



**Cornell Climate Stewards Program**  
**CCE Volunteer Position Description**  
Dutchess County

**Title:** Cornell Climate Stewards Volunteer

**Purpose of Position:** To provide New York residents and their communities with unbiased education on environmental change based on research and science as well as to support local community mitigation, adaptation, and education projects.

**Benefits:**

- Satisfaction of serving your community to extend the educational mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Interaction with people in your community with similar interests and talents in addressing the impacts of a changing environment.
- A deeper understanding of the science best practices for local resilience issues.

**Responsibilities**

- Successfully complete the Cornell Climate Stewards training and volunteer project components.
- Based on the individual (or group) volunteer project plan developed: meet with municipal and other local officials to determine community needs; help the community with a project addressing mitigation, adaptation, resiliency; increase through education community scientific understanding of environmental change and the need for local action.
- Abide by the rules set forth in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Volunteer Involvement Policy.
- Professionally represent Cornell Cooperative Extension within the community; encourage enrollment in and support for the organization.
- Uphold the nation's Land-Grant University System mission, as well as the mission, vision and values of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Promote trust and safe spaces as we engage in learning and collaboration with our network of educators and volunteers, community partners, and program participants.

**Anticipated Audience:** Cornell Climate Stewards interact with the public via public meetings, hands-on community projects, education forums, and other events. This program serves all members of the community, and as such, there is the anticipation that Cornell Climate Stewards will work with people of all age levels, including minors and individuals over age 65; minorities and underserved populations; and/or individuals with disabilities.



**Expected Results:** New York residents will be better informed of the science and best practices for addressing local resilience issues based on Cornell University and other scientifically sound research and will be better able to make decisions for themselves and their community to address the impacts of a changing environment.

**Training and Support:**

- Orientation to the Cornell Cooperative Extension System, its mission, and that of the Cornell Climate Steward program.
- Cornell Climate Stewards training includes classes about the science and best practices for addressing local resilience issues, working with local governments and communities, mitigation and adaptation solutions with local case studies, and effective science communication strategies.
- Volunteers are supported with developing a local stewardship volunteer project.
- Support from the local coordinator and Cornell program directors.
- Access to the Cornell Climate Stewards curriculum and resources.

***After Completing the Training Program:***

- Periodic opportunities for statewide and local check-in meetings to share volunteer work and challenges and learn from peers.
- Access to any refresher classes and workshops that may be offered to increase the expertise of the Cornell Climate Steward.

**Reporting:** Volunteers are required to maintain and provide records of program contacts, meetings, events, and work completed. All time devoted to Cornell Climate Steward activities must be recorded through the Cornell Climate Stewards volunteer reporting system.

**Time Commitment:** After completing the twelve-week curriculum (24 hours total), the Cornell Climate Steward is expected to contribute at least 40 hours of community service over the first year working on their volunteer project. Once the first year is completed, Cornell Climate Stewards are required to contribute at least 40 hours of community service per year to maintain their status as an active Cornell Climate Steward.

**Qualifications:**

- A basic interest in and knowledge about the impacts of environmental change.
- Enthusiasm for acquiring and sharing knowledge and skills.
- Verbal and written communication skills.
- A time schedule compatible with program activities.
- Willingness to contribute to volunteer projects and educational activities that help meet the goals of the Cornell Climate Stewards program.



**Forms Required:**

- Cornell Climate Stewards Application
- CCE Association Volunteer Agreement and Volunteer Code of Conduct
- CCE Volunteer Risk Waiver
- CCE Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

**Level of Background Screening Required:**

- Reference Check – Required for all CCE Enrolled volunteers.
- Criminal Background Check – Required for all CCE Enrolled volunteers.