

Update February 08, 2011

Central New York Climate Change Innovation Program

Grant narrative: Town of Preble

Part One: Climate Action Planning and Public Outreach

Community commitment includes the services of one Preble Town Board councilperson, with the support of the Town supervisor and other board members when needed. That person will be responsible for measuring, tracking and benchmarking data, as well as serving as the point person for other tasks in the Climate Action Plan. It is understood that the project may require 200 to 250 hours of staff time over the project time period of three years. The town will accept additional resources from the CNY RPDB and ICLEI if offered, and if needed. The Town Hall will be used for work sessions and public information meetings and presentations.

We plan to engage Preble residents, Town officials and businesses by creating a steering committee, with members being the Preble Town board members, Preble Town Justice, Preble Highway Superintendent, Preble Fire Chief, representatives from the Song Lake Association, Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Association, local business owners and farmers, and other interested parties. The Climate Action Planning Committee (steering committee), under the direction of the Town Board dedicated staff member, will create the climate action plan, help to implement the plan, sponsor publications and events to inform the public of the plan and publish achievements during and at the end of the grant period. The committee will promote the Energy Star Pledge through their publications and events, and log and report results of participation in that program.

One expected outcome of the Climate Action Plan is improvement in energy efficiency at the Preble Town Hall is a result of the NYSERDA energy audit. The preliminary list of energy saving improvements includes replacement of water heaters with demand water units, insulation above the ceilings where none now exists, replacement of original windows, change of light fixtures and furnace maintenance. The Town Board is seeking help with funding the energy efficient measures on the list from the NYSERDA Existing Facility Program. The expectation of those improvements is a decrease in energy budget by 30%, which will reflect favorably in the town operating budget. The quality of the building environment will be enhanced to a great degree, as the building now is uncomfortable regardless of energy used to mediate the inside temperature.

Another expected outcome of the Climate Action Plan pertains to the general community population. Preble has a population of around 1582, as of the 2000 census. We have about 530 mail recipients. It is realistic to believe that all residents and businesses in Preble will become aware of the Climate Action Plan in the Town of Preble, as a Town of Preble Newsletter is published on a regular basis. As the population is encouraged to participate in Energy Audits, with the average result of improvements from an energy audit set at 20% energy savings, we can estimate that 1/5th of the homes\businesses will receive and act on the home energy audits. The quality of the environment will improve to a greater degree as the community effort to reduce greenhouse gases inspires young members of our community learning the value of energy saving measures.

Part Two: Municipal Code and Policy Review

Preble is in the process of creating an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. A part of that process will require the town to review the zoning code in order to accommodate an emphasis on agriculture for the town. With the CNY RPDB technical assistance, we will be better able to include zoning code that will help the Preble community meet the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan goals. Just as the zoning code can define an expectation that the land rated as prime farm land will be used for agriculture, we would look to add statements to the code that define an expectation for increasing clean energy and decreasing greenhouse gases in our community.