

# Clean Energy Communities News

*Moving our communities toward sustainability.*



## Director's Corner



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Welcome to the seventh edition of the Eastern Upstate NY Territory's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) quarterly newsletter. [The CEC program](#), funded by NYSERDA, is delivered within the Territory by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission through a unique partnership of regional agencies, which includes the Adirondack North Country Association, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, and the Hudson Valley Regional Council. The Team is also supported by Climate Action Associates, LLC and Courtney Strong Inc.

Communities across the Territory are receiving technical support and actively completing "High Impact Actions" in their pursuit of CEC Designation. Communities must complete four actions to achieve CEC designation. Currently, 146 communities within the Territory completed a total of 431 actions, 72 communities have become officially designated and are advancing program funded projects, and numerous others are nearing the designation finish line.

Continue reading to learn about some of the exemplary actions local governments are taking to become sustainable and energy efficient. [Contact your regional outreach coordinator](#) if your community is interested in becoming a Clean Energy Community.

# Mohawk Valley Communities Exploring LED Street Light Conversions

The [Mohawk Valley Economic Development District](#) (MVEDD) and [Courtney Strong, Inc.](#) co-hosted the LED Street Lights workshop on April 11, 2018. The event was a big success for the region. There were 39 municipal officials in attendance. **It was the largest attendance MVEDD has ever had in its 52-year history!**

Undertaking a LED street light conversion can help communities reduce street light energy use by as much as 65 percent, generating cost savings and emission reductions. In addition, street light projects can contribute to creating a well-lit, safer, and more attractive community. LED street lights last up to 100,000 hours and require much less maintenance than conventional ones. The opportunity to incorporate smart, connected technology such as dimming functions, enhanced law enforcement response, and parking management offers a world of possibilities. Even those communities that do not own their streetlights have options for converting those in their jurisdiction to LED.

Converting street lights to energy efficient LED technology is one of the [10 High Impact Actions](#) to help your community earn a Clean Energy Community designation.



Casey Mastro, Energy Manager- CNY for the New York Power Authority, speaks to attendees about NYPA's street lighting program.

The workshop provided an overview of the [Clean Energy Communities](#) program by the Mohawk Valley CEC coordinator, Dan Sullivan and presenters covered a variety of topics:

- Overview of the [Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium](#) by Project Lead, Pat Courtney Strong
- Economics of Owning vs. Renting LED Street Lights by Jen Metzger, Council Member, Town of Rosendale (Ulster County), and Regulatory Lead, Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium (MHSC)
- Procurement, Technology and Design Best Practices by George Woodbury, MHSC Technical Lead and President, LightSmart Consulting LLC
- The [New York Power Authority Street Light Project](#) by Casey Mastro, New York Power Authority
- Case Studies from communities that converted to LEDs: Village of Ilion and Village of Cherry Valley
- Financing Considerations by Nina Orville, MHSC Finance Lead and Principal, Abundant Efficiency LLC
- The Key Steps in Any LED Street Light Conversion

Communities have already begun exploring LED conversion opportunities. Within a week of the event, Dan Sullivan heard of communities beginning to collaborate. Todd Schwendeman from the Town of Berne Planning Board said, "the workshop provided me with lots of details to help me pursue energy and cost savings for my Town.

If you are interested in learning more about LED street light conversions, take a look at the slides below and contact your [local Clean Energy Community Coordinator](#) . They provide free technical assistance and consulting services to local governments participating in the Clean Energy Communities program .

[Download Slides](#)

[See agenda for contact information and bios](#)

# Orange County Recognized for Reducing Energy Use, Cutting Costs and Driving Clean Energy

Local governments in New York State can use the [Clean Energy Communities](#) program to implement clean energy actions, save energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment.



The solar panels at 5 Spoke Creamery on Pulaski Highway in Goshen. This was the first Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financed energy project in New York State. Photo provided by Energize NY.

Orange County, in the Mid-Hudson region, was recently designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Work on this initiative was led by the County Planning Department with key support from County Executive Neuhaus, the County Legislature and Department of Public Works.

"We are pleased to receive this recognition from NYSERDA," Neuhaus said. "The CEC program provides a wonderful example of what we can do to foster local climate and clean energy action, while saving local governments and residents money on their energy bills, creating local jobs and realizing the tremendous opportunities provided by expanding the green economy."

The County received the designation for completing the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- **Benchmarking.** Adopting a Legislative Policy and Initiating Benchmarking of energy use of County buildings.
- **Climate Smart Communities Certification.** Earning Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification through actions reducing the community's impact on the environment. Orange County was the first County in New York to earn CSC certification.
- **Energize NY Finance.** Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.
- **Solarize.** Undertaking two community-based Solarize campaigns (in Warwick-Goshen and Countywide) to reduce solar installation project costs through joint purchasing.

