

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
 Cleaner, Greener Communities (CGC) Program, Phase II Implementation Grants, Round 2
 Program Opportunity Notice (PON) 2951

Funding Available: Up to \$30 million

APPLICATION DUE DATES

Category 1 – Incentive Applications (open enrollment): NYSERDA will continue to accept applications through the *existing program*, PON 2721 - Category 1, which was released in 2013, until 4:00 PM Eastern Time on September 30, 2015, until funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.

Category 2 – Planning Initiatives (competitive due date): Applications for Category 2 under PON2951 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014.

Category 3 – Sustainability Projects (competitive due date): Applications for Category 3 under PON2951 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014.

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INTRODUCTION

The [Cleaner, Greener Communities \(CGC\) Program](#) was announced by Governor Cuomo in his 2011 State of the State address as a competitive grant program to encourage communities to develop and implement regional sustainable growth strategies. The CGC Program builds on the [Climate Smart Communities Program](#), which was established in 2009 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) as a network of local governments across New York that have committed, by voluntarily adopting the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to prepare for unavoidable changes in climate. The CGC Program provides enhanced support for development and implementation of regional sustainability plans to help ensure that New York State's (NYS) ongoing and substantial investments in infrastructure help to shift communities and NYS as a whole toward a more environmentally and economically sustainable future. The primary goal of the CGC Program is to encourage communities to create public-private partnerships and develop regional sustainable growth strategies in such areas as emissions control, energy efficiency, renewable energy, low-carbon transportation, and other carbon reductions. [Phase I of CGC](#) provided funding to the 10 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions in NYS for the development of Regional Sustainability Plans. [Phase II of CGC](#) (CGC II) offers grant funding for projects that support the goals of each region's respective sustainability planning effort. This solicitation, PON2951, is the second in a series of funding rounds to support these types of projects. A subsequent round is expected in 2015. A total of \$90 million in potential funding awards will be available over the three-year life of the CGC Program. The CGC Program is funded with proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the purpose of which is to lower carbon emissions in the participating states.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through Round 2 of CGC II, NYSERDA is offering competitive grants for the implementation of market-transforming sustainability initiatives and projects that accelerate the adoption of sustainable planning and development practices, are innovative, create multiple community benefits, reduce carbon emissions, leverage public and private resources, and propel NYS toward an environmentally and economically vibrant and resilient future. Funding will support policy and plan development, technical assistance, and implementation of projects and initiatives that have the ability to be inspirational and replicated to expand market adoption and overall impact. Projects will stimulate environmentally sustainable economic growth consistent with the [CGC Phase I Regional Sustainability Plans](#) and [REDC Strategic Plans](#). These projects will be holistic in nature, exhibit positive impacts at a scale larger than typical NYSERDA-funded projects, and contribute to an improved quality of life through a systems approach of connecting the natural, built, and human environments. Projects and initiatives selected under CGC II will not only save energy and reduce carbon emissions; they will also make NYS a better place to live, work, and do business.

All projects must demonstrate a contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions either through direct outcomes or indirect influence in areas such as future growth and development patterns. Finally, CGC II is a unique program that should fill gaps and leverage other sources of funding in ways that could not otherwise be accomplished. Round 2 of CGC II is flexible in that it supports a variety of project types; however, it is focused in its priority objective of achieving significant market transformation.

FUNDING CATEGORIES - SUMMARY

Category 1 – Photovoltaic and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Permitting Incentive Applications (Open-Enrollment): This category is a continuation of Category 1 in NYSERDA PON 2721, which was released in 2013. Please reference the Category 1 Fact Sheet, which can be found at the CGC [Guidance Documents](#) webpage, for more detailed program requirements and application instructions. Approximately \$1 million is available for communities to adopt streamlined permitting and other ordinances for photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations, with awards of up to \$10,000 per applicant. **NYSERDA will continue to accept applications through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#) for Category 1 until 4:00 PM Eastern Time on September 30, 2015, until funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.**

Category 2 – Planning Initiatives (Due Date Applications - Competitive): Up to \$5 million will be available to support comprehensive planning, zoning amendments, predevelopment technical assistance for projects, or other innovative planning-related initiatives. These initiatives will prepare a community, region, or project for a more sustainable and resilient future; thereby creating indirect community benefit and carbon reductions. Initiatives must be ready to commence within 3 months of NYSERDA contract execution and should be completed within 3 years of contract execution. Applicants may not commence work on any portion of the project until there is a fully executed contract with NYSERDA. Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$250,000 per project with a 25% minimum cost share requirement. Award amounts will be primarily based on the innovative and transformative merits of the application in its ability to advance sustainable planning practices. **Proposals for Category 2 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014.** For specific application requirements, please see the section of this document entitled “FUNDING CATEGORIES – DETAILED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.”

Category 3 – Community-Scale Sustainability Projects (Due Date Applications - Competitive): Up to \$25 million will be available for community-scale sustainability projects that are innovative and transformational in their contributions to advancing sustainable development; thereby creating direct community benefit and reduction of carbon emissions. Project types include showcase or anchor construction projects, as well as innovative projects or programs that stimulate market transformation. Projects must be ready to commence within 3 months of NYSERDA contract execution and should be completed within 3 years of contract execution. Applicants may not commence work on any portion of the project until there is a fully executed contract with NYSERDA. Awards will range from \$500,000 to \$5 million per project with a 25% cost share requirement. Award amounts will be primarily based on the innovative and transformative merits of the application in its ability to advance sustainable development practices. **Proposals for Category 3 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014.** For specific application requirements, please see the section of this document entitled “FUNDING CATEGORIES – DETAILED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.”

