



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

January 21, 2016 AGENDA

1:30 PM

Committee Members:

Catherine Owens, Chair, Nadia Rasjz, Vice-Chair, Mark McCarthy, Terri Ward, Scott Samuelson

### Call to Order

### Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

### Reports:

1. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
2. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart

Presentation: None

### Discussion:

1. Hydroelectric Utility Remote Net Metering Project

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

## Priority Initiative #1 Building Capacity, Organization, and Collaboration

Many of the problems, or lack of solution to known problems in the County, stem from not having the capacity, communication, and collaboration in place to support implementation. Agencies and organizations involved with agriculture, both within the County and the region, need to work together, efficiently use the many existing talents of staff and volunteers, find ways to eliminate duplication and fill gaps in programs, and build relationships. This initiative is a foundation for success in implementation.

### IMMEDIATE-TERM YEAR 1: 2015/2016

ACTION ITEMS	LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
1.1 Establish and create the Agricultural BR&E Program Coordinator position. See Priority Initiative 2 actions.	<b>Legislature</b> AFPB, Ag Task Force, CCE, Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislature approved funds in 2016 budget</li> <li>Position posted until February 19</li> </ul>	Continuation dependent upon funding.
1.2 Continue to support and fund HVADC, CCESC, and Sullivan County SWCD so that they can continue to provide or expand programming that supports farms.	<b>Legislature</b> HVADC, CCE, SWCD	<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed in 2016 budget</li> </ul>	
1.3 Continue to promote CCESC as a major resource / one-stop shop for agricultural information in Sullivan County.	<b>CCE</b> Legislature, all partners listed in key	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 weekly radio spots (farm report)</li> <li>Monthly newsletter</li> <li>Monthly e-news</li> <li>CCE website</li> <li>Farm Visits</li> <li>Weekly press releases</li> </ul>	
1.4 Disseminate and coordinate information resources. Create and maintain an email/distribution list of all agencies and organizations involved in agricultural-related programs. Use a website, twitter, or blogs to share information among these entities. This should include consolidating farmer and agri-business mailing lists and email lists from agencies and organizations within the County to create a single comprehensive list that can be used.	<b>CCE</b> Legislature, all partners listed in key	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maple Producers List</li> <li>Farmers Market List</li> <li>Vegetable Producers List</li> <li>Christmas Tree Producers List</li> <li>Adopted CIVICRM as constituent management system, build in progress</li> </ul>	Currently have a program assistant helping the CCE Ag staff to create the ag database and inventory SC farms
1.5 Regularly convene a meeting of implementation partners to discuss these priority project needs and assign lead agencies to carry out specific actions.	<b>AFPB</b> CCE, Planning, SCVA, FarmNetwork, IDA, Legislature	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly Ag Task Force meetings</li> </ul>	Meeting for all Ag partners set for January 19th
1.6 Create an Agriculture Task Force to spearhead implementation and guide efforts.	<b>AFPB</b> CCE, Planning, Legislature	<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets monthly</li> </ul>	

**IMMEDIATE TERM  
YEAR 1: 2015/2016**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		<b>LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS NOTES</b>
1.7	Schedule quarterly multi-county meetings between Planning staff, HVADC, CCE, and others as needed to facilitate more coordination between the counties in the region	<b>Planning</b> CCE, HVADC, Regional Planning Departments	<b>In progress</b>	Working with Planning Dept. to set up a fall meeting	
1.8	Build staffing capacity in order to assist farmers and agribusinesses with production and technical assistance.	<b>Legislature</b> AFPB, Planning, CCE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ag BR&amp;E position search currently open through Feb. 19</li> <li>CCE secured temporary part time program assistant through USDA</li> </ul>	Contingent upon funding
1.9	Create an executive summary and brochure of the plan	<b>Planning</b> CCE, AFBP	<b>In progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Summary Complete</li> <li>Brochure being printed</li> </ul>	

