



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

September 8, 2016 AGENDA

12:30 PM

Committee Members:

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

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Presentation: None

Reports:

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

Discussion:

1. C-PACE

Resolutions:

1. To Set A Public Hearing on a Local Law to Establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program in the County of Sullivan.
2. In Support of Solarize Sullivan.

Public Comment

Adjourn

RESOLUTION NO. INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM IN THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN.

WHEREAS, there has been introduced and presented at a meeting of the Sullivan County Legislature held on September 15, 2016 a local law to establish a sustainable energy loan program in the County of Sullivan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held on said local law to establish a sustainable energy loan program in the County of Sullivan by the Sullivan County Legislature on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 1:50PM, in the Legislative Hearing Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, and at least six (6) days' notice of the public hearing be given by the Clerk of the Sullivan County Legislature by due posting thereof on the bulletin board of the County of Sullivan and by publishing such notice at least once in the official newspapers of the County.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on September 15, 2016, a local law to establish a sustainable energy loan program in the County of Sullivan.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid local law to establish a sustainable energy loan program in the County of Sullivan at the Legislative Hearing Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 1:50PM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: September 15, 2016

ANNMARIE MARTIN
Clerk of the Legislature
County of Sullivan, New York

**COMBINED: LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM,
CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
AND RESOLUTION COVER MEMO**

To: Sullivan County Legislature

Fr: Joshua Potosek, County Manager

Re: Request for Consideration of a Resolution: Supporting the Solarize Sullivan initiative

Date: 9/8/16

Purpose of Resolution: [Provide a detailed statement of what the Resolution will accomplish, as well as a justification for approval by the Sullivan County Legislature.]

Resolution to support and endorse the Solarize Sullivan initiative to assist residents and businesses in acquiring solar technology. Solarize Sullivan brings together groups of potential solar customers through widespread outreach and education and reduces costs through group purchasing, as well as connect customers with an appropriate solar installer.

Is subject of Resolution mandated? Explain:

No, the resolution lends support for an initiative to improve access to solar technology for residents and businesses.

Does Resolution require expenditure of funds? Yes ___ No

If "Yes", provide the following information:

Amount to be authorized by Resolution: \$ _____

Are funds already budgeted? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" specify appropriation code(s): _____

If "No", specify proposed source of funds: _____

Estimated Cost Breakdown by Source:

County \$ _____ Grant(s) \$ _____

State \$ _____ Other \$ _____

Federal Government \$ _____ (Specify) _____

Verified by Budget Office:  _____

Does Resolution request Authority to Enter into a Contract? Yes ___ No

If "Yes", provide information requested on Pages 2. If "NO", please go straight to Page 3 and acquire all pre-legislative approvals.

Request for Authority to Enter into Contract with _____ of _____

Nature of Other Party to Contract: .

Other:

Duration of Contract: From _____ To _____

Is this a renewal of a prior Contract? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" provide the following information:

Dates of prior contract(s): From _____ To _____

Amount authorized by prior contract(s): _____

Resolutions authorizing prior contracts (Resolution #s): _____

Future Renewal Options if any:

Is Subject of Contract – i.e. – the goods and/or services Mandated? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" cite the mandate's source; describe how this contract satisfies the requirements:

If "No" provide other justification for County to enter into this Contract: [County does not have resources in-house, best source of the subject materials, required by grant, etc.]:

Total Contract Cost for [year or contract period]: (If specific sum is not known state maximum potential cost): _____

Efforts made to find Less Costly alternative:

Efforts made to share costs with another agency or governmental entity:

Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures (Bid, Request for Proposal, Quote, etc.)