FUNDING CATEGORIES – DETAILED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

CATEGORY 1: PHOTOVOLTAIC AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT PERMITTING INCENTIVES

This category is a continuation of Category 1 in NYSERDA Program Opportunity Notice (PON) 2721, which was released in 2013. Please reference the Category 1 Fact Sheet, which can be found at the CGC [Guidance Documents](#) webpage, for more detailed program requirements and application instructions. Approximately \$1 million is available for communities to adopt streamlined permitting and other ordinances for photovoltaic systems and electric vehicle charging stations, with awards of up to \$10,000 per applicant. **NYSERDA will continue to accept applications through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#) for Category 1 until 4:00 PM**

Eastern Time on September 30, 2015, until funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS – CATEGORIES 2 AND 3

Local governments (county, city, town, village, or Indian tribal government or nation located within NYS), private companies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities with projects located in New York State are eligible to apply for funds. NYS governmental or quasi-governmental agencies, authorities, or entities are NOT eligible applicants. Public-private and public-public partnerships are encouraged to maximize the opportunity for innovation, impact, and leveraging of other sources of funds. Applicants may form partnerships and submit a joint proposal, but one entity must be identified as the lead applicant on behalf of the group or consortium. NYS governmental or quasi-governmental agencies, authorities, or entities may be project partners, but cannot be the lead applicant and cannot contribute funding toward the required applicant cost share. The lead applicant, if successful, will have a contractual obligation to NYSERDA and will act as the main point of contact for all project-related matters.

CATEGORY 2: PLANNING INITIATIVES

Funding Available: Up to \$5 million.

Category 2 Project Eligibility

All Category 2 applicants must propose a *qualified planning initiative*. A *qualified planning initiative* shall be defined as: a single project consisting of creating or revising a municipal comprehensive plan, drafting and implementing zoning amendments, pre-development technical assistance for a specific capital project, or another innovative planning-related initiative that will better prepare a community, region, or project for a more sustainable and resilient future. Eligible applicants may include only one specific project or initiative in the application. Proposals targeting multiple projects or initiatives are not eligible under this category. All proposals must demonstrate how initiatives are innovative, support local or regional sustainable economic development, and will serve to transform future market practice in a manner that will have multiple long term community benefits and reduction of carbon emissions. NYSERDA recommends using the [Technical Guidance Manual for Sustainable Neighborhoods](#), created by the United States Green Building Council in partnership with the Land Use Law Center at Pace Law School, to guide community planning processes and proposal development. NYSERDA also recommends considering the [LEED® for Neighborhood Development Floating Zone](#) as part of anticipated planning and zoning efforts. A resource for form-based codes is available at <http://www.formbasedcodes.org/>. Use of other nationally recognized standards or development of new standards to meet market needs are also encouraged.

Applicants may request between \$25,000 and \$250,000 of NYSERDA funding per project. NYSERDA may make award offers at amounts lower than those for which the applicant proposed pursuant to the scope and merit of the proposal received, but will not make awards less than \$25,000. NYSERDA, in order to avoid double-funding projects or measures within projects, may also adjust awarded funding amounts at any time based on new information regarding other project funding secured. A minimum cost-share of 25% is required. The applicant cost-share and the NYSERDA share must contribute to the same project or measures within the project intended to reduce carbon emissions, promote energy efficiency, or increase use of renewable energy. All demonstrated cost-share must be confirmed by signed commitments from contributing parties. Other NYS funding sources, including other NYSERDA funding, shall not count toward the proposer's cost-share. For example, if an applicant requests \$75,000 from NYSERDA, the applicant must also commit a minimum cost share of \$25,000, for a total minimum project cost of \$100,000. Cost share may include private equity, private or federal grants, loans, in-

kind or volunteer services documented in dollar value, or other non-NYS government funding sources. For the purposes of this solicitation, “NYS government funding” is defined as a grant or an incentive that is received from a NYS governmental entity. This funding cannot be counted as any portion of the applicant cost share. For the purposes of this solicitation, annual NYS funding going toward standard operating costs for an organization is not considered “NYS government funding.” A retainage equal to 10% of the NYSERDA award will be withheld throughout the project and will be payable upon project completion and acceptance of all reporting requirements. For community-level planning efforts, such as comprehensive plan or zoning ordinance updates, successful project completion and release of the retainage may be contingent upon formal approval or adoption, by the local government entity with regulatory authority, of documents developed through the planning effort.

Applications will be evaluated based on the degree to which the project supports the criteria outlined in the section of this document entitled “Category 2 Selection Criteria.” Applicants may not commence work on any portion of the project until there is a fully executed contract with NYSERDA. This shall include any activity funded by NYSERDA or other activity included as part of the proposed applicant cost share. Projects must be ready to commence within three months of contract execution and should be complete within three years of contract execution. Applicants are required to append a proposed scope of work, including a budget and project timeline, with their application. Information included in this appendix will not be considered for the purpose of scoring and selecting proposals other than to clarify budget information and demonstrate that the appendix was submitted and includes all requested information. Applications that do not include the required appendix with complete information in the format requested will be deemed ineligible. Applicants must also agree, or provide written exceptions, to NYSERDA’s standard contracting Terms and Conditions, which can be found on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage. NYSERDA reserves the right to condition awards pending applicant acceptance of industry-appropriate or other NYSERDA program equipment performance, measurement and verification, or commissioning requirements that are not specifically outlined in this guidance document. Applicants with projects that contain measures that are eligible for existing or upcoming NYSERDA programs will be required to meet the performance specifications outlined in those programs. NYSERDA may reach out to applicants via email with specific follow-up questions after reviewing proposals. Should NYSERDA request additional information, applicants will have five business days to respond in order for that information to be considered in the evaluation process.

Category 2 Ineligible Initiatives

Initiatives that are not a *qualified planning initiative* as described in the section of this document entitled “Category 2 Project Eligibility” and applications that target multiple projects or initiatives will not be considered for funding.

Category 2 Application Process

Applications will be accepted through the [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#). Applications for Category 2 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014. It is expected that resulting awards will be announced in Fall 2014. A separate CFA must be completed for each project.

Category 2 Selection Criteria

Projects will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. No project, region, or applicant is guaranteed funding. However, no one project, region, or applicant may receive more than 25% of available Category 2 funding. NYSERDA may condition awards upon applicant acceptance of requests for minor modifications to project scopes to ensure that CGC Program goals are met. NYSERDA’s selection criteria are based on the five program objectives outlined below, with a total number of available points allocated to each.

- Stimulate Market Transformation (15 possible points)
- Support Sustainable Planning and Design Practices (15 possible points)
- Create Regional and Community Benefit (15 possible points)
- Leverage CGC Funds (15 possible points)
- Reduce Carbon Emissions (20 possible points)

Because proposals will be submitted through the CFA process, the REDCs will score projects based on consistency with their respective Regional Strategic Plan and the relative level of priority. The REDCs will provide 20% of the total score. NYSERDA will convene a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) to review and rank eligible proposals for technical merit pursuant to the project selection criteria noted below and to assign the remaining 80% of the score. NYSERDA reserves the right to adjust awards based on statewide portfolio or regional distribution needs.