**Priority Initiative #2: Agricultural Business Retention and Expansion Program**

**Business Retention and expansion is one of the core components of economic development programs. The purpose of a BR&E program is to communicate with local businesses in order to understand, anticipate, and ultimately address their needs, challenges, and opportunities. The agricultural business retention and expansion program will be tied to, and will in fact be critical factor in the success of, many activities and projects related to agricultural economic development.**

**IMMEDIATE-TERM  
YEAR 1: 2015/2016**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		<b>LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS NOTES</b>
2.1	Develop marketing tools, including a website with links to programs and resources for farmers (see below).	<b>CCE</b> Planning, Pure Catskills, SCVA, USDA, CADE,	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCE Website</li> <li>SCPEM Website</li> <li>Secured Farmers Market Promotion grant</li> </ul>	Promoting Catskill Farmlink and Hudson Valley Farmland Finder website. Attended Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference to develop marketing classes for 2016 programming
2.2	Develop the Agricultural Business Retention and Expansion Program. Hire staff.	<b>CCE/Planning</b> AFPB, Legislature	<b>In progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Position posted through February 19. Task Force to review applications.</li> </ul>	Offering Ag Business Series for 2016. Classes include: Business Structures, Business Planning, Farm Leases & Farm Funding.

**SHORT-TERM  
YEARS 2 & 3: 2016 - 2017**

		<b>LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>			
2.4	Develop an initial database of farms in Sullivan County	<b>CCE</b> Planning, Farm Bureau	<b>In progress</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CivCRM adopted as constituent management system</li> <li>• Civi build in progress</li> <li>• Staff training in progress</li> <li>• Drafted farmer survey to collect commodity/production data</li> <li>• Released farmer survey to the public (data entry: March)</li> <li>• Data Collected: Maple Farmers, Vegetable Producers, dairy farmers, Christmas Tree Farmers</li> </ul>
2.5	Develop a business visitation program.	<b>CCE</b> Planning, AFPB	<b>In progress</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal and requested farm visits occurring weekly by Ag staff &amp; ED</li> <li>• Formal paper survey drafted &amp; released</li> <li>• CCE Ag Outreach Packet outline completed, packet materials ordered and in house</li> <li>• Web survey in development</li> </ul>
2.7	Provide farmers with general business support and assistance	<b>CCE</b> Planning, IDA, SC Partnership, SC Chamber, HVADC, CADE	<b>In Progress</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/1/15-12/30/15: 1000 inquiries answered at CCE</li> <li>• 40 farm visits, 15 workshops</li> <li>• Informal and requested farm visits occurring weekly by CCE Ag staff &amp; ED</li> <li>• Formal paper and online survey drafted</li> <li>• CCE Ag Outreach Packet outline completed, folders on order</li> <li>• Web survey in progress</li> </ul>
2.8	Work with CDC to assist farmers with farm worker recruitment and connect them to people looking for agricultural employment.	<b>CWD</b> Planning, CCE, CADE, Glynwood	
			Working to develop listing to develop livestock list
			Staff are creating folders for farm visits, which will have a survey and resources. Staff created a survey to go out to all SC farmers. One of the questions asks if they would like a CCE farm visit.
			Developing an Ag Business Series of Classes for 2016

2.9	Collaborate regularly with agency partners to provide referrals, follow-up, etc.	<b>CCE/Planning</b> Agency Partners	<b>In progress</b>	Scheduled an Ag partner meeting for January 19th
2.11	Simplify existing agri-business loan fund programs. Revise application forms and program descriptions so that they are easier to understand and more "farmer-friendly."	<b>Planning</b> IDA, SC Partnership, HVADC, USDA, CCE	<b>In progress</b>	Working with Planning Dept. to develop loan program brochure
2.13	Work with agency partners to develop communication tools.	<b>CCE/Planning</b> Agency Partners		
2.14	Establish a website as a portal to programs, resources, and support for farmers in Sullivan County, preferably with a simple, easy to remember URL.	<b>CCE</b> Planning	<b>In progress</b>	CCE is in the process of updating our website. Planning updated their website to include more info on ag districts & ag assessment

