



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

November 13, 2012 AGENDA

1:30 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Jonathan Rouis, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

### **Call to Order**

### **Attendance**

### **Reports:**

1. SASD Monthly Report- Dick Riseling
2. Agricultural Planner Monthly Report- Jen Mall
3. Possible Renewable Projects- DPW
4. Travis Solar Ribbon Cutting

### **Presentation:**

1. Taste Our Local Harvest Event
2. Solar/Wind

### **Discussion:**

1. Farmland Protection Planning Grant
2. Dairy Processing Review Committee
3. Mid-Hudson Regional Council – Wind Development
4. County Support of Sustainability Department

### **Resolutions: None**

### **Public Comment**

### **Adjourn**

## SASD ACTIVITY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2012

### Climate Action Planning –

1. The Climate Action Plan Advisory Board has elected Anne Willard and John Conway as Co-Chairs. Formation of Task Forces to develop shovel ready projects is in progress. These include but are not limited to such economic sectors as transportation, buildings, waste, water and land management as well as public education and policy development for county and towns.
2. We are asking for the addition of several people to the Climate Action Plan Advisory Board and welcome suggestions from legislators and staff.
3. The Town of Delaware has signed the Climate Smart Community Pledge. Meetings are ongoing with the Towns, Bethel, Neversink, Cocheton, Highland, Liberty, Rockland, and the Villages of Jeffersonville and Monticello.
4. A County-wide solar capacity survey of high priority municipal and county owned sites is well under way.
5. A County-wide wind capacity survey of municipal and private sites is complete.

### County Government Building Retrofits and Energy Activities

1. Met with DPW and CCE staff to investigate opportunities for retrofit of Cornell Cooperative Building.
2. Met with regional solar developer on capacity and financing for major solar development in Sullivan County.
3. Met with another hedge fund manager re financing of large scale renewable projects.
4. On October 30<sup>th</sup> lighting consultants will review the Adult Care Center and Travis Building lighting retrofit opportunities.
5. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the 49.8kw solar electric system at the Travis Building was held on 10/16. This project was completed under budget and was built at 10% greater capacity than the proposed size. SASD thanks DPW, Purchasing Dept. and County Manager Office staff for assistance.
6. SASD is acquiring skill with new software to assist with energy decisions by quantify the costs of delaying an energy efficiency project.

### Other Activities

1. Assisted in development of plans for a creamery grant application and in designing a farm store that would sell meat, dairy, vegetable, fruit, grain products for a cluster of local farmers.
2. Met twice with graduate student writing thesis on energy needs and carbon foot print of Sullivan County.
3. Collaboration with the Mid Hudson Regional Sustainability Planning Consortium continues several times each week.
4. Several consultations concerning energy audits, residential and commercial energy retrofits were conducted.
5. Held 3 day food shed/community garden training and design workshop for Vassar College faculty and students.

### Ag Planner Projects:

**Dairy Processing RBEG:** Received 2 proposals, Ag Advisory Board members will serve as proposal evaluation team.

**Red Meat Processing Facility:** IDA has executed documents accepting the red meat equipment RBEG. Working out the transfer of this grant and the technical assistance RBOG from Ag LDC to IDA.

**Microenterprise Assistance Program:** Continued administration of ag projects.

**Comprehensive Economic Development Plan:** Continuing to assist consultants with information requests, and outreach to ag stakeholders as needed.

**8 Year Review of NYS Ag District #1:** Will take place in 2013. Beginning to prepare for this comprehensive review, in collaboration with the Office of Real Property Tax Services.

### Recent Events & Happenings:

**Westchester Taste Our Local Harvest Event:** Local farms and food businesses, along with SCVA, the SC Farm Network and I, attended this tasting event on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Rye to promote and publicize Sullivan County farms and farm products.

**Ag Advisory Board:** I met with Liz Higgins (chair) and Sonja Hedlund (co-chair) on October 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the agenda for the October meeting and priority projects. Full AAB met on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sullivan County Health Forum:** I attended the forum on October 4<sup>th</sup>, some discussion of improving health outcomes by connecting schools and communities with farms. Most emphasis was on access to health care and improving safety in our schools and communities.

### Upcoming Events:

**Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP:** Annual meeting of the Board of Directors November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant:** I will attend a workshop led by NYSDAM staff during November (date and location TBD), to learn about financial management and grant administration for this grant. Next step is for NYSDAM to develop a contract between the County and the State, for review and approval here at the County. We expect to have the contract in December or January.

## **NET-ZERO LIBERTY ENERGY DISTRICT**

A Net-Zero Energy District Feasibility project at the Sullivan County-owned Human Services Complex on Community Lane in Liberty, NY.