Under each program objective area is a set of questions to provide guidance in responding to the program objective. Applicants do not need to respond to every guiding question and are encouraged to use other descriptions to demonstrate how their project meets each objective.

1. Stimulate Market Transformation (15 possible points)

- *Does the initiative include the application of an innovative or new approach to plan or better prepare for a sustainable future?*
- *Does the initiative apply best practices from other regions or states that are not readily applied in the region or NYS? If so, give examples that are being duplicated.*
- *Does the initiative create the potential for replication and transfer to other regions or locales to create the potential for larger scale impact?*
- *Is a new planning practice, method or approach being introduced?*
- *Is the initiative inspirational in that it will engage and excite stakeholders or stimulate action by others?*
- *Is the initiative a demonstration or pilot that has not been attempted previously?*
- *Is the initiative ready to begin? Provide a status of necessary approvals and any entitlements received.*
- *How will the initiative be shared or used to promote broader transformation and adoption in other communities?*

2. Support Sustainable Design and Development Practices (15 possible points)

- *Are new methods of sustainable planning practices being applied or introduced to the community? i.e., complete streets, form based codes, smart land use planning, etc.*
- *Are sustainability and resiliency criteria included in the initiative? If so, provide references for sources or standards being utilized and why they were chosen.*
- *If pre-development project assistance is requested, how will the future project be enhanced in the area of sustainability through this specialized technical support? i.e., design charrette, community needs or vulnerability assessment, market or technical feasibility, surveys, etc.*
- *If subcontractors are to be used for the initiative how will they be selected to ensure they have the required expertise to address issues of sustainability? i.e., credentials, certificates or other specialized training. Please note that if the applicant intends to select a subcontractor after an award by NYSERDA, then the applicant must follow NYSERDA's subcontracting requirements as detailed in Article V of the Sample Terms and Conditions, which can be found on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage.*

3. Create Regional and Community Benefit (15 possible points)

- *How will the initiative provide direct or indirect economic benefit to the region? i.e., jobs creation or retention, retention of local dollars through export substitution, increase income levels, new local dollars generated, etc.*

- *How will the initiative provide direct or indirect social value to the region?* i.e., retention of cultural or historical assets, vulnerable populations addressed, improved access to community assets, expand educational opportunities, etc.
 - *How will the initiative provide environmental value to the region?* i.e., enhance and protect natural assets, green infrastructure planning, restoration of ecological assets, etc.
 - *How will the impacted community be engaged in the planning and communications process for the initiative?*
 - *Is there local support for the initiative?* Please provide letters of support.
 - *Does the initiative align with the applicable Regional Sustainability Plan?* What goals or Sustainability Indicators* are being addressed?
 - *Does the initiative demonstrate an integrated approach with benefits across multiple areas of the locale or region?*
 - *What efforts will be made to transfer knowledge and educate the broader community and region about the initiative?*
 - *Is the project located in a Climate Smart Community, an Environmental Justice area, a Brownfield Opportunity Area, REDC Opportunity Agenda Area, or other relevant special areas?*
 - *Is the project included in a NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Plan or a NY Rising Countywide Resiliency Plan (For more information, please visit: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-program>)?*
- 4. Leverage CGC Funds** (15 possible points): a minimum 25% non-NYS funded cost share must be demonstrated. In-kind and volunteer support documented as dollar equivalent may contribute to this requirement.
- *How will CGC funds fill a unique initiative funding gap that cannot be filled elsewhere?*
 - *What is the total initiative cost and what assumptions have been applied to develop this cost? i.e., is it based on actual bids, comparable initiatives, etc?*
 - *What other funds (document both NYS government and non-NYS government funds) will be applied to this initiative and for what components?* A minimum of a 25% non-NYS government funding cost share must be confirmed by signed commitments from contributing parties.
 - *What type of in-kind support will be provided and what is the estimated dollar value?*
 - *What type of volunteer support will be provided and what is the estimated dollar value?*
 - *If this is a pre-development initiative do you anticipate applying for future NYS project funding?*
 - *How will this initiative leverage private investment dollars?*
- 5. Reduce Carbon Emissions** (20 possible points): NYSERDA understands that many planning type initiatives may not have direct carbon emission reductions attributable to the initiative. Please respond to this objective based on either indirect or directly quantifiable carbon reductions based on the type of initiative proposed.
- *Does the initiative provide a quantifiable reduction of carbon emissions?* If so, provide the numbers and explain the methodology used to calculate the reduction.
 - *How does the initiative support and promote smart land use and growth principles?*
 - *How does the initiative indirectly reduce energy consumption or provide strategies/policies to achieve reductions?*
 - *In what ways will the initiative modify or inform current policies or programs that may create barriers to energy use reduction or renewable supply?*

Category 2 Examples of Eligible Initiatives

The following high-level hypothetical project descriptions provide some examples of what NYSERDA considers “eligible” planning initiatives under Category 2. The hypothetical planning initiative descriptions below are not exhaustive, are not a list of preferred initiatives, and are intended only to provide an additional level of clarity. Applications for planning initiative examples included are not guaranteed to receive funding and will be evaluated according to the aforementioned criteria along with every other application. Please contact CGC@nyserda.ny.gov with any questions.

Post-Hurricane Revisions to Comprehensive Plan

Example City was severely affected by flooding in low-lying areas during Hurricane Irene. Impacted areas included a historic district, parts of downtown, the corporate campus of the City’s principal employer, and a number of areas designated for future development under the City’s 2005 Comprehensive Plan. As recovery efforts have proceeded, it has become clear that Example City needs to redraw future plans to reduce vulnerability to large storm events and diversify its jobs base. The City’s NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan identifies a full update of the Comprehensive Plan as a top priority. As part of this effort, Example City will be seeking consulting support from Urban Planning Firm, LLC to develop alternative land-use scenarios for reconstruction and future development based on post-Irene parameters, integrating economic, social, and environmental sustainability goals. The City estimates the total budget for such support at \$150k, and is requesting \$60k from the Cleaner Greener Communities program to leverage \$50k in local funds, \$35k obtained from a federal assistance program, and \$5k obtained from another NYS grant.