### Priority Initiative #3: Agritourism Enhancement

This program will entail moving agritourism to the forefront. It will include new opportunities for both farmers and visitor's, as well as leveraging existing efforts such as Pure Catskill, Made in Sullivan County Catskills, tourism marketing and promotion, mapping and wayfinding, lodging and special events. There is a need to develop new agritourism products, experiences, and events;leverage the resources of and coordinate with existing organizations involved in agriculture and tourism; and make the County more "tourism friendly". This would provide additional opportunities for farmers to diversify and increase their incomes, while bringing valuable external dollars into the County.

#### IMMEDIATE-TERM YEAR 1: 2015/2016

ACTION ITEMS		LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
3.1	Create an Agritourism Task Force	<b>SCVA</b> CCE, Planning, Farm Network,			
3.4	Updates the Fresh from the Farm agricultural trail map online	<b>SCVA</b> CCE, Planning, Farm Network	<b>Complete</b>	SCVA completed summer 2015	

**SHORT-TERM  
YEARS 2 & 3: 2016/2017**

ACTION ITEMS		LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
3.3	Work with CCE and other partners to provide training (and assessment) on developing an agritourism enterprise.	CCE SCVA, Pure Catskills, Farm Network, Farm Credit East			Working to create agri-tourism workshop for 2016. Ag tourism workshop will be AG-Tourism 101 and will cover the basics of ag tourism for farmers. Working to provide a fact sheet for the public so that they are educated about farm safety in SC
3.2	Increase the participation of Sullivan County farms in Pure Catskills and/or Hudson Valley Bountly.	<b>Pure Catskills</b> CCE, HVADC	In progres s	Developing a workplan and timeline for this	Connected with these organizations, receiving information to provide to farmers, promoting in CCE newsletter. Sent out monthly email to contacts and putting their info in our farm packets. Working on creating a small scale food processors conference, with Pure Catskills as a partner.
3.5	Expand marketing of farms, farmers' markets, farmstands, distilleries and breweries, etc., through facebook,	<b>SCVA</b> CCE, Planning, HVADC	In progres s	Completed farmers market brochure. Planning Dept. applied to a Farmers Market promotion grant	Coordinated a farmers market manager meeting and developing the RFP for the grant.

**Priority #4: New/Young Farmer Program**

**New farmers face barriers in four major areas including access to training, education and technical assistance, access to land, access to capital and credit and access to markets. New farmers need programs and services that enable them to acquire the information and resources they need to succeed. There is a need for an expanded effort to recruit new farmers to Sullivan County. This program represents a concerted effort to "sell" Sullivan County as a good place to farm, targeted to young farmers and the next generation of farmers.**

**IMMEDIATE-TERM  
YEARS 1: 2015/2016**

ACTION ITEMS		LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
4.7	Promote existing Sullivan County agribusiness loan programs and work to help new and expanding farmers understand and participate in these programs.	<b>Planning</b> CCE, IDA, Partnership, HVADC, Chamber, CMK	In progress	Planning Dept. created loan program brochure. In the printing process.	In progress
4.3	Adapt the Orange County New Farmer Manual for use in Sullivan County.	<b>CCE</b>	In progress	Staff are starting to gather information for this manual	
4.4	Create fact sheets with information gleaned from this plan, and resources from Cornell and other research that outlines market opportunities that may be viable for new farmers.	<b>CCE</b> Planning			
4.8	Increase programmatic support for Cornell Cooperative Extension educational programs in 4-H to build interest among youth in agriculture.	<b>Legislature</b> CCE, Planning	In progress	SC Youth Bureau awarded \$4800 NYS OCFS OYD funds to 4-H in 2015. 2016 application submitted	