_____ *Not Applicable* _____

Person(s) responsible for monitoring contract (Title): _____

Pre-Legislative Approvals:

- A. Director of Purchasing: Kathy Jones Date 9/6/16
- B. Management and Budget: Janetmy Date 9/6/16
- C. Law Department: [Signature] Date 9/6/16
- D. County Manager: [Signature] Date 9/7/16
- E. Other as Required: _____ Date _____

Vetted in _____ Committee on _____

**RESOLUTION NO. INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY
POLICY COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF SOLARIZE SULLIVAN**

WHEREAS, Solarize Sullivan is a short term, local effort that brings together groups of potential solar customers through widespread outreach and education; and

WHEREAS, this model helps customers choose a solar installation company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing; and

WHEREAS, historically, Solarize campaigns lower the cost of solar 10 to 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, residents and businesses who sign up for solar installations by a specific deadline will be able to take advantage of group rates below market prices; and

WHEREAS, the more customers who sign up, the lower the price will be for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides technical assistance and other tools and resources to communities in support of Solarize campaigns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby supports and endorses Solarize Sullivan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature stands ready to assist with community outreach and education in support of Solarize Sullivan.

SC Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Activities Report for September 2016
Reporting on August 2016

I. Grant Readiness

Governor Cuomo recently announced the launch of Clean Energy Communities, a \$16-million initiative to help local governments across the state reduce energy consumption and drive clean energy use in their communities. Local governments that complete four out of ten identified High Impact Actions will earn the Clean Energy Community designation and access to grant funding to implement additional clean energy projects. Grants up to \$250,000 will be available for local energy projects through NYSERDA on a rolling basis, first come – first served, through September 30, 2019, until funds are exhausted or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first.

The Clean Energy Communities initiative dovetails with the Climate Smart Communities Program, with an emphasis on energy projects. Clean Energy Communities provides direct technical support and recognition to local governments that demonstrate leadership in the area of clean energy. Climate Smart Communities is a comprehensive climate action program that covers greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation, as well as sustainable economic development.

<i>Clean Energy Communities (CEC)</i>	<i>Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on clean energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive climate action program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 High Impact Actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 130 unique certification actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 4 of 10 actions to be designated a CEC and gain access to grant funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulate points to be designated a certified CSC; grants available for select climate protection actions

The actions that local officials can take with NYSERDA and other state support through the program include:

- Benchmarking energy use at municipal and large privately owned buildings.
- Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to municipal buildings.
- Replacing street lights with energy-efficient LED lighting.
- Streamlining local approval processes for solar projects through adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit.
- Undertaking a community-based Solarize campaign to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.
- Providing energy code enforcement training to code officers.
- Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification by reducing the community’s impact on the environment.
- Passing a local law to allow aggregation of residents to gain greater choice and control over energy use as a group (called Community Choice Aggregation).
- Installing electric vehicle charging stations and using alternative fuel vehicles, such as hybrid and electric cars, for municipal business.
- Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.

The attached table provides information on the CEC high impact actions and how they are related to the Climate Smart Communities pledge elements and actions to achieve certification.

NYSERDA has engaged Clean Energy Communities Regional Coordinators who will provide assistance to help us qualify for this funding opportunity. The Hudson Valley Regional Council has been designated as the coordinator for the Mid-Hudson region, and we have reached out to Pat Pomeroy and Carla C. Castillo, who will work with us. We have discussed the steps Sullivan County needs to take in order to qualify, and we have provided Pat and Carla with an updated list of the County's actions to date regarding the Climate Smart Communities pledge. Carla has indicated that the County is close to qualifying for CSC certification. Updated actions over the past 18 months include:

Pledge Element 2: Set Goals, Inventory Emissions and Plan for Climate Action

- The County is working to update the Climate Action Plan adopted in 2014 to reflect progress towards GHG reduction goals, revise and update priority projects, and address goals outlined in the Transportation, Materials Management and Public Health sections of the Plan. The GHG inventory will be updated in 2017 to capture GHG reduction achieved by ongoing projects.

Pledge Element 3: Reduce Community Energy Use

- The County's energy improvements at the Government Center in Monticello, through a contract with NYPA, will include LED lighting as well as upgrades to the HVAC system. We are in the 90% design phase of this project. We anticipate a 30% reduction in electricity consumption and fuel use and associated GHG emissions at this facility when these improvements are completed.
- The County has entered into a lease arrangement for the County fleet, resulting in more energy efficient vehicles and a pilot project to test the reliability of 2 hybrid vehicles. Once DPW is assured of the vehicles reliability and staff satisfaction with the vehicles, the County will be able to phase in hybrid vehicles for all appropriate uses in the County fleet.
- Sullivan County is working on a fuel efficient vehicle policy in fulfillment of CSC Pledge elements and goals stated in the SC Climate Action Plan.