Downtown Eco-District

Recent years have seen a fledgling renaissance in the older, central part of Example Town. A small but growing in-the-know artisan community has begun taking over loft spaces and storefronts left empty since the 1980s. As part of its economic development program, the Town is proposing to create a Downtown Eco-District to showcase its new, “hip” side and attract redevelopment and new jobs in creative and knowledge-based industries. The Town will carry out a 1-year study and outreach effort to identify projects advancing the Eco-District’s Framework and to forge buy-in from a wide coalition including artistic communities, residential developers, and citizen groups. The study will specifically target high-visibility projects in transportation, energy, and water that can benefit current residents, create spaces for new development, including both affordable and market-rate housing, and reduce Downtown’s overall greenhouse gas footprint. The study will also define the framework and role for a future non-profit Downtown Eco-District Association responsible for coordinating implementation of Eco-District-relevant projects. The Town seeks \$75k in support from the Cleaner Greener Communities program for the initial study and will match that with \$75k of local funds, for a total project cost of \$150k.

Citywide Pedestrian Improvements Plan

Example Village was built as a bedroom community in the 1950s and 1960s for middle-class families with children purchasing their first home, located 15 miles away from downtown. No sidewalks, apartments, or commercial uses were included in the original plans. As the surrounding urban area has expanded, Example Village has become an inner suburb adjacent to a Town Center development anchored by a regional transit station. The population profile has also shifted, including an increasing number of aging-in-place seniors and new immigrant populations moving into older houses increasingly subdivided into duplexes and 4-plexes. The increased density of population and adjacent uses has created traffic safety and congestion issues and a clear need to develop pedestrian improvements throughout Example Village. However, challenges include narrow rights-of-way, a poorly connected street grid, and scarcity of Village funds. Example Village proposes to develop a plan that will include template design solutions to the most common challenges, identify funding sources and prioritize new pedestrian improvements based on their potential for improved safety for existing pedestrians and potential for replacing automobile trips with pedestrian trips. Example Village has secured a federal grant for \$50k for this study. The grant depends on matching funds from the Village. The Village seeks to obtain the \$50k matching funds from the Cleaner Greener Communities program.

Training Elected Officials and Planning Departments in Implementing a LEED ND Floating Zone

The highly-respected Parable Land Institute has carried out studies in Example Region identifying significant unmet demand for residential and commercial space in high-performance buildings located in walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods. However, current zoning designations make it almost impossible to develop this type of space outside of existing Downtown areas. Seeking to harness untapped market opportunities, the non-profit Example Region Developers Association wishes to carry out a series of workshops and trainings in the implementation of LEED ND Floating Zones, Overlay Zones, and other land-use regulatory tools to facilitate sustainable neighborhood development. Workshops will be targeted at elected officials and planning departments in all of the Region's Towns, Cities and Counties. The proposed 1-year program involves 12 full-day events, and has a total estimated cost of \$85k, including an estimated \$5k in materials. Members of the Developers Association have committed to contributing materials costs and raising \$30k, and are seeking a \$50k grant from the Cleaner Greener Communities program to complete funding for this training initiative. 10 communities, as evidenced in the attached letters of support, have committed to attending all training as well as following through and adopting at least one new regulatory tool developed as a result of these trainings.

University/Developer Non-Profit Partnership for Pre-Development Technical Assistance

Example Community Developer is planning to secure pre-development technical assistance from Example University's College of Architecture and Planning for a 400,000 square foot mixed-use project being proposed in a blighted area in Example City. The goal of this project is for the development to achieve LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) certification and to demonstrate how to replicate the successful project in similar cities in New York State. The technical assistance will include analyzing land-use requirements and possible variances needed, evaluating costs and benefits, including potential funding sources, of integrating sustainable design elements identified by performing a gap analysis using the LEED ND checklist, recommending specific changes to the project in accordance with the evaluation, help preparing revised design documents, help preparing the permit application, and preparing and reviewing LEED ND credit submittals throughout the development process. A final report documenting the process from start to finish will be presented at a professional architecture conference in New York State. The project team will consist of a graduate architecture student, a graduate planning student, a supervising professor from the College, as well as a project manager and architect from the Developer. The students will obtain course credit and will be compensated as research assistants. Example Community Developer estimates the total cost of the three year effort at \$50k and is seeking \$25k in support from the Cleaner Greener Communities program to fund the balance of the cost of the research assistantships at the College. The College will provide a \$5k cost-share using internal discretionary funds and the Developer will provide \$20k in in-kind services.

CATEGORY 3: COMMUNITY-SCALE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

Funding Available: Up to \$25 million

Category 3 Project Eligibility

Category 3 projects must fit into one of the two following descriptions. Research and development activities are not eligible.

1. Showcase or anchor construction projects that deliver one or more key elements of a defined sustainable neighborhood development effort. To be eligible, the effort must: (i) be either a project(s) identified as part of an approved neighborhood master plan that consists of multiple buildings OR an actual development project that consists of multiple buildings; (ii) meet prerequisites (see prerequisites below) for smart location, walkable streets, compact development, neighborhood connections, and green infrastructure and buildings; AND (iii) demonstrate that the project strategy has the potential to lead to replication or other spill-over effects.

Prerequisites for showcase or anchor construction projects:

A. SMART LOCATION

- a. Reinvests in existing neighborhoods, connects to adjacent development, is served by transit or neighborhood amenities, or cleans up a contaminated site;
- b. Avoids habitats for endangered species or creates a habitat conservation plan;
- c. Avoids wetlands and leaves a buffer of at least 50 feet;
- d. Avoids prime agricultural land; and
- e. Avoids floodplains.

B. WALKABLE STREETS

- a. Includes public-facing building entries (other than a parking lot) on 90% of building frontage;
- b. Includes a minimum of 15% of street length with building-height-to-street ratio of at least 1 to 3;

- c. Includes a minimum of 90% of street length with sidewalks; and
- d. Includes no more than 20% of street length with garage doors.
- C. COMPACT DEVELOPMENT
 - a. Provides at least 7 dwelling units per acre for residential; and
 - b. Meets a minimum 0.5 floor-area ratio for non-residential.
- D. NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS
 - a. Includes streets or pathways into the development at least every 800 feet;
 - b. Includes at least 140 intersections per square mile;
 - c. If the project has no internal streets, is surrounded within a ¼ mile by an existing street network of at least 90 intersections a square mile; and
 - d. Provides for bicycle paths and bicycle parking.
- E. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS
 - a. Targets making 90% of building square footage a minimum of 10% more efficient than the energy code;
 - b. Targets reducing water usage 20% over baseline requirements or use; and
 - c. Uses a green building rating system to certify at least one project building.

