

# Sustainable Nyack Action Plan



## 2015-2016

THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM  
THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY



Hudson River  
Valley Greenway

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# Introduction

The Sustainable Nyack Action Plan lays out the first phase of an initiative to achieve the careful and informed stewardship of economic, social and environmental resources in all aspects and sectors of Nyack village life. The mission of the initiative is to create a community that is sustainable, in the sense of balancing interdependent needs in a lasting way, and resilient—prepared for and adaptable to the impacts of climate change.

The Action Plan takes the Village's efforts to incorporate better environmental protection into its codes, policies and practices over the past several years to a new level. Those past efforts include the update to the Comprehensive Master Plan in 2007, the Village Code update in 2010 and the Nyack Green Infrastructure Report in 2013.

The Plan organizes concrete steps that Village government, volunteer committees and local citizens can take over the next two years to promote energy conservation and alternative energy, increase recycling and manage the land and water resources better. Nyack's Sustainability Coordinator will lead this part of the effort. During the same time period the Village will carry out a planning process with a significant public input to develop a Sustainability Update to the Comprehensive Master plan and the Village Code, addressing other goals for transportation, infrastructure, waterfront planning, neighborhood design, and climate adaptation. A team of professional consultants and a steering committee will carry out this work.

The goals and tasks in the Action Plan are based on local priorities and opportunities for efficiency, resource protection, community welfare and quality of life. They are aligned in many ways with other local, county, regional, statewide and federal programs that promote this kind of planning, so that Nyack can make the most of available funding and technical support and share experiences with neighboring communities who are working toward the same ends.

The Plan is a working document. It provides a blueprint for action. By the end of 2015 it will be time to review, reassess and update for 2016...and celebrate our accomplishments and progress.

## **Background:**

### **Nyack's Sustainability Planning 2013-2014**

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#### **SUSTAINABILITY DESK**

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The Village of Nyack established a Sustainability Desk in the Planning Department and the volunteer position of Sustainability Coordinator in the fall of 2013. The Sustainability Coordinator was charged with to implementing actions recommended in its Green Infrastructure Report and expanding sustainability planning to align with other local and regional initiatives, including the Climate Smart Communities program, Cleaner, Greener Communities program and the Hudson River Estuary Program.

#### **CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES**

Nyack adopted the pledge to become a Climate Smart Community in 2013 in order to receive educational opportunities, technical support and an advantage in accessing some state assistance programs for dealing with the causes and effects of climate change. Climate Smart Communities is a "state and local partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save taxpayer dollars and advance community goals for health and safety, economic vitality, energy independence and quality of life."<sup>1</sup> Many communities in the region have signed onto the program and can access and share ideas and experiences at the Mid-Hudson Climate Smart Communities website and with support from regional coordinators. The partnership includes six New York State Agencies:

- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Department of State (DOS)
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Public Service Commission (PSC).

#### **Certified Climate Smart Communities:**

For certification as a Climate Smart Community, Nyack will evaluate policies, practices and plans that are already in place that qualify for points in the program, and continue to accomplish tasks aligned with the goals of the program until it reaches the required level. Nyack has already achieved points in every area of the ten pledge elements of the program.

#### **HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY COMMUNITIES GRANT**

Nyack successfully applied for a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program to carry out its sustainability planning, and was awarded \$7,250.00 in January of 2014 to fund 50 % of the total project cost. The grant supported creating of a Green Policy Task Force, grant writing and developing and Action Plan that would align with other local and regional plans, especially the Climate Smart Communities program and NYSERDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities program.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.midhudsoncsc.org/>

## **NYSERDA CLEANER, GREENER COMMUNITIES**

The Action Plan draws on goals and guidance in the [Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan](#). That plan was created in Phase I of the [Cleaner, Greener Communities Program](#), which funds sustainability development and smart growth practices at the regional level to help guide statewide investments and regional decision-making on land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and environmental practices. Phase II of the program funds the planning and implementation of projects.

Nyack's Planning Department and Sustainability Desk prepared an application for funding in Phase II of the program to create a Sustainability Update to Nyack's Comprehensive Master Plan and Village Code. In December 2014 the Village was awarded a grant of \$206,000 from NYSERDA to cover 75% of the project cost. This new work is interconnected with the sustainability planning that has been underway, and the project will be completed during the time frame originally outlined for the Action Plan. The broad goals for the Sustainability Update, especially as they relate to transportation, climate adaptation and sustainable design are listed in the Action Plan.

