

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Memorializing the Tenth Anniversary of the Climate Smart**
6 **Communities Certification Program and Celebrating a Decade of County**
7 **Climate Leadership**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Program began as an
10 interagency initiative to support local governments in their efforts to reduce greenhouse
11 gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the CSC Certification Program has been instrumental in guiding counties
14 and municipalities across New York State toward sustainable practices and climate
15 resilience; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the program provides a robust framework and range of resources to help
18 communities achieve their climate goals through voluntary actions that support energy
19 efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, and community resilience; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the CSC Certification Program has grown over the past decade to include
22 425 registered communities and 154 certified communities, demonstrating widespread
23 commitment to mitigating and adapting to climate change at the local level; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, counties have completed many actions through this program, including:
26

- 27 • Creating comprehensive greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans for
- 28 • Launching energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
- 29 • Adopting green fleet policies;
- 30 • Developing composting and waste reduction programs;
- 31 • Conducting public engagement and education initiatives on sustainability;
- 32 • Powering government operations with renewable energy sources; and
- 33 • Conducting climate vulnerability assessments and hazard mitigation plans to
- 34 prepare for and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, these accomplishments highlight the effectiveness of the CSC Certification
37 Program in fostering collaboration, innovation, and action at the local level to combat
38 climate change; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) recognizes the
2 critical role of the CSC Certification Program in helping counties lead by example in
3 climate action and sustainability efforts; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, NYSAC also recognizes the co-benefits of taking climate action, including
6 improved air quality, enhanced public health, and significant cost savings for taxpayers
7 through increased energy efficiency and reduced operational costs.
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9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NYSAC commemorates the tenth
10 anniversary of the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program and applauds the
11 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for its
12 leadership and support; and
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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC acknowledges and celebrates the
15 substantial achievements of counties through the CSC Certification Program,
16 recognizing their dedication to creating healthier, more sustainable, and resilient
17 communities; and
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19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State fund and continue to increase
20 funding for the Climate Smart Communities grant and certification programs; and
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22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC encourages all counties in New York
23 State to continue their participation in the CSC Certification Program and to strive
24 toward higher levels of certification and climate action; and
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26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be forwarded to all counties in
27 New York state urging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
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29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to
30 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the New
31 York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed
32 necessary and proper.