For more detail regarding how to meet these pre-requisites, please reference the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) for Neighborhood Development rating system¹.

2. Innovative projects or programs that either: (i) facilitate, develop, or expand a private-sector business model targeting delivery of community-wide clean energy services or sustainability projects as described in number 1 above; OR (ii) utilize innovative and well integrated community engagement or aggregation strategies to accelerate community-wide demand for clean energy projects or services. Eligible applicants must demonstrate their program's ability to affect or deliver impact at community scale, and how their program will facilitate the development of self-sustaining mechanisms for the applicable clean energy installations or services, or sustainability projects as described in number 1 above. Eligible project strategies or measures must reduce GHG emissions; and include, but are not limited to, the types described below.
 - A. Implementing an innovative financing mechanism;
 - B. Implementing an innovative outreach or aggregation strategy;
 - C. Providing *scalable* technical assistance services addressing specific market barriers; and
 - D. Other innovative projects or programs that break down market barriers.

NYSERDA anticipates awarding projects that are innovative and transformational in their contributions to advancing sustainable development; thereby creating direct community benefit and reduction of carbon emissions. All projects must also support energy efficiency, renewable energy, or carbon mitigation.

Applicants must request \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 of NYSERDA funding per project. NYSERDA may make award offers at amounts lower than those for which the applicant proposed, pursuant to the scope and merit of the proposal received, but will not make awards less than \$500,000. NYSERDA, in order to avoid double-funding projects or measures within projects, may also adjust awarded funding amounts at any time based on new information regarding other secured project funding. A minimum cost-share of 25% is required. The applicant cost-share and the NYSERDA share must contribute to the same project or measures within the project intended

¹ <http://www.usgbc.org/resources/leed-neighborhood-development-v2009-current-version>

to reduce carbon emissions, promote energy efficiency, or increase use of renewable energy. All demonstrated cost-share must be confirmed by signed commitments from contributing parties. Other NYS funding sources, including other NYSERDA funding, shall not count toward the proposer's cost-share. For example, if an applicant requests \$750,000 from NYSERDA, the applicant must commit a minimum cost share of \$250,000, for a total minimum project cost of \$1,000,000. Cost share may include private equity or grants, loans, in-kind or volunteer services documented in dollar value, or other non-NYS government funding sources. For the purposes of this solicitation, "NYS government funding" is defined as a grant or an incentive that is received from a NYS governmental entity. This funding cannot be counted as any portion of the applicant cost-share. For the purposes of this solicitation, annual NYS funding going toward standard operating costs for an organization is not considered "NYS government funding." A retainage equal to 10% of the NYSERDA award will be withheld throughout the project and will be payable upon project completion and acceptance of all reporting requirements.

Applications will be evaluated against one another based on the degree to which the project supports the criteria outlined in the section of this document entitled "Category 3 Selection Criteria." Applicants may not commence work on any portion of the project until there is a fully executed contract with NYSERDA. This shall include any activity funded by NYSERDA or other activity included as part of the proposed applicant cost share. Projects must be ready to commence within three months of contract execution and should be complete within three years of contract execution. Applicants are required to append a proposed scope of work, including a budget and project timeline, with their application. Information included in this appendix will not be considered for the purpose of scoring and selecting proposals other than to clarify budget information and demonstrate that the appendix was submitted and includes all requested information. Applications that do not include the required appendix with complete information in the format requested will be deemed ineligible. Applicants must also agree, or provide written exceptions, to NYSERDA's standard contracting Terms and Conditions, which can be found on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage. NYSERDA reserves the right to condition awards pending applicant acceptance of industry-appropriate or other NYSERDA program equipment performance, measurement and verification, or commissioning requirements that are not specifically outlined in this guidance document. Applicants with projects that contain measures that are eligible for existing or upcoming NYSERDA programs will be required to meet the performance specifications outlined in those programs. NYSERDA may reach out to applicants via email with specific follow-up questions after reviewing proposals. Should NYSERDA request additional information, applicants will have five business days to respond in order for that information to be considered in the evaluation process.

Category 3 Ineligible Projects

Projects must meet eligibility requirements outlined in the section of this document entitled "Category 3 Project Eligibility." The following project types or measures are **NOT** eligible for Category 3 funding:

- Projects or measures within projects that are required by law or regulations;
- Projects that have an aggregate adverse effect on indoor or outdoor air quality, carbon emissions, or public health in general;
- Natural gas, electricity, or other "fuel distribution or supply lines" including, but not limited to, gas pipelines and electricity lines. For the purposes of this solicitation, combined heat and power systems and district energy systems are not considered "fuel distribution or supply lines;"
- Design and construction costs for projects comprised of only residential buildings consisting of between one and four units;
- Research and development (R&D) or commercialization efforts for products, processes, or other

activities;

- Biomass heating or biomass energy generation equipment that combusts or gasifies any fuel other than premium wood pellets. (Premium wood pellet biomass measures are eligible, but must comply with NYSERDA's CGC Biomass Heating System Program Requirements, which can be accessed at the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage). For the purposes of this solicitation, landfill gas energy generation equipment, bio-digesters, and the fuels produced as a result of their processes, are not considered biomass;
- Costs of consumables, including, but not limited to, fuels such as gasoline, wood pellets, fuel oil, and biodiesel;
- Projects consisting of a single building that is not part of a larger (multiple buildings) approved community or neighborhood plan;
- Projects focused on the installation of a single technology into a building or site; and
- Research studies.

Category 3 Application Process

Applications will be accepted through the [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#). Applications for Category 3 are due by 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time on June 16, 2014. It is expected that resulting awards will be announced in Fall 2014. A separate CFA must be completed for each unique project.

Category 3 Selection Criteria

Projects will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. No project, region, or applicant is guaranteed funding. However, no one project, region, or applicant may receive more than 25% of available Category 3 funding. NYSERDA may condition awards upon applicant acceptance of requests for minor modifications to project scopes to ensure that CGC Program goals are met. NYSERDA's selection criteria are based on the five program objectives outlined below with a total number of points allocated to each.