## **HUDSON RIVER PROGRAMS**

Nyack's sustainability planning for its waterfront is currently guided by a master plan adopted in 2010 that was created with financial support and guidance from [Scenic Hudson](#) and the NYS DEC's [Hudson River Estuary Program](#). A key component of the Comprehensive Plan Update will be to assess conditions and opportunities all along Nyack's waterfront and develop a vision and strategies to protect and enhance it. The planning process will utilize research and insights and technical support from the Estuary Program, the [Sustainable Shorelines Project](#), and the Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan Project, called [The Hudson We Share](#). Nyack's updated Comprehensive Plan will be included in this regional Hudson River Plan, which will enhance the ability of project proposals to receive federal support, as part of a recognized plan.

## **CREATING THE PLAN AND PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

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### **GREEN POLICY TASK FORCE**

After public outreach and direct invitations to individuals, a Green Policy Task Force was established in April of 2014. Members included elected officials, staff, and community members. Based on the interests, concerns and skills of the members, committees formed to research, discuss priorities and plan programs, initiatives, or events. The committees and tasks were shifted and recombined according to evolving priorities and the announcement of the Comprehensive Plan Update. The task force now includes just two committees one on Energy and one on Recycling & Waste, which will continue to meet monthly, and the Sustainability Desk will organize all action areas included in the plan.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS**

Members of existing Village organizations will help to carry out the actions and inform the work as it unfolds. The Parks Commission and Tree Committee in particular will be key in implementing the tasks outlined for landscape management. The tasks outlined for Communication & Outreach will be carried out by all groups involved, with support from the Sustainability Desk. The Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee will start to shape planning work that is outlined in the Action Plan towards the end of the first year and through 2016.

## VILLAGE, TOWN AND COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS

A key goal of Nyack's sustainability planning is to create more coherent and robust working relationships across municipal boundaries. The Action Plan includes tasks that will require cooperation among the nearby river communities, the Towns of Orangetown and Clarkstown and the County of Rockland.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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### TASK FORCE

#### **Sustainability Coordinator**

Marcy Denker

#### **Government and Staff**

Jen Laird White, Mayor, Village of Nyack  
Robert Galvin, Village of Nyack Planner  
James Politi, Village Administrator  
Doug Foster, Trustee, Village of Nyack  
John Malesardi, Village Treasurer

#### **Citizen Members**

Patti Ackerman  
Carolyn Cairns  
Bruce Kenney  
Kier Levesque  
David Newman  
Kathryn Schwarz  
Anne Welles  
Maria Whittingham

## INPUT FROM AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The plan reflects many helpful discussions with and support from members of the community including:

#### **Climate Smart Communities Program and VHB Planning:**

Coordinator Angela Vincent, Sustainability Planner Ana Hagerup, and Traffic Consultant Matt Carmody

**IBEW Local 363:** Training Director Craig Jacobs

**Keep Rockland Beautiful:** Director Sonia Cairo

**Nyack Chamber of Commerce:** Board members David Collins and Annette van Loon

**Nyack High School:** Environmental Science Teacher Tom Perry, and Environmental Club President Maddie McCann

#### **Nyack Housing Authority**

**Nyack Marketing Association:** Director Meg Mayo

**Nyack Parks Commission** Jim Wilcox, Bert Hughes, Carolyn Cairns, Randy Rand, Steve Guarascio, Roger Stevens, Paul Curley

**Nyack Department of Public Works** Supervisor Victor Overton

**Nyack Tree Committee:** Patti Ackerman, Sandra Baptista, Marcy Denker, Rebecca Nolan, Elijah Reichlin-Melnick, Bill Schmidt

#### **Nyack Water Department**

**NYSEDA EDGE:** Courtney Strong, Inc. Consultants Patrice Courtney and Jeff Domanski

**Rockland County Conservation & Service Corps:** Project Coordinator Kathy Galione

**Rockland Solid Waste Management Authority:** Solid Waste Educator, Kerri Scales,

**Town of Clarkstown:** Purchasing Agent Robert Berdy and Director of Planning Jose Simos

**Town of Orangetown:** Supervisor Andy Stewart

# Action Plan

## Organization of the Plan

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The Action Plan is presented in two parts. Part One outlines the actions for the Green Policy Task Force and other committees to carry out with the Sustainability Coordinator. For each set of actions in Part One a chart lists goals and tasks with target dates and the individuals or groups who will complete the work, as far as is known right now. Some tasks include more detail than others since they are already underway. The chart also notes Climate Smart Communities Certification Program elements that may become part of Nyack's submission for certification.

