



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

July 11, 2013 AGENDA

2:30 PM

### Committee Members:

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

### Call to Order

### Attendance

### Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Report- Jill Weyer
3. Update – DPW
4. Ag Initiatives Update/Red Meat Plant/Food Hub IDA

### Presentation: None

### Discussion:

1. CAP for County Departments
2. Net Zero Energy District MHR Funding

### Resolutions: None

### Public Comment

### Adjourn

## **OSE Activities Report for July 2013**

### **Reporting on June 2013 activities**

#### **I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES**

##### **HelioSage PV proposal for SCCC.**

- Met with SCCC President Karin Hilgersom, Director of Building and Grounds Tracy Hall, Dean of Workforce Development Stephen Mitchell, and J. Michael Walters from HelioSage. Toured three prospective sites for the PV system, reviewed pros and cons of each. Settled on the site of the formerly proposed Green Tech Park as being the least costly to develop.
- A burning question taken from the meeting centers on whether or not prevailing wage rate rules apply to this project. The system is not owned by SCCC, it is in private ownership. The current financial model is based on prevailing wage rate, if this project is exempt, the college should expect to pay a lower rate for the electricity generated. Dr. Hilgersom requested guidance from the SC Attorney on this requirement.

##### **Liberty wind project**

- Follow up meetings continued the discussion of financing and siting of the wind project.
- Stephen attended the ninth annual Small Wind Conference in Stevens Point, WI. In a meeting with Mark Mayhew, coordinator of the NYSERDA wind program, Mr. Mayhew advised that the Liberty wind project would now qualify for \$1,000,000.00 in NYSERDA incentives through PON 2439. This is separate from any incentives that may be accessed through the CFA application process.

##### **Main Street Grants**

OSE continues to provide advisory support for the Division of Community Planning Main Street grants program with Ethan Cohen.

##### **NYPA Potential for Energy Retrofits**

- OSE is exploring the New York Power Authority building retrofit programs to see if there is capacity for Sullivan County Government to benefit. NYPA provides a full service retrofit program, from site study to engineering to commissioning. NYPA funds the construction over an agreed upon time frame.
- OSE is researching options for standby electricity utilizing the existing PV arrays at Travis and Mobility Management Center, to help reduce peak demand at county facilities by utilizing the stored excess energy to reduce the peak demand loads of County operations.
- In discussion with Kristin Porter of SC DPW to bring NYPA representatives to a meeting to determine scope of programs that could be available to SC.

##### **Liberty Health Care Complex/Innovative Energy District**

Work continues on refining this project, developing a schedule of implementation, action items, co-funding sources, project sequence. Submission for August deadline of CFA relative to MHRSP. Project aligns with Section 5.5 of the regional plan: (5.5.1 Increase Energy Efficiency Programs; 5.5.2

Community Energy Districts; 5.5.3 Expand Distributed Generation and Renewable Energy Production; 5.5.4 Increase Demand/Response Participation; 5.5.5 Develop Energy Storage Capacity).

### **LED lighting**

Met with representatives of Winworks to hear presentation and proposal of LED lighting in SC facilities.

- Can we send them lighting data that we have on our buildings so that they can develop a proposal for LED retrofits for lighting? Proposal will provide ROI on lighting.
- There have been at least four studies on lighting retrofits for SC facilities. No action has been taken on any proposal. There is a cost to delay.
- Federal regulations may make our current lighting paradigms illegal within five years, which will then force a more expensive lighting upgrade. LED technology is RoHS (Removal of Hazardous Substances) compliant.

## **II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

- MHRP Sustainability Plan final version plus REDC plan for economic development – our plan needs to align with stated goals and strategies.
- Discussions with Jill Weyer, Acting Commissioner of Planning, regarding scope of the Climate Action Plan and logistics for completion.
- Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, CR and SS met with Carol Ryan of Public Health to gather her suggestions for public health aspects of climate planning. This discussion yielded important connections between land use and other planning topics and public health issues that need to be addressed. Notes to come.
- Town of Bethel is forming a Bethel Green Committee to draft their version of the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and help evaluate proposals for renewable energy installations at Town facilities.
- In conjunction with Climate Action Planning for Bethel, OSE will review a solar proposal from BQ Energy.
- Town of Thompson has provided electric usage data for town facilities; working to collect data on fuel use and vehicles.
- Provided the County Manager with a draft for communication with department heads, requesting their support for the Climate Action Plan.

#### IV. ENERGY EFFICIENCY “CONCEPT OF THE MONTH”

# University of Delaware, NRG EVs Sell Energy to Grid

April 29, 2013 by [Energy Manager Today Staff](#)



The University of Delaware and NRG Energy have officially sold energy from electric vehicles to PJM Interconnection, proving for the first time that electric vehicle-to-grid technology can sell electricity from electric vehicles to the power grid.