**SHORT-TERM  
YEARS 2 & 3: 2016/2017**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		<b>LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS NOTES</b>
4.1	Provide technical training in farming to take advantage of emerging markets.	<b>CCE</b> Planning, HVADC, CADE, Glynwood, BOCES		CCE receives inquiries on a regular basis about new markets, such as mushroom production, hops and small grains. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted SARE grant to explore growing small grains</li> </ul>	Provide technical assistance and info to these beginner farmers. Working with Soil and Water to offer small grain programs for 2016. Attended a Cornell Strategic Marketing Conference LFPP staff attended Cornell Food Safety conference
4.6	Provide incentives, and advertise existing funding opportunities for farm start-up operations.	<b>Legislature</b> Planning, IDA, Partnership, USDA, CMK			Working on brochure and farm packets
4.12	Work with the real property and tax departments of the County to identify and remove farm properties from the Tax Foreclosure list. Tie this program to a requirement that the interested farmer go through a beginner farmer training program.	<b>Planning</b> Legislature, CCE, Glynwood, HVADC		Planning and CCE staff are looking into other models in the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted USDA BFFO application to support staff &amp; county in this particular work</li> </ul>
4.18	Utilize NYFarmLink.com, Catskill FarmLink, and Hudson Valley Farm Link, an existing established site to post farms and farmland for sale.	<b>CCE</b> Planning, WAC, American Farmland Trust, Glynwood	In progress	Promote these websites to CCE inquiries. Putting their brochures in our farm packets.	
4.9	Convene a meeting of school district officials to discuss mechanisms to get schools involved in agriculture.	<b>CCE</b> Planning, Sullivan Renaissance, BOCES, SCDPH, SCCC, CMK	In progress	Working on a Farm to Institution Planning grant. As part of the grant, we are interviewing school districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly Farm to School meetings,</li> </ul>	



## Priority Initiative #5: Value-Added and Diversification Initiative

This program has two parts. The first is to take agricultural initiatives already underway and make them successful. This part is oriented to good organization, planning, coordination with farmers, getting the right operators, and marketing. The second part is oriented to providing farms with training, business planning, and assistance in identifying and understanding market opportunities, and helping farmers take advantage of funding that can be used for value-added processing, diversification and expansion. This initiative will work in conjunction with the Agricultural Business Retention and Expansion Program and the New/Young Farmer Program.

### IMMEDIATE-TERM YEAR 1: 2015/2016

ACTION ITEMS	LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
5.7 Continue to develop and operate the new CCE Entrepreneurial & Teaching (Eat) Kitchen.	CCE Sullivan Renaissance, BOCES	<b>Complete/ ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/1/15-12/30/15 150 inquiries answered, 7 workshops offered, 3 regular business user, 2 on deck with Ag &amp; Markets</li> <li>• USDA LFPP RFP submitted &amp; received to offset rental and course fees</li> <li>• Annual calendar of food entrepreneur business development workshops scheduled</li> </ul>	Working with SCCC, Catskill Mountainkeeper and Pure Catskills, SCFMA to develop a small food processor workshop for October 21 2016.
5.2 Work with Sullivan County dairy farmers and establish niche dairy and value-added dairy products to support the dairy industry in the County.	CCE Planning, HVADC, IDA, CADE	<b>In progress</b>	Working with Planning Dept. to provide technical assistance for dairy processing project	Finalizing dairy processing project



