

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NYSERDA'S CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Local governments in New York State can use the Clean Energy Communities program to implement clean energy actions, save energy costs, and improve the environment. In addition to providing tools, resources, and technical assistance, the program recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects.

To learn more about NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, please visit: www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities

To read case studies of the Clean Energy Communities program in Buffalo Niagara, please visit: regional-institute.buffalo.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/10/MovingCleanEnergyForward_BuffaloNiagaraCEC_SRPING2020_FINAL.pdf

Or contact:

**CLEAN ENERGY
COORDINATOR**

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Clean Energy Coordinators provide free technical assistance to local governments participating in the Clean Energy Communities program. Contact Jason to find out how we can work together to reach sustainability goals in your community.

NEW YORK SOLAR GUIDEBOOK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The New York Solar Guidebook has information, tools, and step-by-step instructions to support local governments managing solar energy development in their communities. The Guidebook contains chapters on various solar energy topics, the permitting process, property taxes, and more.

To download the full Solar Guidebook or access individual chapters, please visit: www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting/Solar-Guidebook

If you have a question about getting solar in your community or need help with a chapter of the Guidebook, email solarhelp@nyserdera.ny.gov.

NEW YORK BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM GUIDEBOOK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Battery Energy Storage System Guidebook contains information, tools, and step-by-step instructions to support local governments managing battery energy storage system development in their communities. The Guidebook provides local officials in-depth details about the permitting and inspection process to ensure efficiency, transparency, and safety in their communities.

To download the full Battery Energy Storage System Guidebook or access individual chapters, please visit: www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting/Battery-Energy-Storage-Guidebook

If you have a question regarding clean energy technologies or need help with a chapter of the Guidebook, email cleanenergyhelp@nyserdera.ny.gov.

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ACCELERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT ACT

In February 2020, Governor Cuomo proposed legislation that would create a new, more streamlined permitting process for large-scale electricity generation projects under Article 23 of the Economic Development Law. The legislation, the “Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act,” was proposed in order to help the state achieve its goal of generating 70 percent of electricity statewide from renewable sources. The legislation has been passed in the 2020 Budget and has created the new Office Of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), which is to be housed in the Department of State, and has been given a one-year deadline to promulgate regulations and establish a set of unified standards and conditions for designing, engineering and operating major renewable energy facilities.

The law firm Hodgson Russ, at which one of our speakers, Daniel Spitzer, is a partner, wrote a white paper about the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act.

To read the white paper, please visit: www.hodgsonruss.com/newsroom-publications-11545.html

ERIE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

In 2012, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, in conjunction with the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and with assistance from the American Farmland Trust, developed a new Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan proposes innovative strategies to guide the County in identifying and protecting agricultural land facing development pressure, supporting new farms, and attracting new farmers to Erie County.

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection (AFP) mapping application provides an interactive view of maps contained in Erie County’s Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

To learn more about the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and to access the AFP mapping application, please visit: <http://www2.erie.gov/environment/index.php?q=AgPlan>

SMART SOLAR SITING PRINCIPLES

In response to the development pressure that renewable energy generation places on agricultural land, the American Farmland Trust, founded in 1980 to conserve and protect farmland across the nation, has developed a variety of state-specific guidance on how to site renewable energy projects while minimizing impacts to farmland.

To learn about smart solar siting principles and to read examples of land use laws in other villages and towns across New York State which support renewable energy while protecting farmland, please visit: <https://s30428.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/AFT-Smart-Solar-Siting-Principles-and-Examples-of-Local-Solar-Laws-that-Protect-Farmland.pdf>

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LEASING LAND TO SOLAR ENERGY COMPANIES

Kathleen McCormick, an Agriculture Educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, recently published an article in the Fall/Winter 2019 issue of *Erie County Ag News* which walks property owners through the process of leasing land to solar energy companies. McCormick outlines what to look for in a solar lease, the effect a solar array can have on a property owner's taxes, and the importance of researching the solar company before signing a lease agreement.

To read the article, please visit: <http://www2.erie.gov/environment/sites/www2.erie.gov/environment/files/uploads/K.McCormick-SolarLeaseArticle.pdf>

To request the full Fall/Winter 2019 issue or back-copies of other issues of *Erie County Ag News*, email jah663@cornell.edu.

NYSERDA also has information about key factors that landowners should consider before leasing their land to a solar energy company.

To read about these key considerations, please visit: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Solar-for-Your-Business/How-to-Go-Solar/Leasing-Your-Land>

More information can also be found in the Land Lease chapter of the Solar Guidebook. To download the full Solar Guidebook or access individual chapters, please visit: www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting/Solar-Guidebook