Pledge Element 4: Increase Community Use of Renewable Energy

- Solar City will complete construction on the 2.3 MW solar energy system at the County's Health and Community Services campus in Liberty by September 30, 2016.
- In August 2016, Sullivan County executed an agreement with Gravity Renewables for the purchase of a substantial portion of the County's electrical load from a hydroelectric plant in upstate New York. The hydroelectric plant will generate approximately 4,000,000 kWh of clean, renewable electricity per year, which is equivalent to nearly 45% of the County's total annual electric needs for County operations. The County will reap the benefits of stabilized and reduced energy costs, with significant savings during the 20 year term of the agreement.
- When these 2 projects are online, the County will achieve 70% of electricity for County operations from renewable sources.

Pledge Element 5: Realize the Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management

Practices

- In 2016 the County Division of Public Works expanded its Hazardous Materials Collection program, which provides County residents with the opportunity to dispose of solvents, oil-based paints, antifreeze, pool chemicals, acids, bases, fluorescent bulbs, cleaning products, mercury-containing devices, pesticides/herbicides, automotive batteries, roofing tar, wood preservatives, adhesives, creosote, stains and inks. The program now includes two collection days each year.
- The County works with a variety of community groups to coordinate annual litter pluck and stream clean-up efforts. In 2016, Litter Pluck was held from April 23 through May 1, allowing individuals and groups two full weekends to access transfer stations with their collected litter. Litter Pluck 2016 saw 68

registered participants countywide, who plucked 245 bags of litter from road sides. Trout Unlimited participated and was able to dispose of litter from two of their group's stream clean-up efforts.

- The County's Clean Team employs local youth to pluck litter each summer. In 2016, the team plucked approximately 636 bags of litter from 130 miles of county road shoulders.
- The County has implemented a "pay as you throw" policy at County waste facilities and transfer stations.
- The County is developing a green purchasing policy, in fulfillment of CSC Pledge elements and goals stated in the SC Climate Action Plan.

Pledge Element 6: Reduce GG Emissions through the Use of Climate Smart Land-Use Tools

- The Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management has organized 2 educational sessions (March 3 2016 and August 3 2016) to educate town officials, planning board and zoning board members about the NYS Model Solar Zoning Law, and SASD is working with individual towns to help them craft their solar zoning laws.

Pledge Element 7: Enhance Community Resilience and Prepare for Climate Change

- The County has introduced a "Healthy Sullivan" initiative to improve the County's health outcomes. SASD will work with the County to suggest ways to integrate sustainability goals and climate change actions (mediation and adaptation) into the various sectors to be addressed by this effort.
- The County has established an Employee Wellness Committee to develop recommendations for a healthier workplace.

Pledge Element 8: Support Development of a Green Innovation Economy

- The Sullivan County Legislature is moving closer to joining the Energize NY program and adopting PACE for commercial buildings.

Pledge Element 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

- The local non-profit Catskill Mountainkeeper launched its Solarize Sullivan campaign in the summer of 2016, part of a regional solarize initiative. The County provided a letter of support, and an SASD Co-Executive Director is serving on the steering committee, has participated in the selection process for installer partners, and is helping coordinate community presentations.
- The County's Director of Parks and Recreation leads tours for groups interested in rain gardens at Lake Superior Park, which is the site of two successful rain gardens designed to deal with roof run off and the water from an outdoor shower. In 2016, the Director led two separate tours for community delegations interested in installing rain gardens to handle runoff problems in their towns. Educational support includes a description of the construction methods and the plants utilized.

II. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Work on the following priority projects is ongoing:

- NYPA project for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center
- Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet
- Solar Installation at the Liberty Health and Community Services Campus
- Adult Care Center Energy Efficiency Measures

III. Zoning for Solar in Sullivan County

SASD is working with the Town of Bethel to develop their solar zoning law, which we believe will serve as a good model for other municipalities.