Part Two outlines the preliminary goals of the Sustainability Update to the Comprehensive Plans as described in the Statement of Work and the relationship to the Mid-Hudson Region Sustainability Plan. A set of charts for key areas of interests shows Climate Smart Communities Certification Program elements that may be relevant.

**Part One:**

**SUSTAINABILITY DESK AND COMMITTEE ACTIONS**



## Energy

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The Energy Committee researches and evaluates opportunities and promotes actions to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of alternative energy village-wide. The first steps for energy-related planning during 2014 included developing the greenhouse gas inventory of municipal operations and starting to evaluate opportunities to reduce energy consumption at Village Hall, the Nyack Water Plant and other municipally owned facilities. The Action Plan includes goals for implementing audits, retrofits and upgrades at these facilities and expanding the whole effort across the business and residential sectors of the community.

### **ENERGY COMMITTEE:**

Marcy Denker

Bruce Kenney

Kier Levesque

John Malesardi

David Newman

Jim Politi

Jen White

# ENERGY

GOAL 1	Complete greenhouse gas inventory of municipal operations		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Complete the initial data capture.</b>	Bruce Kenney	Jan-15
	Municipal, DPW, housing, water department buildings and vehicles. December 2014		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Complete data entry into the GHGI tool</b>		Feb-15
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Complete additional data gathering</b>		
	Streetlights, additional vehicles,(Water Dept. and Housing Authority), Pine St. Houses and other possible assets as well. i.e. fire department, ambulance corps, library and misc. public services.		Mar-15
<b>Target Four</b>	<b>Finalize the complete GHGI for the village based on available 2013 and 2014 data.</b>		Apr-15
<b>2.1</b>			
GOAL 2	Set municipal greenhouse gas emissions target		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Project growth in usage</b>		
	1. Develop a six-year perspective on the growth of energy usage based on village population growth, expansion of municipal services, projected social and economic trends and planned expansion of village facilities.		Jul-15
	2. Enter related data into the GHGI tool		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Project planned energy efficiency practices</b>		
	Develop a six-year perspective on planned energy efficiency practices, GHG reduction projects, energy usage reduction efforts and introduction of new technologies that would result in the reduction of GHG production by the village.		Oct-15
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Develop and adopt short, medium, and long term targets in a resolution (or as part of Comp Plan Update.)</b>		2016
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 2.3</b>			
GOAL 3	Reduce energy use at Nyack Water Plant		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Flex-Tech Energy Audit</b>		
	Meet with several contractors to for preliminary scoping and proposals for energy audit using the NYSERDA Flextech Program and submit cost estimate for budget.		Jan-15
	Evaluate proposals.		Feb-15
	Select contractor and plan for audit.		Mar-15
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Install Solar on Water Plant.</b>	(See Goal 7)	
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</b>			

# ENERGY

GOAL 4	Reduce energy use at Nyack Village Hall		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Retrofit and/or replace lights</b>		
	1. Consider proposals for Flex Tech audits		Winter 2015
	2. Alternatively, get estimates from several contractors		
	3. Plan for alternative source of funding		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Replace windows</b>		
	1. Apply for Community Development Block Grant to fund window replacement		Jan-15
	2. Plan for alternative source of funding		
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Replace skylights</b>		
	1. Get estimates		Winter 2015
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 3.1, 3.2,</b>			
GOAL 5	Reduce energy use at Depew housing, Senior Center and Head Start		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Plan for audit, review any existing audits, review any renovation plans.</b>		February-April 2015
	Meet with Kier Levesque about plans for Senior Center.	Kier Levesque	
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Create a plan as appropriate based on research/audits/or need for audits</b>		Summer-Fall 2015
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</b>			
GOAL 6	Reduce Energy Use at Housing Authority		
<b>Target One</b>	TBD		
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</b>			
GOAL 7	Increase the Use of Solar Energy Village-Wide		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Install solar panels on Water Plant and Holding Tank</b>		
	Get cost estimate for info package from American Solar Partners to include for consideration in next budget.		Jan-15
	Develop info packet on design approach and goals, financing etc.		Jul-05
	Issue rfp and select contractor		Jul-05
	Design and install		Jul-05
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Investigate and consider applying to Solarize NY:</b>		Spring 2015
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements:4.6</b>			
GOAL 8	Install Energy Efficient Exterior Lighting on Municipal Property		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Convert streetlights to LED</b>		
	1. Discuss with Orangetown, Clarkstown, Ramapo to find out about approaches and combined purchasing		Winter and spring 2015
	2. Evaluate potential for purchasing and maintaining lights		Summer 2015