After NYSERDA approves a community's four actions, the community can submit a grant application online for additional clean energy project funding. Orange County received a **Block 3 award**. They plan on using the funding to support the work of the Mid-Hudson Sustainability Coalition.

"NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program helps further the County's goals of reducing energy consumption and encouraging clean energy use in our community," said David Church, Orange County's Commissioner of Planning. "This initiative builds upon, and complements, the County's DEC Climate Smart Community Certification, the first in New York and received in 2013 and is consistent with the goals of the County's Comprehensive and Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plans."

## **Register for Today's Webinar: Energize Your Community with Community Solar**



Community solar (also called shared solar, solar farms, or community distributed generation) has brought solar access to more consumers than ever before. Local community solar projects enable renters, homeowners, including low-income residents, schools, and businesses to benefit from solar if they can't (or don't want to) install panels on their properties.

Participants in community solar projects receive solar credits toward their electricity bill by subscribing to a local clean energy project.

Join NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) team for a webinar to take a look at community solar projects and opportunities in your region.

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**

## Round Three to Invest in 10 Additional Downtown Neighborhoods Across New York

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched the third round of the transformative Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), investing \$100 million into 10 additional downtown neighborhoods across the state.

Participating communities are nominated by the state's ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) based on the downtown's potential for transformation, and each community is awarded \$10 million to develop a downtown strategic investment plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization.

The DRI is chaired by New York Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, and supported by private sector experts funded by Empire State Development, and a state agency team from the Department of State and the NYS Homes and Community Renewal. Other agencies are also involved in reviewing and implementing projects.

More information about the Downtown Revitalization Initiative may be found at [www.ny.gov/dri](http://www.ny.gov/dri).

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## New Energy Efficiency 2025 Target is Equivalent to Energy Used by 1.8 Million Homes

On April 20th, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced an ambitious acceleration of energy efficiency in New York, including a comprehensive plan to achieve a new target for significant greenhouse gas emission reductions, decrease consumer energy costs and create job opportunities. Meeting the new energy efficiency target will deliver nearly one third of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed to meet New York's climate goal of 40 percent reduction by 2030. This announcement is part of the Governor's State of the State proposal to develop a milestone Earth Day energy efficiency target and comprehensive strategy.

In the April announcement, the Governor said that energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way for New Yorkers to lower utility bills, curb harmful emissions and battle climate change. And as the federal government abdicates its responsibility to safeguard our environment, New Yorkers must continue bold action to reduce emissions and protect all New Yorkers, today and in the future, from the devastating effects of climate change.

[READ MORE](#)

# Designated Eastern NY Clean Energy Communities

A total of **72 communities** have been named Clean Energy Communities in the Eastern NY Region.

The following communities demonstrated their commitment to clean energy by participating in the Clean Energy Communities Program. These communities completed at least four High Impact Actions to earn the Clean Energy Communities designation.



## Mid-Hudson

Ulster County  
Town of New Castle  
Village of Dobbs Ferry  
City of Kingston  
Town of Red Hook  
Town of Rosendale  
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson  
Village of Croton-on-Hudson  
City of White Plains  
City of Yonkers  
Town of Ossining  
Town of Somers  
Town of Marletown  
City of New Rochelle  
City of Beacon  
Town of Mamaroneck  
City of Peekskill  
Village of Goshen  
Sullivan County  
Town of Bethel  
Town of New Paltz  
Village of New Paltz  
Town of Warwick  
Village of Wappingers Falls  
Town of Bedford  
Orange County  
Village of Mount Kisco

## North Country

Lewis County  
Town of Franklin  
Village of Canton  
Town of Plattsburgh  
Village of Champlain  
Village of Saranac Lake  
Town of Keene  
Town of Black Brook  
Town of Malone  
Town of Colton  
Town of Westport  
Village of Champlain

## Capital Region

Albany County  
Town of Bethlehem  
Schenectady County  
City of Cohoes  
Town of Niskayuna  
Town of Knox  
City of Albany  
Town of Clifton Park  
City of Glens Falls  
Town of Hillsdale  
Town of Ancram  
City of Saratoga Springs  
City of Watervliet  
City of Troy  
Village of Voorheesville  
Town of Queensbury  
Town of Edinburg  
Town of Catskill  
Town of New Scotland

## Mohawk Valley

City of Gloversville  
Village of Ilion  
City of Rome  
Village of Boonville  
Town of Charleston  
Village of West Winfield  
City of Amsterdam  
Village of Canajoharie  
City of Utica  
Town of Winfield  
Town of Northampton  
Village of Northville  
City of Sherrill  
Village of Waterville  
Village of Sharon Springs



