal bins or other receptacles (such as Bankers Boxes, paper bags, etc.), regardless, personal bins are still offered/available through the Health Department. The attached documentation includes memos sent to all county employees, an Excel record of communal bin placement, and a picture collage documenting placement of recycling bins in proximity to trash bins.

PDF: [RECYCLING BINS MEMO.PDF](#)

PDF: [COUNTYWIDE SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING NOTIFICATION.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [RECYCLING BIN COLLAGE.JPG](#)


EXCEL: [RECYCLING BIN PLACEMENT RECORDS.XLSX](#)

## 6. Implement climate-smart land use.

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### PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy

4 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Putnam County Legislature adopted the attached Complete Streets Policy in December 2023. The Policy was developed by the Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation as well as the Department of Public Works in accordance with NYSDOT standards and CSC Program requirements in order to evaluate existing projects and implement new projects that adhere to Complete Street's objectives.

PDF: [PUTNAM COUNTY COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FINAL 12.23.PDF](#)

PDF: [RESO 284 OF 2023 LEG. ADOPTION - PUTNAM COUNTY COMPLETE STREETS POLICY 12.27.23.PDF](#)

## 7. Enhance community resilience to climate change.

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## PE7 Action: Climate-resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan

4 Points

**Program Summary:** Please see the attached website link to the 2021 Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Plan (<https://putnamcountynyhmp.com/>). Please note: although the watermark on the files displays "DRAFT", they are in fact the final versions. The Plan identifies hazards of concern including harmful algal blooms, drought, disease outbreak, extreme temperatures, floods, wildfires, severe storms, and more which have the potential to be exacerbated by climate change. With participation from each community within the County, mitigation and adaptation is possible with the pooling of resources and the creation of partnerships that ultimately foster more resilient communities. Putnam County completed its HMP in collaboration with Tetra Tech in 2021, the Plan has since been submitted to and approved by NYSDHSES and FEMA. Supporting documentation includes a link to the Plan website and proof that it has been approved by FEMA and adopted by the Putnam County Legislature.

: [EXPLORE THE PLAN - PUTNAM COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN \(HMP\) UPDATE.HTM](#)

PDF: [RESO. 105 OF 2021 - ADOPTION OF THE 2021 PUTNAM COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.PDF](#)

PDF: [FEMA FINAL APPROVAL LETTER PUTNAM COUNTY 07292021.PDF](#)

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## PE7 Action: Cooling Centers

4 Points

**Program Summary:** The attached documentation provides current evidence that Putnam County has promoted awareness and outreach to residents about available cooling centers via the County's Bureau of Emergency Services website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Eight local libraries and six town halls are available as a cooling centers (residents are encouraged to call ahead). All PART routes (1, 2, 3, & 5) as well as the seasonal Cold Spring trolley (operating Saturdays and Sundays, Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend) have designated stops at or near the libraries and town halls. Public transportation services are available to residents and visitors at the reasonable rates of: - PART system: \$2.50 each way (students/children/seniors/disabled are eligible for half fare \$1.25) - Paratransit system: \$3.25 each way (on demand service for disabled) - Seasonal Trolley: \$1.00 each way (seniors and disabled eligible for half fare of .50) Also attached is the interactive transportation map that highlights stops at or near designated cooling center locations. The County is requesting five points for this action.

: [PUTNAM COUNTY BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [PUTNAM COUNTY COOLING CENTER LOCATIONS](#)

IMAGE: [PC COOLING CENTER ADVERTISING - FACEBOOK](#)

IMAGE: [PC COOLING CENTERS - TWITTER.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [PC COOLING CENTERS - INSTAGRAM.PNG](#)

: [INTERACTIVE PUBLIC TRANSIT ROUTE VIEWER.HTML](#)



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## PE7 Action: Conserve Natural Areas

12 Points

**Program Summary:** Conserving natural areas via property acquisition is a regular function of the Department of Real Property Tax Services as evidenced by an acquisition (see Reso. 274 of 2021) of four small parcels that were conserved as open space in 2021. Of note, Putnam County, together with Team Environmental Consultants, Inc. (TEAM), finalized the attached Environmental Site Assessment Report in March 2019. The report identified five contiguous wooded properties in Brewster, NY (see attached Parcel Map). The five irregularly shaped properties have a combined area of 131.68 acres. They are adjacent to the Tilly Foster Farm conservation area located at 100 NY-312, Brewster, NY. The parcels were sold to the County of Putnam in 2019 and will continue to be conserved as open space. Attached documentation includes the Environmental Site Assessment, Reso. 125 of 2019, the Deed of Sale, and a screenshot of the parcel map. The following interactive website also detail Putnam County trails and open spaces: <https://data-pcny.opendata.arcgis.com/apps/2d0f9fdd5f24cf3836950df0f1aac6b/explore> The County is requesting 12 points for this action.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT - TILLY FOSTER CONSERVATION AREA.PDF](#)