# ENERGY

	3. Make a plan for conversion of streetlights before budget discussions		Dec-15
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Install energy efficient lighting in Memorial Park</b>	Parks Commission Energy Committee Lighting Contractors	
	1. Develop and compare plans		Winter 2015
	2. Parks Commission rep meets with Energy Committee		Spring 2015
	2. Submit plan for consideration in 2016 budget		Dec-15
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 3.15, 3.18</b>			
<b>GOAL 9</b>	<b>Conduct a Community -Wide Greenhouse Gas inventory</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Develop inventory report</b>		
	1. Follow guidance in CSC 2.2 for conducting inventory		Sep-15
	2. Finalize data and report results		Dec-15
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 2.2</b>			
<b>GOAL 10</b>	<b>Establish a Community Emissions Reduction Target</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Research and adopt short, medium, and long term targets in a resolution or as part of Comp Plan Update</b>		2015-2016
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 2.4</b>			
<b>GOAL 11</b>	<b>Assess , Plan and Report</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Conduct a year end review and planning session</b>	<b>Committee</b>	
	1. Assess progress on energy actions		Dec-15
	2. Review Climate Smart Community Pledge Elements (especially 2, 3, 4)to set or adjust goals for 2016		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Complete annual report</b>		Jan-16
<b>Climat+A60:D73e Smart Certification Elements: 10.1 and 10.2</b>			

## **Recycling & Waste**

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The Recycling & Waste Committee promotes actions to encourage and support waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The committee created a survey for the downtown commercial district to assess needs and current practices, which will inform changes to Village policies for trash and recycling pick up in 2015. The Action Plan includes planning for various outreach and education programs for all sectors of the community.

### **RECYCLING & WASTE COMMITTEE:**

Marcy Denker  
Jim Politi  
Kathy Schwarz  
Maria Whittingham

# RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

**GOAL 1      Improve the recycling and trash pick-up program to be frequent and consistent community wide.**

<b>Target One</b>	<b>Complete a survey in commercial and mixed use districts.</b>		
	1. Collect the information NHS students gathered so far.		Jan-15
	2. Survey the remaining area of downtown		Feb-15
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Negotiate a new contract with private carter</b>	Village Board and Admin.	May-15
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.7, 5.8,</i>			

**GOAL 2      Promote the Village Recycling Program.**

<b>Target One</b>	<b>Conduct an educational campaign about the pick-up programs schedule and cost savings and other benefits.</b>		
	1. Compile information and design mailing		Mar-15
	3. Mailing and email blast		Apr-15
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.13</i>			

**GOAL 3      Reduce the use of disposable bags significantly.**

<b>Target One</b>	<b>Expand "Say no to the bag"</b>	<b>Maria Whittingham and Committee</b>	
	1. Arrange with vendors at Farmers Market to stop offering bags and coordinate with Rockland Conservation Corps.		Spring 2015
	2. Develop and distribute a poster and/or tent card about the effort for key locations (start with Farmers Market)		
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.2</i>			

**GOAL 4      Conduct a hazardous waste awareness campaign.**

<b>Target One</b>	<b>Host a day for paint and electronic waste drop off</b>	<b>Committee</b>	
	Organize, advertise		July-August 2015
	Hold event		September
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Plan an event at Nyack Center to promote repair, reuse, recycling.</b>		November 2015 and/or January 2016
	1. Involve Solid Waste Management Authority, Keep Rockland Beautiful, Conservation Corps,		
	2. Possibly include video and "repair café" concept		
	3. Possibly include Rockland Freeshare and Streetbank.		
	3. Coordinate with America Recycles Day or New Years Day		
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.12, 5.13, 11.2</i>			

# RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

GOAL 5 Provide effective recycling/trash bins in public outdoor space			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Make a detailed street-by-street plan for business district</b>		2015-2016
	1. Evaluate the blue bins move as needed.		
	2. Develop a map of best locations for paired bins in the business district		
	3. Research and share information about bin styles and costs		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Evaluate potential for Memorial Park recycling</b>		2015
	1. Identify locations		
	2. Research and share information about bin styles and costs		
	3. Look for funding and/or submit for consideration in budget		Dec. 2015
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</i>			
Goal 6 Create partnerships and build awareness in the business community			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Develop a plan with Chamber of Commerce re Earth Day</b>	Chamber of Commerce	February April 2015 and 2016
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Develop Village recognition for the save the bag effort</b>		TBD
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</i>			
GOAL 7 Provide effective recycling in municipal buildings, fire departments, Housing Authority			
			2016
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.9</i>			
Goal 8 Adopt a construction and demolition waste reduction program or policy			
			2015-2016
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.5</i>			
Goal 9 Adopt a waste management strategy for government hosted or permitted events			
			2015-2016
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 3.19</i>			
GOAL 10 Assess , Plan and Report			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Conduct a year end review and planning session</b>	<b>Committee</b>	
	1. Assess progress on energy actions		
	2. Review Climate Smart Community Pledge Elements to set or adjust goals for 2016		Dec-15
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Complete annual report</b>		Jan-16
<i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 10.1 and 10.2</i>			

## **Landscape & Water**

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The Landscape and Water actions aim at the improvement and protection of overall landscape health. They include sustainable and ecological management practices for yards, gardens, parks and streets. Key areas of concern are plant selection, installation and care; management of yard resources and yard waste; water quality protection and conservation; and landscape pest management.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The Action Plan goals for landscape management include continued and expanded efforts of the Parks Commission, Tree Committee, and some former Green Infrastructure and Leaf Blower Committees as well as new actions. The Sustainability Coordinator will work with the Village Administrator, Parks Commission, the Tree Committee and others to implement the recommendations in the plan.

The recommendations in the plan were developed with input from Patti Ackerman, Carolyn Cairns and Anne Welles.



# LANDSCAPE & WATER

<b>GOAL 1      Establish an integrated program for best leaf and yard waste management practices.</b>			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Expand Love “Em and Leave ‘Em campaign to increase on-site mulching and composting, reducing curbside leaf collection</b>	<b>Parks Commission Committee</b>	<b>Tree</b>
	1. Mailing to residents		Sept-Nov 2015 and 2016
	2. Outreach at Halloween Parade		
	3. Demonstration at Upper Nyack Elementary School (?)		
	4. Email blast to community with video demonstration		
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</i></b>			
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Establish appropriate landscape practices for leaf management in the Memorial Park maintenance program.</b>	<b>Sustainability Coordinator Village Administrator</b>	
	1. Meet with stakeholders to assess current practice and needed changes		Winter Spring 2015 and 2016
	2. Develop new contract accordingly		Jun-15
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 5.1</i></b>			
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Establish an integrated program for best leaf and yard waste management and reducing the use of leaf blowers in the Nyacks.</b>	<b>Sustainability Coordinator and others TBD</b>	
	1. Plan and conduct a meeting (or meetings) in coordination with Upper Nyack and South Nyack to include Rockland County Landscape Association, Chamber of Commerce, Cornell Cooperative Extension and others to discuss a unified strategy for promoting recommended equipment, operation, and times of use of leaf blowers.		Mar- Aug 2015
	2. Implement the strategy.		Fall 2015 through 2016
	3. Assess, revise, expand		Spring -Fall 2016
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 10.3</i></b>			
<b>GOAL 2      Develop a Village Forestry Program</b>			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Take a leadership role as a Tree City USA</b>	<b>Tree Committee</b>	
	1. Apply for membership based on successful accomplishment of all standards in 2014.		Jan-15
	2. Ensure the successful completion of the Tree Inventory band announce the findings to the public and Village Board.		Winter 2015
	3. Host NYS ReLeaf Workshop at Nyack Library		Mar-15
	4. Hold an Arbor Day Celebration		April 2015 and April 2016
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Develop a Village Forest Planting and Management Plan</b>		2015-2016
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Research, refine, and recommend revisions to the Code related to trees.</b>		
	1. Review the Nyack Green Infrastructure Report Recommendations		Spring Summer 2015
	2. Participate in the Comprehensive Plan Update Process		2015-2016
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 6.18</i></b>			