IV. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

SASD performed an energy efficiency walk-through of the Town of Highland court building. We identified ventilation and air-sealing actions that will help this building achieve healthier indoor air quality, reduce mold and moisture, and conserve energy.

We are working with the Town of Highland to work toward grant readiness for the CEC program.

We continue to work with the Town of Bethel to help them complete their solar zoning law.

V. Other Community Education and Outreach

Solarize Sullivan continues this month with community workshops at SUNY Sullivan on September 14th and the Town of Highland on September 24th.

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart
9-4-16

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES & CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Climate Smart Communities

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program (<http://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec>) is a new initiative to help local governments across the State reduce energy consumption and drive clean energy use in their communities. Contact cec@nyserdera.ny.gov with questions about the CEC program.

New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program recognizes local climate action leaders and provides a comprehensive framework for local climate and energy action. Climate Smart Communities earn points toward certification by documenting completion of specific climate protection actions described in the CSC Certification Manual.

The CEC and CSC programs are complementary. Most of the High Impact Actions included in the Clean Energy Communities program satisfy the requirements of one or more certification actions under the Climate Smart Communities program. See below for details. Communities that complete any of the CEC High Impact Actions are encouraged to apply for points under the related CSC certification actions.

CSC / CEC Action Comparison

Clean Energy Communities High Impact Action	Related Climate Smart Communities Certification Action(s)
Benchmarking: Adopt a policy to report the energy use of buildings	3.5 Install a building energy management system 3.31 Implement an energy or GHG management system 3.32 Adopt an energy benchmarking requirement for government-owned buildings 8.11 Adopt energy benchmarking requirements for privately owned buildings
Clean Energy Upgrades: Achieve a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from buildings	3.1 Conduct energy audits of local government buildings 3.2 Upgrade interior lighting 3.3 Upgrade HVAC equipment 3.4 Install water-efficient fixtures 3.5 Install a building energy management system 3.9 Upgrade water or waste water treatment facilities and infrastructure 3.31 Implement an energy or GHG management system 4.1 Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewables 4.4 Purchase renewable energy credits 4.5 Install a geothermal heat pump or other geothermal technology at a new or existing public facility 4.6 Install solar hot water and/or solar photovoltaic technology on public property 4.7 Serve as a host site for a renewable energy installation and enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement 4.8 Install a wind system on public property 4.9 Install a wood pellet heating system on public property 12.1 reduce GHG emissions from government-owned facilities

Clean Energy Communities High-Impact Action	Related Climate Smart Community Certification Action(s)
LED Street Lights: Convert street lights to energy-efficient LED technology	3.15 Convert street lights to LED
Clean Fleets: Install electric vehicle charging stations or other alternative fuel infrastructure or deploy alternative fuel vehicles	3.12 Replace traditional vehicles with advanced vehicles 6.11 Install electric-vehicle infrastructure 8.10 Support alternative transportation fuel supply infrastructure
Solarize: Undertake a solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops	9.1 Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaption 9.2 Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge 10.3 Cooperate with neighboring communities and partner agencies
Unified Solar Permit: Streamline the approvals process for solar	6.3 Adopt a renewable energy ordinance
Energy Code Enforcement Training: Train compliance officers in energy code best practices	None
Climate Smart Communities Certification: Get certified by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation	All
Community Choice Aggregation: Put energy supply choices in your community's hands	4.1 Adopt a green power purchase policy to ensure local gov't energy supplies come from renewables 9.1 Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaption 10.1 Report on progress annually
Energize NY Finance: Offer energy upgrade financing to businesses and non-profits	6.6 Incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency

Climate Smart Communities

Any village, city, county or town in New York can take a stand in the fight against climate change and become a **registered** Climate Smart Community (CSC) by adopting the CSC pledge as a municipal resolution (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/65494.html>).

The CSC Certification program (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html>) provides local governments with a robust framework to guide their climate action and enables high-performing communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. Communities are designated **certified** Climate Smart Communities by documenting how they have completed a set of actions listed in the CSC Certification Manual (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/certman.pdf) and submitting that documentation to the NYS DEC Office of Climate Change.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Climate Change

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