- Stimulate Market Transformation (15 possible points)
- Support Sustainable Design and Development Practices (15 possible points)
- Create Regional and Community Benefit (15 possible points)
- Leverage CGC Funds (15 possible points)
- Reduce Carbon Emissions (20 possible points)

Because proposals will be submitted through the CFA process, the REDCs will score projects based on consistency with their respective Regional Strategic Plan and the relative level of priority. The REDCs will provide 20% of the total score. NYSERDA will convene a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) to review and rank eligible proposals for technical merit pursuant to the project selection criteria noted below and to assign the remaining 80% of the score. NYSERDA reserves the right to adjust awards based on statewide portfolio or regional distribution needs. Under each program objective area is a set of questions to provide guidance in responding to the program objective. Applicants do not need to respond to every guiding question and are encouraged to use other descriptions to demonstrate how their project meets each objective.

1. Stimulate Market Transformation (15 possible points)

- *Does the project include the application of an innovative or new approach to projects in the region or state of a comparable size and type?*
- *Does the project apply best practices or technologies from other regions or states that are not readily applied in the region or NYS? If so, give examples that are being duplicated.*

- *Does the project create the potential for replication and transfer to other regions or locales to create the potential for larger scale impact? To what extent does the proposer document the potential for replication?*
 - *How will the project be promoted or used as an educational opportunity to transfer knowledge and stimulate future projects of this type?*
 - *Does the proposal identify the anticipated market barriers, infrastructure deficiencies, and/or regulatory issues and propose solutions for how they will be overcome?*
 - *Is a new technology, system, practice, method or approach being introduced?*
 - *Is the project a demonstration or pilot that has not been attempted previously?*
 - *What efforts have been taken to assess and reduce risk during implementation?*
 - *Is the project inspirational in that it will engage and excite stakeholders or stimulate action by others?*
 - *Will the project be ready to begin within 3 months of contract execution? Provide a status of necessary approvals and documentation of any entitlements received.*
- 2. Support Sustainable Design and Development Practices (15 possible points)**
- *Are new methods of sustainable design and construction being applied or introduced through the project?*
 - *Are sustainability and resiliency criteria included in the project? If so, provide references for sources or standards being utilized and why they were chosen.*
 - *Does the project support and promote smart land use and growth principles?*
 - *Has the project applied LEED ND or other equivalent sustainability rating systems? Include a summary of the score sheet results with an explanation on how it was derived.*
 - *What features or strategies used in the project respond to regional Sustainability Indicators*?*
 - *If subcontractors are to be used for the project how will they be selected to ensure they have the required expertise to address issues of sustainability? i.e., credentials, certificates or other specialized training or project experience. Please note that if the applicant intends to select a subcontractor after an award by NYSERDA, then the applicant must follow NYSERDA's subcontracting requirements as detailed in Article V of the Sample Terms and Conditions, which can be found on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage.*
- 3. Create Regional and Community Benefit (15 possible points)**
- *To what extent has the proposer demonstrated that the project will support economic development in the region or all applicable regions if a project overlays more than one REDC region?*
 - *How will the project provide direct economic benefit to the region? i.e., jobs creation or retention, retention of local dollars through export substitution, increase income levels, new local dollars generated.*
 - *To what extent has the proposer discussed the current state of the supply chain as well as anticipated changes in the next 6 to 12 months?*
 - *To what extent has the proposer described targeted activities as well as anticipated changes in the next 6 to 12 months?*
 - *How will the project provide direct social value to the region? i.e., retention of cultural or historical assets, vulnerable populations addressed, improved access to community assets, expand educational opportunities, etc.*
 - *How will the project provide direct environmental value to the region? i.e., enhance and protect natural assets, green infrastructure, restoration of ecological assets, etc.*
 - *How will the impacted community be engaged in the planning and communications process for the project?*
 - *Does the project provide benefits to a culturally diverse population that is inclusive of varying income levels, vulnerable populations, and mixed age populations?*

- *Is there local support for the project? What approvals have been secured? Please provide letters of support.*
- *Does the project align with the applicable Regional Sustainability Plan? What goals or Sustainability Indicators* are being addressed?*
- *Does the project demonstrate an integrated approach with benefits across multiple areas of the project?*
- *What efforts will be made to transfer knowledge and educate the broader community and region about the project?*
- *Is the project located in a Climate Smart Community, an Environmental Justice area, a Brownfield Opportunity Area, REDC Opportunity Agenda Area, or other relevant special areas?*
- *Is the project included in a NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Plan or a NY Rising Countywide Resiliency Plan (For more information, please visit: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/community-reconstruction-program>)?*

4. Leverage CGC Funds (15 possible points):

- *How will CGC funds fill a unique project funding gap that cannot be filled elsewhere?*
- *What is the total project cost and what assumptions have been applied to develop this cost? i.e., is it based on actual bids, comparable projects, etc?*
- *What other funds (document both NYS government and non-NYS government funds) will be applied to this project and for what components? A minimum of a 25% non-NYS government funding cost share funding must be documented. Please see the “Example Funding Breakout” below for one way a project may submit.*
- *What type of in-kind support will be provided and what is the estimated dollar value?*
- *What type of volunteer support will be provided and what is the estimated dollar value?*
- *How will this initiative leverage private investment dollars?*

5. Reduce Carbon Emissions (20 possible points):

- *Does the project provide direct reduction of carbon emissions? What is the amount of reduction and how was it calculated?*
- *How does the initiative directly reduce energy consumption? What is the amount of reduction and how was it calculated?*
- *How does the project provide renewable sources of energy? What is the amount of renewable energy supplied and how was it calculated?*
- *Do the project plans include methods for evaluating the anticipated reduction in energy use and carbon emissions?*

Category 3 Examples of Eligible Projects

The following high-level hypothetical project descriptions provide some examples of what NYSERDA considers “eligible” project types under Category 3. The hypothetical project descriptions below and additional list of project types that follow are not exhaustive, are not a list of preferred project types, and are intended only to provide an additional level of clarity. Applications for project examples or types included are not guaranteed to receive funding and will be evaluated according to the aforementioned criteria along with every other project application. Please contact CGC@nyserda.ny.gov with any questions.

