

WCA Policy Playbook



In partnership with



WCA POLICY PLAYBOOK



- **Land Use Plan**
- **Target Area Plans**
- **Land Use Regulations**
- **Streamlined Review & Approval Process**
- **Trained Land Use Boards**
- **Local Development Corporations/IDAs & Property Tax Abatements**



LAND USE PLAN



- **Land Use Plan Defined**
- **Why Create a Land Use Plan?**
- **How to Create a Land Use Plan**
- **Funding Opportunities**
- **Best Practice Examples**
- **Resources**

LAND USE PLAN



Land Use Plan Defined

- A comprehensive or master plan
- Supported by maps, charts, and other graphics
- Contains goals, objectives, and strategies for the future development and conservation of the community
- Guides development and accommodates its social, environmental, and regional concerns
- Formally adopted by the local legislature



LAND USE PLAN



Why Create a Land Use Plan?

- Inventory community's assets and needs
- Create a blueprint for future development
- Build consensus and support for plan
- Provide policy foundation to support land use regulation that implements plan
- Update regularly to ensure plan is informed by current community goals, market conditions, and local and state regulations.

LAND USE PLAN



How to Create a Land Use Plan?

- Appoint a comprehensive plan committee
- Gather data
- Include clear goals, objectives, strategies, and implementation techniques
- Ensure the plan is market realistic
- Build community support
- Include an implementation plan




LAND USE PLAN



Funding Opportunities

- Climate Smart Communities Grant Program
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Clean Energy Communities Program
NYSERDA
- Strategic Planning and Feasibility Studies Program
NYS Empire State Development
- Local Government Efficiency Program
NYS Department of State Division of Local Government Services

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES GRANTS  **Office of Climate Change**
Part of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund

The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program is a competitive 50/50 matching grant program for municipalities to conduct climate change adaptation or mitigation implementation projects, or to undertake eligible actions as part of a strategy to achieve Climate Smart Communities Certification.

Implementation Projects
Up to \$4,239,000 is available for implementation grants of between \$10,000 and \$2,000,000 for the project types listed below. No more than 15% of an implementation grant may be used for design and engineering costs.

Eligible Adaptation Actions

- Increase natural resiliency and decrease vulnerability to future flood risks.
- Relocate or retrofit critical infrastructure to reduce future flood risks.
- Replace or right-size flow barriers to facilitate emergency response or protect people, infrastructure and natural resources.
- Address anticipated future extreme heat conditions.
- Improve emergency preparedness and response systems (excluding radio communication systems) for anticipated future extreme climate conditions.

Eligible Mitigation Actions:

- Projects or programs that improve non-recreational, non-motorized transportation, improve transit, or reduce commuting distances through identification of smart growth strategies.
- Projects or programs to increase food donation and directly support food recovery efforts, or facilitate food scraps recycling at wastewater treatment facilities.
- Projects to reduce methane leakage at landfills such as installation of capture systems or leak detection equipment, and implementation of monitoring programs.
- Projects that reduce HFC emissions from refrigeration, chillers, and A/C equipment including replacement or retrofit, enhanced monitoring and disposal, or adoption of measures enabling alternative refrigerant use.

Certification Projects
Up to \$550,000 is available for Climate Smart Communities certification grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and up to five grants of between \$2,500 and \$9,999 each to municipalities of population sizes less than 40,000 for the project types listed below:

- Adaptation actions such as vulnerability assessment, identification of climate adaptation strategies, and developing strategies to address future climate conditions.
- Land use actions such as development of comprehensive plans with sustainability or smart growth principles, conducting resource inventories, or development of a complete streets policy.
- Transportation actions such as planning to right-size the municipal fleet, developing strategies to increase transit, or facilitating alternative transportation.
- Organic waste management actions such as conducting waste audits, and developing waste management, food waste reduction, and recycling or composting strategies.

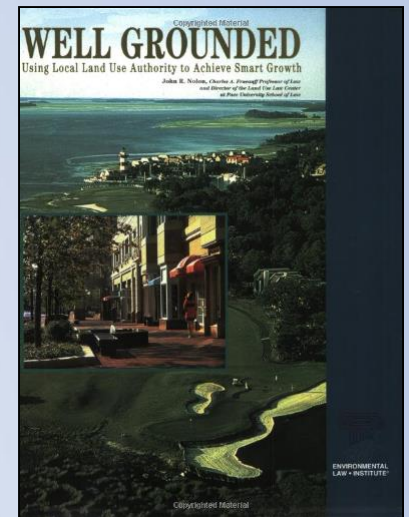
An Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation www.dec.ny.gov

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Resources

- Westchester County Department of Planning Website
- NYS Department of State Publications
- NYS Climate Smart Communities Program
- Select American Planning Association Publications
- Well Grounded: Using Local Land Use Authority to Achieve Smart Growth

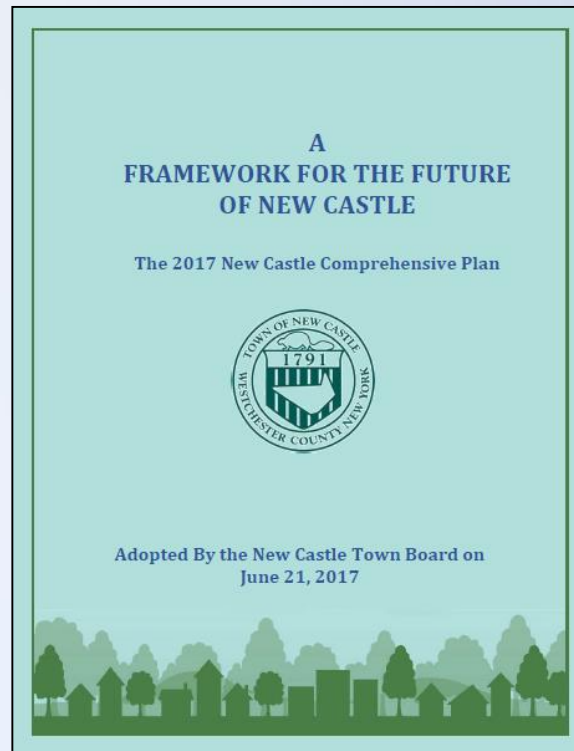


LAND USE PLAN



Best Practice

The 2017 New Castle Comprehensive Plan: A Framework for the Future of New Castle



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Best Practice

The City of New Rochelle's EnvisionNR



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Best Practice

Envision Cortlandt
2016 Sustainable Comprehensive Plan