5.3	Promote the red meat processing facility in Liberty to livestock farms in Sullivan County and other adjacent counties.	<b>CCE</b> IDA, Planning, AFPB, HVADC	<b>In progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ED on RFP review committee</li> <li>RFP went out, applications under review</li> </ul>	
5.9	Tap into expertise available at Cornell University, SUNY Sullivan and other regional colleges and universities to help farmers diversify their operations and develop new products and services.	<b>CCE/SUNY Sullivan</b> BOCES	<b>Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cornell Farm to School program: monthly meetings, draft production/price point survey, SUNY Sullivan/New Hope Farm being established</li> <li>Cornell attendance at CCE Neversink Farms Tour</li> </ul>	
5.1 1	Continue to work with and develop the high tunnel program at CCE, and develop a funding mechanism for farmers to purchase high tunnels after completing training.	<b>CCE</b> Sullivan Renaissance, Planning, IDA, Partnership, BOCES, CMK, NRCS	<b>In progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High tunnel construction completed June 2015</li> <li>Planted June 2015</li> <li>Workshop August &amp; November</li> <li>SUNY Sullivan application for high tunnel development/on campus farm</li> </ul>	Developing workshops for 2016 BOCES students harvesting spinach and using it for their culinary class
5.2	Support diversification or value added production/expansion through Sullivan County's Agr-Business Revolving Loan Fund.	<b>Planning</b> CCE, IDA, Partnership, CMK	In progress	Inserting County Revolving Loan program brochure in Farm Visit packets	

**SHORT-TERM  
YEARS 2 & 3: 2016/2017**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>		<b>LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>OUTPUTS</b>	<b>PROGRESS NOTES</b>
5.4	Determine the potential demand for other facilities or services to piggy-back on the red meat processing facility.	<b>HVADC</b> Planning, IDA, CCE			
5.10	Develop and publicize a catalog of potential niche/specialty crops that can be grown in Sullivan County. Create demonstration plots to showcase and allow sampling or use of niche/specialty crops.	<b>CCE</b> HVADC, Cornell		Working with Soil and Water Conservation District on grant to do trials on grains for distilleries	
5.1	Facilitate the development of specialty farm operations and products.	<b>CCE</b> HVADC			Ag BR&E Role

## Priority Initiative #6: Buy Local Initiative

This initiative is aimed at improving the local sales of and demand for fresh, local foods. Project components include farm -to-table, farm-to-institution, and farm to business programs, as well as local marketing/public relations and a Sullivan Fresh initiative to highlight businesses that use or sell local produce and products. Although direct sales of agricultural products in Sullivan County increased dramatically, the amount of revenue should be significantly higher. Sale of farm products to institutions should also be strengthened. There is also a need to better educate consumers in Sullivan County about the benefits of eating fresh, local foods.

### IMMEDIATE-TERM YEAR 1: 2015/2016

	LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
6.1	<p><b>Planning</b> SCVA, CCE, Pure Catskills, Chamber</p>	<b>Started</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with Pure Catskills, interested in building on the Fresh from the Catskills work.</li> <li>SCVA offered art work and assistance on this as well.</li> </ul>	Developing the RFP for the Farmers Market Promotion Program, which will be under the umbrella of the Sullivan Fresh Initiative
6.7	<p><b>Planning</b> SCVA, CCE, Pure Catskills, Chamber</p>	See above		
6.8	<p><b>Planning</b> SCVA, CCE, Pure Catskills, Chamber</p>	See above	Through Farmers Market promotion grant, we can begin to develop this initiative.	
6.9	<p><b>CCE</b> SCVA, Planning, Pure Catskills, Chamber</p>	<b>In progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maple complete</li> <li>Farmers Market Complete</li> <li>Veg Producers Complete</li> <li>Christmas Trees Complete</li> </ul>	Commodities: Livestock, Honey, Dairy, Forestry, etc. Progress dependent on funding for each brochure

