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Lewis County Achieves NYS Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification

On October 2, 2023 Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled the most recent group of communities that have earned certification through New York State's Climate Smart Communities Program. This initiative backs local endeavors to address the economic, social, and environmental challenges stemming from climate change. We are thrilled to share that Lewis County has been granted this prestigious designation.

Lewis County has made substantial strides in addressing climate change and fostering sustainability within the community. This certification underscores our dedication to creating a more resilient and sustainable future. Among the 23 local governments in the state achieving bronze certification for the first time, we are proud to be one of only two from the North Country Region.

Lewis County Legislator Tom Osborne said, "Recognizing the increasing threat of climate change on both local and global scales, Lewis County is proud to achieve the NYS Climate Smart Communities Bronze Certification. Our response to this challenge presents a distinct chance to achieve cost savings and promote thriving communities with durable, long-lasting infrastructure for future generations."

Carlie Leary from Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) said, "Lewis County is setting an example for local governments within their county boundaries as well as neighboring counties that climate work is possible, and crucial, for the North County. The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program encourages local governments to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change, but it also helps municipalities recognize that some of the work that they have already been doing is climate work. Lewis County has been working on projects that benefit the environment for years and has now received state recognition for the actions it has taken. I am proud of Lewis County for becoming the first county government in the North County to receive this certification and I hope it encourages others to follow suit."

The NYS Climate Smart Communities Program recognizes municipalities for their efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and taking steps to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The bronze certification is awarded to municipalities that have successfully implemented a range of sustainable practices, policies, and initiatives.

Lewis County received its designation as a Climate Smart Community for 28 actions already taken over the years from 9 different categories. Some of those actions include:

- Government Operations GHG Inventory
- Interior Lighting Upgrades
- Benchmarking – Municipal Building
- Access to Public Transit
- Climate Resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Solar Energy Installation

For more information about New York State’s Climate Smart Communities Program, please visit <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>. We invite interested parties to follow Lewis County’s Climate Smart Communities Initiatives through our Sustainably Lewis consortium. Information and updates can be found on our website at lewiscountyny.gov/departments/planning-and-community-development/sustainably-lewis/

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