

# Town of Hamilton

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[www.TownofHamiltonNY.org](http://www.TownofHamiltonNY.org)

## RESOLUTION 2016-89: TAKING THE PLEDGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hamilton (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of climate change could endanger our roads and bridges, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, businesses, schools, and local environment; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; therefore adversely effecting the overall quality of life in the Town of Hamilton; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money; support innovative energy, agricultural, and business opportunities; and create resilient infrastructures; which will contribute to a livable, energy-smart, and secure community, and

**WHEREAS**, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts, including at the local level; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe it is important for our community to continue to find opportunities to improve and adopt policies and technologies that can create a more sustainable and economically sound future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Hamilton, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, will

### **1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community**

Use the development of new policies and plans as opportunities to set goals to reduce GHG emissions. Help individuals set goals to reduce GHG emissions through encouraging actions such as taking the ENERGY STAR® pledge. Work cooperatively with neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another. As an official signal of commitment and for access to technical resources, sign on to a widespread climate campaign such as ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - Climate Protection campaign.

## **2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action**

Develop a Climate Action Plan with the assistance of Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action to reduce GHG emissions.

Gather data, inventory GHG gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors. Through the Climate Action Plan, develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them. Take advantage of available resources like The Climate Registry, which has developed a standardized method for reporting emissions inventories, and ICLEI to track and evaluate progress.

## **3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations**

Through the Climate Action Plan, set goals to reduce electricity use for local government operations.

**Existing Public Facilities.** Inventory current building electricity usage and identify opportunities for conservation and efficiency retrofits. Obtain energy assessments from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the New York Power Authority, the Long Island Power Authority or other professionals. Consider actions such as purchasing energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as ENERGY STAR®; improving lighting, heating, and cooling efficiency; setting thermostats for maximum energy conservation; decreasing plug load from office equipment; and increasing pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems.

**New Public Buildings.** Strive to implement energy efficient design standards such as U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards for new local government buildings.

**Infrastructure.** Incorporate energy efficient technologies and operations and maintenance practices into municipal street lighting, traffic signals, and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

**Vehicle Fleet and Commuting.** Improve the average fuel efficiency of local government fleet vehicles. Discourage vehicle idling and encourage bicycling, car-pooling and public transit for employees. Strive to enhance its public transit system to offer more viable transportation options for its citizens. Consider reducing the number of vehicles; converting fleet vehicles to sustainable alternative fuels; and using electric vehicles where possible.

## **4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations**

Supply as much of the local government's power, heat and hot water needs as possible from solar, wind, and small hydro through purchase or direct generation.

## **5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices**

Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated -- continue to promote backyard composting, implement incentives that encourage a reduced trash volume, and educate residents on how to prevent waste. Continue to promote reuse by providing a space for drop-off or trade of reusable goods. Continue to provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces and encourage duplex printing in government offices, the composting of food scraps and green waste, and adopting a comprehensive green purchasing program.

## **6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning**

Combat climate change by encouraging low-emissions development that is resilient to climatic changes. When updating land use policies, building codes or community plans, strive to include provisions to combat climate change; reduce sprawl; preserve and protect open space, biodiversity, and water supplies; promote compact, transit-oriented, mixed-use, bikeable and walkable communities; promote infill development; minimize new development in floodplains; maintain or establish healthy community forests; and promote best forest management practices and encourage tree planting, especially along waterways, to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.

## **7. Plan for the Future**

Use future-oriented practices, policies, and strategies, to appropriately guide growth and development which includes taking into account any potential climate change impacts (such as flooding, drought, and extreme temperatures) that could affect the community. Factor potential risks into long-term investments and decision-making.

## **8. Support a Green Innovation Economy**

Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans. Encourage workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate smart solid waste management practices. Procure climate smart goods and services for local government operations and support modernizing of local and national electricity grids.

## **9. Inform and Inspire the Public**

Lead by example. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions. Demonstrate the benefits of energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by hosting open houses; distributing fliers; holding local meetings; working with school districts, colleges, and universities to develop climate change curricula and programs; engaging

faith-based communities in climate protection; and regularly communicating community climate protection goals and progress to constituents.

**10. Commit to an Evolving Process**

Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results.

**On a motion of Councilmember Collins,  
seconded by Councilmember Darby.**

**The following resolution was: ADOPTED:**

**Shwartz:     yes   x   no**

**Darby:       yes   x   no**

**Holcomb:    yes   x   no**

**Collins:     yes   x   no**

**Rossi: ABSENT**

**Vote: AYE: 4, Nay: 0**

Clerk's Certification of Resolution, Extract from Minutes, Etc.

STATE OF NEW YORK           :  
COUNTY OF MADISON         : ss.:

I, Suzanne K. Reymers, Clerk of the Town of Hamilton, in the County of Madison, New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the above extract of minutes with the original thereof filed in my office on September 8, 2016, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of the whole thereof so far as the same relate to the subject matters referred to therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town of Hamilton this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of March in the year 2017.



  
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Suzanne K. Reymers  
Town Clerk