# LANDSCAPE & WATER

GOAL 3	Establish a village policy and program to promote the use of native and non-invasive plants		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Prepare and present a policy proposal for the selection of plants for municipal property.</b>	<b>Tree Committee, Parks Commission, Please Pick Project</b>	
	1. Assemble information and recommendations based on information from NYS DEC, Partners in Invasive Species Management, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Westchester Native Plant Center and seek approval of VB		February March 2015
	2. Develop recommended plant lists for Memorial Park, streetscape, and housing properties		Spring-Summer 2015
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</i></b>			
GOAL 4	Build a coherent process and plan for planting and maintenance on Village property		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Develop, share and build consensus on recommendations for planting and maintenance in all parts of Memorial Park</b>	<b>Sustainability Desk, Tree Committee, Parks Commission, Please Pick Project and others</b>	
	1. Develop planting recommendations for Baer commemorative and other tree plantings to compensate for recent removals in Memorial Park		February March 2015
	2. Develop a plan for new living fence at the top of the hill between playground and upper park.	Incl. Marcy Denker and Ani Adishian	
	3. Develop a plan for plantings in the lower playground, possibly including rain garden, fruit trees, blueberries or other edibles.	Incl. Please Pick Project	
	4. Plan and implement Children's Planter construction and planting projects	Incl. Nyack Center, Nyack Recreation, YMCA, Rockland Conservation Corps, Jeff Scotto	
	5. Revisit/develop outdoor classroom native plant garden plan by Nyack Brook and look for funding.		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Improve planting and maintenance along Village Streets and Lots</b>		
	1. Review maintenance practices/contract and adjust as needed.	Sustainability Coordinator/ Village Administrator	Jun-15
	2. Research, discuss and plan for planting opportunities based on Tree Inventory	Tree Committee	2015-2016
	3. Coordinate with planners for the streetscape improvements to be designed and installed with Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.	Sustainability Coordinator	2015-2016
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</i></b>			

# LANDSCAPE & WATER

<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>Develop partnerships and expand capacity</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Explore ideas and connections with various groups.</b>		
	1. Meet with Kim Cross to plan Children's Garden		February March 2015
	2. Meet with Nyack Garden Club to share ideas on planting and stewardship for Village properties.		Jul-05
	3. Continue/expand relationship with YMCA summer program members in park plant care		Jul-05
	4. Consider summer interns or scout involvement in stewardship		Jul-05
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements:</b>			
<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>Implement Planting Plans</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Aquire funding and carry out plantings outlined in Goal 5 ( 1-4)</b>		Spring-Fall 2015
<b>GOAL 7</b>			
<b>Promote green infrastructure for stormwater management</b>			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Reprise/expand the downspout disconnection campaign</b>		Fall 2015 through 2016
	1. Develop message and materials and distribute		
	2. Assess		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Plan and seek funding for pilot project (Catherine Street lot)</b>		Spring 2015
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Explore/develop sidewalk design guidelines</b>		2016
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 7.16</b>			
<b>GOAL 8</b>	<b>Promote water quality protection</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Plan, fund, implement storm drain marker program for the Nyacks</b>	<b>Rockland County Water Quality Committee and Conservation Corps</b>	
			Jul-05
<b>Goal 9</b>			
<b>Advance plans for a beautiful, highly functional and resilient waterfront</b>			
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Understand and share information about waterfront plans.</b>	<b>Mayor, Village Administrator, Parks Commission, Parks Conservancy, Skate Park, Rick Gilbert, QRP</b>	
	1. Discuss and clarify decision making roles and plan next steps.		
	2. Participate in/keep informed of the Comprehensive Update process as it relates to waterfront planning.		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Plan for studies, design and funding .</b>		Winter-early spring 2015
	1. Apply for Hudson River Estuary Program Access Grant if appropriate.		May-June 2015
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 10.1 and 10.2</b>			

## **Communication and Outreach**

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The Communication and Outreach Committee will carry out the tasks for improving information sharing at all levels, and developing strategies for effective outreach and education campaigns and programs in web, video, and print media and community events.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Marcy Denker