Neighborhood Watershed Green Streets Project

Example Neighborhood lies on a slope that backs into Example River and was built in the early 20th-century with a combined sanitary and stormwater sewer. A wastewater treatment plant abuts the river, treating sewage water before releasing it. The growing intensity of summer storms in recent years has caused an increase in both upstream sewer back-ups and direct overflow discharge into the river. This has resulted in recurring damages to public and private property, endangers human safety during and immediately after storms, and may be placing Example Water District at risk of a lawsuit for violating the Clean Water Act. As part of the recently completed Example Neighborhood Master Plan, which has achieved Stage 1 LEED ND certification, the District has put in place a plan to reduce the total load and peak loads on the sewer system and the treatment plant by installing green street features such as planted swales and connected vegetated detention basins. The plan also includes a program to assist homeowners who install green roofs and rain gardens on their property. Load reductions at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are expected to result in up to a 50% reduction in energy use for water treatment. Example Water District has partnered with Green Development, Inc. to seek assistance from the Cleaner Greener Communities program for \$1.5 million of this \$6.25 million project, part of which will be covering green street features in upstream parts of the Neighborhood. The NYSERDA funding would support the green street feature development on two residential blocks and on a group of recently approved mixed use developments spanning 40 acres. The cost of construction for the new mixed use building developments is being paid for by Green Development, Inc. NYSERDA would also support the installation of energy improvement covering the incremental cost of installing LED street, path, and area lighting in the affected areas. This NYSERDA work would include the stormwater structures and rain gardens associated with the street layout and construction. Green Development would pay for the construction of the roads, improved pedestrian amenities, renovations to the buildings, and the stormwater conveyances to connect the green infrastructure for drainage; and connections for rooftop drainage to the new stormwater infrastructure. The Green Development group has identified two other sites in nearby Example1 City, Example 2 City that have Brownfield Redevelopment Areas currently nearing completion of remediation for which the same type of development would be applicable. If successful, they intend to replicate the development described in the Example Neighborhood Master Plan at these two additional locations as well as undertake a statewide marketing campaign showcasing the benefits of the additional green project features.

Rooftop Solar Power Systems for Low-Income Housing Redevelopment Project in a High-Priority Area

Example Community Developer seeks funding to help develop an abandoned 10-acre site into a mixed-use community featuring 300 rental apartment units with commercial space on the ground floor of all buildings. 35% of the units will be affordable housing and the rest will be rented at market rate. The site is located in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated Qualified Census Tract making the Developer eligible for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. As part of efforts to control costs for low-income residents and to enhance the quality of life for all residents, Developer intends to integrate enhanced pedestrian and public transportation amenities, such as wide sidewalks, pedestrian signaling, covered bus shelters and additional bus stops, on site water recycling, rooftop community gardens, energy efficiency, and technologies including solar thermal systems and solar photovoltaic panels. A gap analysis completed by Green Consulting Firm using the LEED ND rating system identified these project elements as opportunities to help the project achieve certification. However, the added cost of energy efficiency and green design features is difficult to include in low income housing. Developer has applied separately for other NYSERDA and US Department of Energy funding for the extra costs of energy efficiency design features. Preliminary design studies have estimated the total incremental cost of wider sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian signaling, and increased bus stops, which will increase pedestrian activity and reduce vehicle miles traveled in the area, at \$1 million. Developer is seeking \$750k in assistance from the Cleaner Greener Communities program for these amenities and will provide the remaining \$250k in sub-contracted services paid for by Developer. The total cost of the full construction project, including all building construction and enhanced energy and sustainability features, is estimated at \$20 million. As part of the LEED ND gap analysis, Green Consulting Firm determined that the project, as designed, meets all prerequisites for the program. Developer has registered the project and, pending the results of an updated cost-benefit analysis by the same firm, plans to pursue LEED ND certification for the project.

Sustainable Community Rent-to-Own Project

Low to medium income homes are often in older buildings that are not energy efficient. New, energy efficient homes are often out of reach financially for this population. Project Developer is seeking funding to finance construction, marketing and initial operation of a new, mixed-use rent-to-own condominium project in Example City. Project design, site acquisition and zoning permits have been completed for a 2-acre infill site that would feature 60 apartment units of varying size and 5,000 square feet of retail space. The proposed design has received Stage 1 LEED ND Conditional Approval, including points for planning of infrastructure energy efficiency, water efficiency, and on-site renewable energy production and water recycling. Under the Developer's proposed business model, a specially-created housing corporation would own and manage the apartments, retail space and landscape. Residents would be selected on income-based criteria, and would "purchase" an apartment with no money down and an agreed monthly rent payment, where a portion of each month's rent goes to paying for a predetermined "sale price". The buildings have been designed at a cost that enables the monthly rent for a unit not to exceed 30% of Area Median Income for a family of four. Once total rent payments on a unit match the 'sale price', the renter becomes a full owner and shareholder in the housing corporation, with the same rights as a condominium owner.

The project includes the following features:

- *60 apartment units for Low to Middle Income households;*
- *5,000 square feet of retail space to provide walkable access to neighborhood services and jobs;*
- *Stage 1 LEED ND Conditional Approval will plan for reduced energy/emission footprints of the development*
- *Innovative financing plan to facilitate home ownership by low/medium income heads of households.*

Arrangements have been made with Example Local Bank so that renters can obtain mortgages to become full owners once their total rent payments are equal to the previously agreed upon sale price. Project Developer is seeking a \$5 million grant from the Cleaner Greener Communities program to leverage a \$100,000 from the NYS Department of State Community Development Block Grant program plus Project Developer's initial \$2 million investment and to meet Example Local Bank's requirements for an \$8 million loan that will enable construction to begin within 3 months. Project Design is built on a scalable model to enable similar projects on sites 1 to 5 acres in size, and if successful Project Developer intends to reproduce this model on up to 5 pre-identified sites in Example Region and to showcase the design at industry trade shows at the state and national level.