ACTION ITEMS		LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS		STATUS		OUTPUTS		PROGRESS NOTES	
6.2	Concentrate on expanding farmer participation in the Pride of New York and Pure Catskills branding campaigns, and continue to distribute the Guide to Pure Catskills Products throughout Sullivan County.	Pure Catskills CCE, Planning, SCVA, Chamber				Developing a workplan for this			
6.4	Develop a local food procurement policy for Sullivan County agencies and institutions, possibly with a 10% or 20% local sourcing requirement.	Legislature Planning, CCE, BOCES, SCCC, SCDPH,				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCE Farm to Institution Planning Project to commence Oct/Nov 2015. Will collect data from local institutions re: challenges to local procurement &amp; producers challenges to selling. Data will be used in 2017 on strategies to bridge gap.</li> </ul>			
6.5	Request that the County of Sullivan IDA encourage businesses receiving IDA assistance to commit to local purchasing agricultural commodities and/or in some way supporting local agriculture.	IDA CCE, Planning				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggested during red meat RFP development—no action thus far</li> </ul>			
6.6	Continue existing consumer education efforts and farmers' markets to help the public understand the importance of agriculture. Incorporate cooking demonstrations and other activities as appropriate to strengthen the connection with buying locally.	CCE SCFMA, Area Farmers Markets, SCDPH, Chamber, Planning, CMK				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers Market food demos offered regularly by MG</li> <li>Farmers Market brochures</li> </ul>			Additional food demo opps will begin when CHSC commences late 2015-2020. Developing educational programming schedule for 2016 farmers market season.

## Farmland Preservation Strategies

While Sullivan County is not under intense development pressure, farmland loss still occurs due to both conversion to non-farm uses, as well as abandonment farmland. Although the best way to preserve farmland is to have economically successful farmers, the complexity of issues facing farmers today makes it imperative that farmlands remain available and cost effective to farmers, especially young and new farmers. In Sullivan County, land costs may be more of an issue than the lack of lands to farm. There is a great need for affordable and accessible land. There are many methods to address protecting farmland. Some strategies are direct land preservation techniques to promoting farm-friendly regulations and training for local officials.

### SHORT-TERM YEARS 2 & 3: 2015/2016

ACTION ITEMS	LEAD AGENCY/ PARTNERS	STATUS	OUTPUTS	PROGRESS NOTES
7.4 Provide training for local officials: ⇒ Hold presentations for town officials to inform them of this plan and the tools it provides. Use the executive summary as a handout. ⇒ Provide training to planning boards and ZBAs about farming and evaluating project impacts on farming. ⇒ Provide information to towns about appointing an agricultural member to their planning board and encourage them to do so. ⇒ Provide a project review checklist for planning boards to use in evaluating projects that may impact farms or farmland. ⇒ Develop training and educational materials for assessors and for landowners to help them understand farm assessment practices and tax bills.	<b>Planning</b> CCE, HVADC		Reaching out to municipalities to let them know about the municipal planning grant through NYS Ag and Markets	Working on submitting a PDR application for 2 dairy farms
7.5 Provide for succession and transition planning so that farms remain active during transitions and transfer to a new generation.	<b>CCE</b> Planning, HVADC, Farm Credit East	<b>Complete/ ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession workshop offered every other year through CCE</li> </ul>	

**OSE Activities Report for January 2016**  
**Reporting on December 2015/January 2016**

**Summary: Plans for 2016**

For 2016, we look forward to our continued partnership with the County to:

- Ensure that the County is grant-ready to apply for funding through the NYS Cleaner Greener Communities funding opportunities;
- Introduce a successful countywide Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) initiative;
- Identify energy efficiency measures and upgrades for the Adult Care Center;
- Implement and study the efficacy of hybrid vehicles as appropriate;
- Review/revise the SC Climate Action Plan to incorporate initiatives already underway (such as the 2.3MW installation at the Liberty Health Campus) and others anticipated by the County;
- Work with the IDA and DPEM to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy consultations to small businesses that receive loans and mentorship through those agencies.
- Work with SC Division of Planning and Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide information to landowners and municipalities regarding the potential for utility-scale solar farms in Sullivan County, including lease agreements, zoning issues, and tax and assessment issue;
- Broaden the focus of the Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) to additional aspects of sustainability;
- Assist with public information efforts to achieve a higher profile/greater public recognition of the County's energy efficiency and renewable energy achievements.