Doug Foster

Others to be determined

# COMMUNICATION OUTREACH

GOAL 1	Establish frequent and predictable communication at all levels.		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Create and maintain a regular information sharing among relevant boards, commissions and committees</b>		Winter 2015
	1. Set up webpage for Tree Committee and post news and minutes regularly.		
	2. Update Parks Commission page and add news and minutes regularly.		
	3. Post all Sustainability Committee news and minutes regularly.		
	4. Alert relevant committees of cross-cutting issues.		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Use the 2nd floor hallway of Village Hall for relevant updates and information</b>		
	1. Mount a display/bulletin board		Summer 2015
	2. Establish a protocol for using the board for meeting minutes and other regular updates including Comp Plan Update Process.		
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Increase the use of Village website to support and promote sustainability initiatives and programs.</b>		Spring-Fall 2015
	1. Promote/expand awareness of the site and email updates		
	2. Create monthly email blasts on Village website for tips and updates.		
GOAL 2	Establish and maintain a strong identity for the Sustainable Nyack efforts.		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Create a logo</b>		Winter 2015
	1. Create a simple logo based on the official logo to use on all communications and campaigns.		
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Create an expanded and improved presence on the Village of Nyack website for Sustainable Nyack</b>		
	1. Evaluate options for doing more within and beyond existing format		Winter 2015
	2. Implement		Apr-15
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>1. Create an engaging program to be part of the Earth Day to introduce Sustainable Nyack.</b>		Apr-15
<b>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 9.4 9.5</b>			
GOAL 3	Create educational campaigns and programs for Sustainable Nyack efforts		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Village-wide recycling campaign: <i>Sustainable Nyack Recycles</i></b>		
	1. Direct mailing, email blast and social media to announce new contract and rules. (See Recycling/Waste Goal Two)		Mar-15
	2. Table tents for businesses in Say No to the Bag (See Recycling and Waste Goal Three)		May-15
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Develop a sustainable landscape educational campaign</b>		Fall 2015 and 2016
	1. Implement residential landscape campaign and "Love'Em and Leave 'Em (see Land/Water Goal One)		

# COMMUNICATION OUTREACH

	2. Incorporate other elements, such as Downspout Disconnection/GI. (See Land and Water Goal (7)		
<b>Target Three</b>	<b>Host a seminar or workshop</b>		March 19 2015
	1. Host a Street tree/green infrastructure workshop at Nyack Library (See Land/Water Goal Two Target 1)		
<b><i>Climate Smart Certification Elements: 9.2 and 9.3</i></b>			
<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>Engage the public with rewards and celebrations</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Create a Sustainable Nyack Recycles Award for Business</b>		2015-2016
<b>Target Two</b>	<b>Sustainable Nyack Celebrates</b>		Early 2016
	1. Research/develop ideas		
<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>Allow Video Access to Village Board Meetings</b>		
			Jul-05
<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>Expand the use of social media to keep the community informed of events, initiatives, and progress</b>		
<b>Target One</b>	<b>Assess and Plan</b>		Jul-05
	1. Assess the use of social media and develop a plan accordingly.		

# **PART TWO:**

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS**

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### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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The Village of Nyack (“the Village”), a Climate Smart and Greenway Community, serves as a gateway to Rockland County and the Mid-Hudson Region. The Village will update its Comprehensive Plan, as it was last updated more than five years ago. The Village recognizes current plans and zoning laws do not adequately consider opportunities for multi-modal transportation options, climate resiliency, and mixed use development that provide mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gases. This integrated planning will be modeled on the United States Green Building Council’s LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) rating system. The Project will evaluate possible alternatives for Hudson River ferry landing sites, transit-oriented development (TOD) in the Gateway area near the New York State (NYS) Thruway interchange, and transportation alternatives such as trolleys, shuttles, and bike and pedestrian paths.

### **PROJECT ELEMENTS**

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The project will include the following elements:

- Updates of demographics and growth trends;
- Update of a previous transportation analysis that included parking and ferry studies, ferry landing alternatives, parking analysis, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), bike routing, and TOD in the Gateway to the Village at the NYS Thruway;
- Recommendations for integrated public/private waterfront development;
- Recommendations for sustainable neighborhood design at waterfront, gateway and downtown.
- Recommendations to promote green infrastructure and energy conservation; and
- A prioritized list of recommendations for implementation, including, but not limited to zoning updates.
- Amendments to the Municipal Code.

