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 Guidebook or access individual chapters, please click on the link above.

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 Guidebook or access individual chapters, please click on the link above.

The NYSERDA Clean Siting Team will be holding a training on battery energy storage system resources for Fire Officials and First Responders on April 28th. More information about the event can be found here.

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. If the proposed legislation moves forward, the Article 23 permitting process would be administered by a newly-created Office of Renewable Energy Siting situated within the Department of Economic Development and the current permitting process under Article 10 of the Public Service Law would be discontinued. To learn more about the Act, please click on the link above.

The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act was advanced as an amendment to the Governor’s 2020-2021 Executive Budget. To provide feedback on the amendment, you should contact your state legislators directly before budget negotiations conclude on April 1st. You can find your Senator by clicking here and your Assemblymember by clicking here. Alternatively, NYSERDA is happy to pass written comments along to the Governor’s office via their counsel. To send written comments to NYSERDA, please email cleanenergyhelp@nyserda.ny.gov. NYSERDA will not be engaging in dialogue so comments should be written with that in mind.

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 Plan and to access the AFP mapping application, please click on the link above.

**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 click on the link above.