**I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES**

**NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center**

**Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet**

The County's new lease arrangement with Enterprise provides an excellent opportunity to try out hybrid vehicles as appropriate for specific tasks in the County fleet.

**Solar Installation at the Liberty Health and Community Services Campus**

Work began Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> on tree clearing of 10 acres for the 2.4MW solar array adjacent to the Adult care Center. Solar City estimates that the array will provide the County with energy cost savings of \$2.1 million over 20 years/\$91,907 per year.

**Adult Care Center Energy Efficiency Measures**

SASD is continuing to work with Shennoy Wellington at the Adult Care Center to develop energy saving strategies for the facility, including replacement of the PTAC units in patient rooms with more energy efficient PTHP units. This replacement is a priority project listed in the Sullivan County Climate Action Plan. Procurement options include: 1) issue an RFP for units matching NYSEDA specifications for efficiency; 2) utilize best value option that is now available for County purchases.

**II. SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)**

We expect to hear from the Public Service Commission in January or February as to the status of our application to be a demonstration project for CCA. We continue to schedule presentations and town and village boards and community organizations, and to see letters of support, which will be uploaded to the PSC in an ongoing process.

### **III. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES**

Six SC towns have adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and are working on a variety of energy initiatives. The Town of Highland has established a committee on Energy and the Environment. The Town of Bethel is moving forward with a formal policy regarding energy efficient vehicles for the town fleet. We continue to recruit additional towns to participate in this program.

In 2016, we anticipate a focus on several major initiatives:

- Street lighting conversions to LEDs;
- Energy Efficient Vehicles policy;
- Permitting for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations;
- Adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit;
- Developing local Climate Action Plans;
- Potential for Community-owned solar projects/shared generation.

### **IV. NY PRIZE Micro-Grid Projects Liberty and Monticello**

Booz Allen Hamilton will submit their Phase 1 Feasibility Studies for Liberty and Monticello by February 28, 2016. We continue to answer questions and provide background information to supplement load data from the key stakeholders. To the best of our knowledge, the Villages of Liberty and Monticello and all other stakeholders have provided the energy load information requested by BAH. The BAH team seems confident that at least one project will move to Phase II, an investment grade micro-grid design.

### **V. C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy)**

Energize NY Finance is a program of the Energy Improvement Corporation that enables eligible commercially owned buildings in NY to secure financing for deep energy upgrades and renewable energy projects. Energize NY Finance leverages the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance structure to provide access to capital, extended loan terms, transferability and other benefits.

PACE financing uses the existing property tax system to assess and collect finance payments on an annual or semi-annual basis. Finance repayments are collected by the municipality that has lien authority on the property, through a property tax charge. By using PACE financing as a way to pay for an energy improvement, a property owner authorizes the municipality to add a property tax bill charge to the property. PACE financing is not accelerated upon property sale or foreclosure, and the loan - as well as the energy savings on the property - transfer to the new owner. PACE financing was originally created in California in 2008, and has been authorized by 31 states and the District of Columbia.

Sullivan County has been invited to join Energize NY and implement a C-PACE program. The discussion is ongoing, and we continue to research the program and provide information to County officials.

### **VI. Presentations and Community Education**

**January 8:** In response to requests from the public, Cornell Cooperative Extension organized a presentation to provide property owners and municipal officials with information on solar leasing for utility scale solar farms. SASD addressed solar technology, potential challenges re land use, zoning and interconnection, and provided information about new programs and incentives and alternative configurations for utility scale solar. The presentations will be repeated at CCE on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**January 25:** SASD will participate in the Division of Planning's Roundtable for town officials, 6:00 PM at the Ethelbert Crawford Library in Monticello. SASD will present on Municipal readiness for Energy-Specific Building Applications, including permitting processes for residential solar, EV charging stations, and zoning for solar farms.

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