PDF: [RESO. 125 OF 2019 NOTICE OF INTENT TO ACT AS LEAD AGENCY – SEQRA DETERMINATION – JOHN SIMPSON ROAD LAND DONATION.PDF](#)

PDF: [DEED OF SALE - 5 ADJACENT PARCELS IN BREWSTER, NY.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [SIMPSON ROAD LAND ACQUISITION PARCEL MAP.PNG](#)

PDF: [RESO. 274 OF 2021 - COUNTY OPEN SPACE, TAX MAP #S 53.16-2-5, 75.6-2-28, 75.6-2-40, & 75.6-2-62 - TOWN OF CARMEL.PDF](#)

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## PE7 Action: Culverts & Dams

12 Points

**Program Summary:** The County Department of Public Works (DPW) recently replaced two culverts and one bridge. The first culvert replaced in 2021 was PIN 8761.69 Fairfield Drive Culvert over the Putnam Lake Outlet. This culvert replacement project is of significance as it improved aquatic connectivity by replacing a deficient corrugated steel round pipe culvert with an open bottom culvert that allowed for a natural stream bottom without the need to remove bedrock. The second culvert replaced in 2022 was for the Shrub Oak Brook portion under Lovers Lane (Putnam Valley, NY), part of the Peekskill Hollow Rd. Improvement project, PIN 8757.48. This project was of significance as the culvert was widened from 15.5' to 18' to accommodate aquatic connectivity and 50-100 year flooding risks. Lastly, the bridge replaced in 2023 was PIN 8757.65 Drewville Rd. Bridge over the West Branch of the Croton River. This bridge replacement project is of significance as the existing bridge, built in 1930, was a safety concern to motorists and bicyclists/pedestrians. The previous 1' - 1.5' shoulders were replaced with 4' shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and the river channel approximately doubled in size from 363 square feet to 745 square feet. Documentation for all three projects includes design plans/reports and before/during/after pictures. The Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District also maintains a record of the 129 private and publicly owned dams located throughout the County. The attached spreadsheet details the dam location, size, owners, class, hazard condition index, year built, construction type, recent inspection dates, and more. The County is requesting 14 points for this action.

EXCEL: [PUTNAM COUNTY DAM INVENTORY 02.2021.XLSX](#)

PDF: [DREWVILLE RD. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.PDF](#)

PDF: [DREWVILLE RD. BRIDGE DESIGN REPORT 08.24.2021.PDF](#)

PDF: [FAIRFIELD DR. CULVERT - FINAL DESIGN REPORT.PDF](#)

PDF: [FAIRFIELD DRIVE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PICS.PDF](#)

PDF: [PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD - LOVERS LANE CULVERT PLANS AND PICS.PDF](#)

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## 8. Support a green innovation economy.

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### PE8 Action: Farmers' Markets

3 Points

**Program Summary:** Cornell Cooperative Extension partnered with Putnam County to develop the attached Local Food Guide PDF of year round farmer's markets and food stand locations. In the past, farmers markets were advertised via press release (see attached website article). The newly updated brochure was/is distributed at CCE events throughout the County as well as uploaded online to encourage residents to buy locally produced products. Additionally, the County partners with local nonprofit, Sustainable Putnam, who developed the attached webpage that acts as a educational resource as well as directory for local farmers markets, grocery stores, and food pantry locations throughout Putnam County. Lastly, Putnam County operates an educational farm facility, Tilly Foster Farm, that encourages regenerative/sustainable farming practices. The farm produces enough produce to supply Putnam County seniors at the Office for Senior Resources Senior centers, the on-site restaurant Tilly's Table, the restaurant at the Putnam County Golf Course, and other local food pantries. A farm stand is also accessible at Tilly Foster from mid May to late November where visitors can purchase fresh, seasonal, pesticide-free produce produced on site.

PDF: [PUTNAM COUNTY LOCAL FOOD GUIDE BROCHURE](#)

: [PUTNAM'S FARMERS MARKETS ABOUND WITH FRESH LOCAL FOODS THE PUTNAM DAILY VOICE.HTM](#)

: [FOOD & AGRICULTURE – SUSTAINABLE PUTNAM.HTML](#)

: [TILLY FOSTER FARM – AT THE FARM, WHERE LIFE BEGINS.HTML](#)

PDF: [TILLY FOSTER FARM PICS.PDF](#)

## 9. Inform and inspire the public.

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### PE9 Action: Local Climate Action Website

3 Points

**Program Summary:** Developed in 2020, the Putnam County Climate Smart website is now featured as an affiliate webpage under the Department of Planning, Development, and Public Transportation, the department leading the County's Climate Smart efforts. The webpage now features public education on the effects of climate change at a local, state, and national level, information on how to get involved, some of the climate smart action documentation, the coordinator and Task Force members, links to already registered/certified communities within the County, information on local programs, and more. New content includes the Community GHG Inventory, a collection of town Natural Resource Inventories, pictures of CS efforts, and more. The webpage will be updated as needed by the coordinator in conjunction with the County's IT Department and can be found at <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/climatesmart>.

: [CLIMATESMART - PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK.HTML](#)