### **Phase I: Feasibility Studies**

**Project Description:** “Net-Zero” means **all of the energy used is produced on-site**. The Liberty Energy District will integrate a number of systems to reduce energy usage (demand) and produce energy on site (supply). These include: a deep energy retrofit (building envelope); energy efficiency retrofits; and a conversion from fossil fuel heating systems to a biomass-fired or ground source heat pump district heating system backed with air-source heat pumps. Net-zero energy usage (no energy purchased from utilities) will be achieved by installation of an on-site, megawatt scale wind turbine and by adding to the existing 50kW PV array. Hydrogen fuel cells will be added to back up the on-site energy supply.

**Measuring the Results:** Energy consumption and generation will be monitored in real time. Metrics will include **reductions in energy use, ghg emissions reductions, and cost savings**. Data will be made easily accessible to document the project’s success in implementing demand and supply side technologies and achieving measurable cost savings, reduced energy consumption and environmental benefits. Performance will be tracked from a baseline of energy use data collected through the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy and NYSERDA Flex Tech audits.

**Facility Management:** The Sullivan County DPW will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of buildings and energy systems with training and/or maintenance contracts (e.g. for wind turbine).

**Phase I, Feasibility Studies:** The Net-Zero Energy District project includes multiple feasibility studies **funded through existing programs at the State and Federal level:** a **NYSERDA** Flex Tech energy efficiency audit of buildings; a **USDA** feasibility study for on-site community owned wind, a study integrating solar electric and solar thermal technology with hydrogen fuel cell storage; and a study of deep energy retrofit of building envelope efficiency.

The project will leverage funding from a variety of public and private sources including **MHRP** and local and regional private investment. **Leveraged funding sources include private and community capital** for the wind turbine project, a **USDA** grant for a Community Owned Wind Feasibility Study, previous **NYSERDA** studies, and possible leveraging of funds committed to County capital budget projects.

**Sustainability Benefits:** Sullivan County will save on energy costs, reduce ghg emissions, address climate change issues, foster job creation and economic development, and develop a knowledge base and funding sources for other sites in the County: **SCCC**, Government Center, Bethel Woods, and various commercial enterprises.

**Regional Leadership:** The Liberty Net-Zero Energy District will provide a replicable model for the region. We will collaborate with other counties and other building portfolio managers in the region to share the results of the feasibility studies and project integration.

**SUMMARY OF SASD FUNDING BY SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AND REVENUE GENERATED BY SASD**

July 1, 2009 through December 2012

**SASD FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY**

Total County levy 3 ½ years:	\$180,000	
100% grant funding for personnel	<u>110,000</u>	
Total for 3 ½ years for staffing sc Office of Sustainable Energy:		\$290,000

SASD gratefully acknowledges County provision of offices, phone and computers at Government Center.

**REVENUE GENERATED BY SASD**

*Direct revenue to County for County projects:*

Grant for County Energy Management Personnel	\$110,000	
Grant for Robert Travis Solar Electric System	<u>269,000</u>	
Total Grants to County:		\$379,000 direct to County

*Grant support generated to County residents and businesses:*

Grants for 9 solar electric installs	\$758,000
Grants for 2 solar electric installs on businesses	68,000
Grants for energy audit of 20 farms	10,000
Grant for solar at SWHS	350,000
Grant for Callicoon solar—diverted to window retrofit for CR Medical Center	300,000
Grant for Community Owned Wind Assessment	210,000
2 Grants from Sullivan Renaissance for Youth Projects	12,800
2 Bonacic grants \$12,000/1 Gunther grant \$10,000	<u>22,000</u>

\$1,730,800 to residents/businesses

**Total Grants:**

**\$2,109,800**

*Value generated by other SASD activities:*

Value of 114 Energy audits @\$200 each	\$22,800
Value of 35 Retrofits @\$10,000	350,000
Estimated value of induced Energy Efficiency and Renewable energy installs (probably much higher)	1,720,000

**Total additional value:**

\$2,092,800

**TOTAL REVENUE GENERATED**

**\$4,202,600**

**INITIATIVES UNDERWAY:**

\*Comprehensive review and recommended energy management measures for County-owned facilities

\*Climate Action Plan for County and Towns

\*Representation of Sullivan County to Mid Hudson Sustainability Planning Consortium

Template for wind, solar and bio-mass project development

*These threads of economic design and development provide tremendous potential for sustainable economic development at a rate far higher than in the past 3 ½ years.*

(\*direct services to Sullivan County Government under contract to staff the Office of Sustainable Energy)

**PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN**

Community-Owned 2 mw Wind Turbine

Private-Public Small Wind Farm – 2-8 Turbines

Net Zero Energy District at HCC-Liberty estimate

Municipality-owned 20mw solar power authority