The University and [NRG](#) began work in September 2011 to move from research results to prepare to commercialize the technology, which provides a two-way interface between EVs and the power grid that enables vehicle owners to sell electricity back to the grid while they are charging their EVs.

On Feb. 27, the project took a big step forward when it became an official participant in the PJM’s frequency regulation market. Frequency regulation is used to balance supply and demand on the grid second-by-second. Since then, the project has been selling power services from a fleet of EVs to PJM, a regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity and whose territory has 60 million people in the 13 Mid-Atlantic states.

The first sale demonstrates that EVs can provide both mobility and stationary power while helping making the grid more resilient and ultimately generating revenue for electric vehicle owners, NRG says.

A key aspect of the technology is that it can aggregate power from multiple electric vehicles to create one larger power resource, rather than individual, smaller ones.

Additional company partnerships that make up the entire system shown include BMW providing the vehicles, Milbank Manufacturing providing [charging stations](#) based on University of Delaware technology, AutoPort Inc. installing University of Delaware control technology into the electric vehicles and others.

For grid operators, the technology serves as an innovative new approach to energy storage. It has the potential to balance the power provided by intermittent renewable resources such as wind and solar, the university said. Energy storage, such as large-scale batteries or those in a fleet of vehicles, can take the wind’s power generated at night and store it to use when demand is higher.

Researchers from the US Department of Energy’s SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and Stanford University have designed a low-cost, long-life battery that could enable solar and wind energy to become major suppliers to the electrical grid. The battery, similar to the functionality of University of Delaware’s electric vehicle project, is able to smooth out the peaks and valleys of the intermittent power that inherently come from wind and solar generation.

*From NYS DEC newsletter for Climate Smart Communities:*

**Drivers Can Compare Gasoline and Electric Fuel Prices with eGallon**

The Department of Energy Department has launched [eGallon](#)—a way for consumers to compare the costs of fueling electric vehicles versus driving on gasoline. The current national average eGallon price is about \$1.14, meaning that a typical electric vehicle could travel as far on \$1.14 worth of electricity as a similar vehicle could travel on a gallon of gasoline.

On the [site](#), consumers can see the latest eGallon price for their state and compare it to the price of gasoline. Over time, consumers will notice that the eGallon price will be far more stable and predictable than gasoline prices. That's because the eGallon price depends on electricity prices, which historically are very stable; gasoline prices depend on the global oil market, which can be very unstable and are often influenced by unpredictable international events.

The eGallon provides a metric that is easily comparable to the traditional gallon of unleaded fuel. That comparison is made by calculating how much it would cost to drive an electric vehicle the same distance a similar conventional vehicle could travel on a gallon of gasoline. For example, if gasoline costs \$3.60 per gallon in your state and the eGallon price for your state is \$1.20, that means that for \$1.20 worth of electricity you can drive the same distance as you could for \$3.60 worth of gasoline. The eGallon price varies from state to state based on the price of electricity. See the Energy Department [press release](#).

### Ag Planner Projects:

**Dairy Processing RBEG:** Determining status of project. Still need to execute lease agreement.

**Microenterprise Assistance Program:** Continued administration of ag projects – remaining balance of \$64,433.24 to be disbursed. Anticipate closing out grant by October 2013 deadline

**Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant:** Received four responses to RFP for Planning services. Will discuss next steps at July 18<sup>th</sup> Farmland Protection Board meeting.

**Red Meat Processing Facility:** Assisting the IDA and its consultants with the re-submitting technical assistance RBOG application to USDA, successfully obtained \$50K for this round, so will work to deobligate 2009 award.

### **NYS Agricultural Districts**

**Ag District 1 8-year review:** Public hearing set for July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:20 pm. Eight parcels totaling: 231.81 acres to be added and 27 parcels totaling 237.58 acres to be removed. AFPB Report drafted and awaiting comments before approval by AFPB and Legislature prior to submittal to NYSDAM.

**Ad District 4 30-day review:** Public hearing held June 20<sup>th</sup>, not comments received. EAF prepared, Negative Declaration resolution and inclusion resolution on July PEMRP committee meeting.

**Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP Food Distribution Hub Project:** Together with the IDA, successfully received funding from USDA RD for this project totaling: RBEG: \$213K and RBOG: \$89K. We will continue to work with the IDA to ensure a successful project.

### Recent Events & Happenings:

**Ag Advisory Board:**

**REAP Board:**

**Sullivan County Wellness Committee:**

**Ag and Farmland Protection Board:** Next meeting scheduled July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 to discuss Farmland Protection Plan Update and responses to the RFP, as well as Ag District reports.

### Upcoming Events:

**REAP Board:** next quarterly meeting will be on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.