

Cleaner, Greener Communities Program:

sustainable, smart growth practices
for every New York region

Working together to improve our environmental and economic health

To best serve residents today and for generations to come, New York must find innovative ways to help citizens and businesses to use fewer natural resources and reduce environmental impact—while maintaining our quality of life. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo created the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program to address these needs and ensure a brighter future for all New Yorkers. The Program, which is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), empowered regions to lead the development of sustainability plans and to implement projects that will significantly improve the economic development and environmental well-being of their communities.



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Community-wide regional planning for a more vibrant future

The Cleaner, Greener Communities Program supports sustainability development and smart growth practices at the regional level. Planning teams tapped into the experience of public and private experts across a wide range of fields, along with community residents, to remove barriers and create integrated sustainability plans. These plans will help guide statewide investments and regional decision-making on land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and environmental practices. They also will help regions identify and implement projects that provide the greatest opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and deploy renewable energy options. The planning teams aligned their strategies with the work of their Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC), ensuring a collaborative effort to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, making our communities more prosperous, and making our state more economically vibrant.

How the program works

NYSERDA provides Cleaner, Greener Communities support to New York's 10 regions through a two-phase competitive grant process:

PHASE I provided nearly \$10 million in support to regional planning teams to create comprehensive sustainability plans or to expand the scope of existing sustainability plans.

PHASE II provides up to \$90 million toward regional projects that support the regional sustainability goals identified during the planning process. Awards will focus on market-transforming sustainability initiatives that accelerate the adoption of sustainable planning and development practices. Initiatives that have the ability to be inspirational and replicated to expand market adoption and overall impact will be supported.

Find contact information for the regional planning teams and view the regional sustainability plans at nyserdera.ny.gov/cleaner-greener

The many benefits of sustainability

Sustainable communities typically have lower costs, more jobs, and better quality of life because they adopt sustainable growth strategies, such as:

- Using renewable energy to become more energy independent
- Controlling sprawl to reduce housing and transportation costs
- Investing in public transit systems to serve more people and minimize pollution
- Building stores, schools, and workplaces near neighborhoods to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Attracting businesses into neighborhoods to create jobs and keep dollars local
- Making walking and bicycling easy to foster healthy lifestyles
- Reusing developed land to improve economic potential
- Adopting clean technologies to grow our economy
- Conserving resources to strengthen the natural environment
- Reducing greenhouse gases to improve and protect our environment

Join the conversation in your region

You can help your region by learning more about the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program, and by sharing your ideas for more sustainable development and smart growth practices.

Support for Cleaner, Greener Communities Program is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect our environment and create clean energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York since 1975.