

NYACK CLIMATE ACTION PROGRESS REPORT 2025

Nyack showed its continued dedication to climate action in 2025 with several major accomplishments and many projects and activities. The Village guided five NYSERDA-funded construction projects at municipal buildings through planning and design so they were all nearly shovel-ready by the end of the year—no small task! In June the Village achieved Silver certification level in the Climate Smart Communities program, just a year after recertifying at the bronze level. Throughout 2025 Nyack's Sustainability Coordinator, staff and community stakeholders developed the *Nyack Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan*, which was finalized and adopted by the Board of Trustees in December. All the while the Climate Smart Committee continued to check off actions outlined in the Nyack Climate Action Plan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

Climate Smart Communities Silver Certification:

The Village of Nyack achieved silver level certification in the Climate Smart Communities program in June 2025 with 334 points earned, thanks especially to the accomplishments achieved in the Clean Energy Communities program the previous year.

EV Fair - The Village of Nyack celebrated the opening of eight new level-2 charging stations in a EV Charger Ribbon Cutting & Electric Vehicles Promotional Event in April, 2025. The fair was an opportunity to continue to highlight Nyack's effort to promote electric vehicles, an opportunity to recognize our partners, and provide outreach on other climate action.

EV Charging Stations – The Village of Nyack received the 2025 Municipal Electrification Leadership award at Orange & Rockland's 2nd Annual E-Mobility Awards ceremony. The award recognizes the municipality, in the O&R service area, that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to sustainable transportation by installing the highest number of EV chargers within their municipality. Since installation about a year ago, there have been about 3,300 charging sessions generating more than \$21,000.

ICLEI Training in ClearPath 2.0 - As a member of ICLEI, a global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development, the Climate Smart Committee Co-chair Steve Cea, participated in an advisory group to provide an updated software tool, ClearPath2.0, in preparation for updating Nyack's greenhouse gas inventory in 2026.

Nyack Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan

Nyack completed its *Nyack Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan* over the course of the year. The plan is a comprehensive framework for preparing for climate change impacts locally. It focused on four key hazards: extreme heat, extreme weather events, sea level rise and storm surge, and climate change-related disease. Village staff and local and county stakeholders contributed to the plan and committed to ongoing engagement. Implementation of the recommendations in the plan is to begin in 2026.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades, Renewable Energy and Electrification Projects

The Village advanced major projects to be funded by the Clean Energy Communities program through the design, approval, and bidding process. At the DPW, the Village replaced the old leaky roof in preparation for installation of rooftop solar, installed energy efficient heat pumps for heating and cooling, adding to recent years of effort to reduce GHG emissions through use of electric tools, better insulated garage doors, and LED lights. For Village Hall, architectural and engineering plans for a new roof, upgraded insulation, a solar array, new windows, and heat pumps at Village Hall were completed. The

projects are all expected to be completed in 2026 and result in substantial energy savings and emissions reductions.

Food waste Campaign

Nyack's Climate Smart Committee launched a campaign to reduce food waste by publicizing the Village's food scrap drop off site at Nyack DPW with yard signs and regular posts in the Village newsletter and on social media. A steady increase in the amount of food waste collected showed the outreach was working, and it will continue in 2026. Click [here to see](#) updated food waste data. Collection averages about a half ton per week, or a total of 44,000 lbs since January of 2025.

Columbia Climate School Capstone Project

In the summer of 2025, a team of students from the Columbia Climate School delivered a *Strategic Plan for Neighborhood-Scale Decarbonization for the Village of Nyack*, building on a recently completed capstone project by Master's students from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. Marcy Insert more

Village Energy Contract

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Nyack adopted a green procurement policy, including the purchase of renewable electricity for all village electrical accounts.

NYForward Building Decarbonization

The Village of Nyack was awarded \$4.5 million in funding as one of the Mid-Hudson region's winners of the third round of NY Forward and conducted a months-long process to identify transformative projects to revitalize the downtown. Selected projects that meet the criteria for new construction, substantial renovation, or a building addition will satisfy decarbonization requirements that are built into the program.

Tree Planting

The Nyack Tree Project ended 2025 with a tally of 56 new trees planted for the year bringing the total since the start of the program in 2016 to 472. The Tree Committee helped the Village of Upper Nyack launch a tree planting effort in in the fall.

Waterfront Landscape Design at Memorial Park

The Village's Shoreline Path project design includes trees and raingardens that will enhance water quality in runoff to the Hudson River. The Village obtained an additional NYS grant to continue construction of a vegetated shoreline on the north side of the inlet, to enhance aesthetics and biodiversity.

Expanding Gardens for Biodiversity

Nyack's Sustainability Coordinator, Nyack Parks Commission, Nyack Tree Project and Nyack Pollinator Pathway collaborated on additions and alterations to landscaping for biodiversity along Nyack streets, on commercial property and on parkland, including a new streetscape planting at the corner of North Highland and High Avenue, an expanded planting of trees, shrubs and wildflowers by the splashpad in Memorial Park, and the "soft landing" of native groundcover plants under a tree in the parklet at the corner of South Highland and Depew Avenue, as well as enhanced plantings along Main Street.

Planning and Coordinating for Greening Streets and Lots the Nyack Tree Committee and Climate Smart Committee developed a compendium of opportunities for landscape improvements on or adjacent to the public right of way, including removing paving, amending soil, planting trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The effort is intended as an aid in coordinated long term planning and identifying funding opportunities as well as code compliance.

CHALLENGES IN 2025

Community Choice Aggregation

In the spring of 2025, the Rockland Community Power clean energy program ended after five years. Through this Community Choice Aggregation program, more than 80% of eligible households received electricity supplied by a combination of hydropower and wind power. Despite the important climate mitigation benefits, the program ended, as other similar programs throughout the state have ended, for regulatory reasons.

The end of this program leaves residents to navigate the system to purchase renewable energy on their own, resulting in a far lower level of enrollment with renewable energy sources. The committee is weighing options to educate the public about how to enroll individually with a supplier of renewable energy for electricity and how to do so while still maintaining consumer protection. At the same time, residents can be encouraged to sign up for community solar and to consider the installation of rooftop solar arrays where this makes sense. The Village has issued permits to two solar installers to canvass neighborhoods to offer their products. Community solar is not a substitute for the CCA program, but it does help to support the development of new renewable energy sources.

Solar Projects

The Village is pursuing the installation of solar arrays on three of its buildings: DPW, Village Hall, and Head Start, all fully funded through the Clean Energy Communities grant and the federal solar tax credits. The buildings all required roof replacements, which can add significant costs and time to a project. Orange and Rockland Utilities required an interconnection study for the DPW, the largest of the projects, to determine the available grid capacity, and the findings resulted in a reduction in the number of panels to avoid additional costs associated with expanding grid capacity.

Village Hall Decarbonization Project

Nyack's Clean Energy Communities Grant of \$375,000 was planned for a full replacement of the Village Hall heating system with heat pumps, but the project came in over budget and was downsized to include new heat pumps for the second floor only. The Village worked with NYSERDA on a contract to fund five mini-split heat pumps, new windows, and insulation.

TOP PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2026

Update Nyack's Government and Community Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Complete all Clean Energy Communities Grant-Funded Building Projects

- **Solar roof tops DPW, Head Start, and Village Hall**
- **Village Hall window replacements, heat pumps and insulation**

Work to address the loss of the Community Choice Aggregation Program

Begin implementing the Nyack Climate Adaptation Plan

Promote food waste collection