Local Smart Grid Improvement Service

Example Utility has expressed a desire to strengthen grid capacity while reducing fossil fuel use at power plants and enabling customers to produce small-scale renewable energy using solar panels. However, due to stagnant revenue and outstanding debt, Example Utility does not have the capital to fully finance improvements that would allow the injection of excess power produced by homes and commercial buildings into a smart grid. If improvements were implemented, customers could receive discounts on their power bills based on injected power, providing a powerful incentive to install small-scale renewable energy production solutions on buildings. Example Renewable Energy Services, LLC (ERES), an electrical equipment and construction contractor based in Example City, NY, proposes to fill the gap by implementing smart grid improvements in targeted areas and sharing a portion of the resulting electricity bill discounts with customers who install new renewable power production capacity on their property. ERES seeks a \$900,000 grant from the Cleaner Greener Communities program, matching a \$300k commitment from Example Utility, in order to launch this project in Example Pilot Area. As part of this project a formal, binding agreement on payments for renewable power production will be developed between Example Utility, ERES, and local property owners. The total project cost is \$1.2 million. If successful, ERES will scale this project to offer grid improvement services to utilities throughout New York State, without the need for any additional NYS subsidies.

Example Funding Breakout

In the first hypothetical Category 3 example above, the applicant is proposing a \$20,000,000 project that is seeking \$1,500,000 from NYSERDA to help fund \$250,000 in engineering fees and an additional \$1,150,000 for the installation of energy efficient lighting, rain gardens, rooftop gardens, drainage conveyances, and appurtenant structures to lower energy use and reduce the discharge of water to a combined sewer system. The cost breakout is provided in the budget table below. The Community Master Plan focuses on the components of a complete neighborhood plan consistent with LEED-ND goals. An engineering supplement will provide plans for the construction of the stormwater structures, and the project will conclude with the actual construction of the lighting and the infrastructure required to connect the rooftops and street drainage to rain gardens.

Example Schedule

A schedule, presented as a table or chart, should highlight the anticipated period of performance for each task, and key milestones should be displayed. A simplified example follows the funding breakout below.

Example Budget Disclosure

Project Component	Cost Share	Cost-Share Description	Other Funding	Other Funding Description	NYSERDA/Cleaner Greener Communities Share	NYSERDA-Share Description	Total
Purchase and installation of LED street, path, and area lighting (incremental cost vs. traditional lighting)	\$20,000	Direct cash contribution from Example Community	n/a	n/a	\$200,000	NYSERDA funding will pay for remaining incremental cost of lighting fixtures	\$220,000
Engineering design	\$75,000	Sub-contracted Engineering support from the Example Water District, including utilization of the District's on-call engineering firm	n/a	n/a	\$150,000	NYSERDA funding will pay for the remainder of the engineering consulting	\$225,000
Construction of rooftop and rain garden infrastructure and connections to stormwater retention devices	\$0	n/a	\$155,000	Grant from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	\$900,000	NYSERDA to pay for green infrastructure construction	\$1,055,000
Community redevelopment aid for porous pavement, renovations of old buildings, and district co-gen system	\$4,500,000	All construction of pavement, building renovations, purchase of energy equipment, and open space improvements will be paid by the District with a grant that has been approved by HUD.	n/a	n/a	\$250,000	NYSERDA funding will pay for the design and installation of the energy system renovations in existing buildings to ensure compatibility with the new district co-gen system.	\$4,750,000
Total:	\$4,595,000		\$155,000		\$1,500,000		\$6,250,000

Simplified example schedule

Project Task	Q1/Y1	Q2/Y1	Q3/Y1	Q4/Y1	Q1/Y2	Q2/Y2	Q3/Y2	Q4/Y2	Q1/Y3	Q2/Y3	Q3/Y3	Q4/Y3
Contract Executed / Completed												
Task 1: Project Administration, reports												
Task 2: Site plans and permitting												
Task 3: Construction												

***SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS**

Anticipated benefits associated with CGC II projects should be measured, to the extent feasible, using statistics tracked by sustainability indicators outlined in every Regional Sustainability Plan. Each successful applicant shall, throughout the course of the contract with NYSERDA, collect the required metrics described in the attached Project Benefits Reporting Template. Descriptions of these metrics are available in the Sustainability Indicator Guidance Document, which can be found on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage. To encourage consistent quantification methodology and adherence to the goals outlined in each Regional Sustainability Plan, project proposals shall also focus on sustainability indicators that were specifically targeted in the sustainability plan applicable to the region in which the project is located. Every project application must positively influence at least one sustainability indicator in its region's sustainability plan. State-wide initiatives should address at least one of the five required common indicators included in all Regional Sustainability Plans.

- Number of permanent jobs created (full-time equivalent [FTE])
- Energy cost savings/year (\$)
- Other investment (\$)
- Total energy savings by fuel type/year (million British thermal units[MMBTU]); and
- GHG savings/year (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalents [MTCDE]).

Project benefits should be estimated, with methods described in the Sustainability Indicator Guidance Document. These benefits should be reported using the Project Benefits Reporting Template and attached to the CFA. Both of these documents are available on the [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage. The benefits will be refined and demonstrated again in a final report prepared by each successful applicant at the conclusion of the project.

For more information on the Cleaner Greener Communities Program or to reference your region's Regional Sustainability Plan, please visit: <http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/Statewide-Initiatives/Cleaner-Greener-Communities.aspx>

DISCLAIMER

Projects identified in the appendices and the content of the CGC Phase I Regional Sustainability Plans are meant to provide examples of potential ways to address the strategies identified in the reports and were submitted to the planning consortiums as part of the public outreach efforts by the consortium. These projects are in no way prioritized or guaranteed to receive funding through Phase II Implementation Funding of the CGC Program. Projects not listed in the appendices section or content of the plans will have equal opportunity to submit an application for funding through Phase II. Regardless of being listed in the plan, a CFA must be submitted in order to be considered for funding in CGC II. All projects must address the qualifications and eligibility requirements listed in this Guidance Document. NYSERDA reserves the right to issue revisions to this solicitation at any time. Any revisions will be announced and posted on NYSERDA's website at www.nyserdera.ny.gov.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

All CGC program resources and guidelines can be found on the CGC Guidance Documents webpage at the following location: <http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/Statewide-Initiatives/Cleaner-Greener-Communities/Implementing-Smart-Development-Projects/Guidance-Documents.aspx>. NYSERDA may host an interactive online webinar-based information session to answer questions about this solicitation. Webinar information will be posted on NYSERDA's [CGC Guidance Documents](#) webpage. Within two weeks of the information session, NYSERDA will issue a "Frequently Asked Questions" document specific to this solicitation

and will post it on this website. All other questions about this solicitation should be submitted to NYSERDA, in writing, at CGC@nyserda.ny.gov. Due to the large number of inquiries expected, NYSERDA may not be able to return phone calls.