### **MID-HUDSON REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ALIGNMENT**

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The Project will support the following goals of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan:

- Increase carpool, transit, and non-motorized vehicle work trips and decrease single-occupancy vehicle work trips;
- Reduce annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT);
- Reduce Hudson River bridge crossings per registered vehicle;
- Reduce transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita; and
- Reduce stationary fuel consumption GHG emissions.

## **PROJECT PROCESS**

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The Comprehensive Master Plan process will take place during 2015-2016. Planning consultants will lead the process and conduct the required research. A Steering Committee will guide development of the Plan Update. Relevant stakeholders who may have representation on the Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Members of the Village Board of Trustees and Village Planning Board;
- Members of other Village departments and local organizations such as the , Parks and Recreation Department, and the Chamber of Commerce; and
- Community stakeholders including Village business owners and residents.

Public meetings will be open to the general public and focus on discussion of the Project, Design charrettes to gather public feedback on key elements, including the waterfront, transportation and sustainable neighborhood design. Public hearings will be held to assure full opportunity for citizen participation in the preparation of the Plan.

## **RELATED CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES ELEMENTS**

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The following charts list pledge elements in the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program that relevant to the Comprehensive Plan and Code Update process.



# COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING and CLIMATE SMART PLEDGE ELEMENTS

<b>Climate Adaptation</b>	
Pledge Element	Enhance community resistance and prepare for the effects of climate change
7.1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment.
7.2	Develop a climate resilience vision and associated goals.
7.3	Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies and policies or projects that may decrease vulnerability.
7.4	Develop climate adaptation strategies.
7.5	Incorporate climate resiliency vision, goals, and strategies into local plans and projects.
7.6	Update the multi-hazard mitigation plan to address changing conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.
<b>Land Use</b>	
Pledge Element	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of climate-smart land-use tools
6.1	Develop and adopt a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements.
6.2	Incorporate smart growth principles into land-use policies and regulations.
6.3	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance.
6.4	Establish green building codes.
6.5	Create resource efficient site design guidelines.
6.6	Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
<b>Transportation</b>	
Pledge Element	Resource Efficient Transportation
6.8	Adopt green parking lot standards.
6.9	Adopt a complete streets policy.
6.10	Implement strategies that support bicycling and walking.
6.12	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transport modes.

# Guidance, Frameworks and Model Programs

## KEY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND CODE UPDATE

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Climate Smart Communities (NYSDEC) <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>

Mid-Hudson Climate Smart Communities <http://www.midhudsoncsc.org/>

LEED for Neighborhood Design Technical Guidance Manual <http://todline.blogs.law.pace.edu/tod-tools/>

Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Cleaner-Greener-Communities/Regional-Sustainability-Plans/Mid-Hudson>

NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Cleaner-Greener-Communities>

Nyack Green Infrastructure Report 2013 <http://nyack-ny.gov/green-infrastructure-committee-roundtable-final-report/>

Sustaining Places Practices for Comprehensive Planning, American Planning Association, 2014.  
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbXueWFja2dwdGZ8Z3g6N2E0NDY4N2JjYzdiOGI2OQ>

Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Local Governments  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf>

## HUDSON RIVER/WATERFRONT

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Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan Project <http://thehudsonweshare.org/>

Hudson River Estuary Program <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>

Hudson River Watershed Alliance <http://www.hudsonwatershed.org/>

Hudson River Valley Greenway Council  
<http://www.hudsongreenway.ny.gov/Organization/GreenwayCouncil.aspx>

Riverkeeper Water Quality Testing Program <http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/stop-polluters/sewage-contamination/water-quality-testing-program/>

Scenic Hudson <http://www.scenichudson.org/>

Sustainable Shorelines Project <https://www.hrnerr.org/udson-river-sustainable-shorelines/>

## **SUSTAINABLE AND ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE RESOURCES**

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Arbor Day Foundation <http://www.arboday.org/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension <http://rocklandcce.org/>

Cornell University Urban Horticulture Institute <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/>

Ecological Landscape Alliance <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/>

Love 'Em and Leave 'Em <http://www.leleny.org/>

Native Plant Center, Westchester Community College <http://www.sunywcc.edu/about/npc/>

New York State Urban Forestry Council <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/>

Sustainable Sites Initiative <http://www.sustainablesites.org/>