

NYSERDA

NYSERDA Announces Village of Cazenovia, Town of Cazenovia and Village of Pulaski Earn Clean Energy Community Designation

Communities are Recognized for Their Commitment to Reduce Energy Consumption, Cut Costs and Drive Clean Energy

August 01, 2017

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced the Village of Cazenovia, Town of Cazenovia and Village of Pulaski have been designated Clean Energy Communities, recognizing their leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy in its communities. These designations are supported by the Accelerating Central NY Rising initiative which is the overall regional plan designed to attract a talented workforce, grow business and drive innovation.

Announced by Governor Cuomo in August, the \$16 million Clean Energy Communities initiative supports local government leaders across the State to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in their communities. Clean Energy Communities advances the Governor's Reforming the Energy (REV) strategy by demonstrating the importance of communities in helping New York reach its Clean Energy Standard of 50 percent of the state's electricity coming from renewable energy resources by 2030.

Alicia Barton, President and NYSERDA, said, "Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, New York continues to make great progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating more sustainable communities. Congratulations to these communities for serving as role models for other communities and taking control of their clean energy future."

The three communities received the designation for completing four of 10 high-impact clean energy action items identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. In addition, the designation gives each of the communities an opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 toward additional clean energy projects, with no local cost share. There are currently more than 85 Clean Energy Communities across the State.

Village of Cazenovia

To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, the Village completed the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- **Adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit** to streamline the approvals process for local solar projects.
- **Completed energy code enforcement training** on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other municipal officials.

- **Approved an energy benchmarking policy** to track and report energy use in the Village's municipal buildings.
- **Installed electric vehicle charging stations** to encourage clean transportation options.

"The Village of Cazenovia is proud to have earned the designation as a Clean Energy Community," said Cazenovia Mayor, Kurt Wheeler. "The public has been very supportive of our efforts. Our citizens are not only proud of the positive impact we are having on the environment but they are appreciative of the long-term savings that will be associated with many of these efforts."

Town of Cazenovia

To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, the Town completed the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- **Adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit** to streamline the approvals process for local solar projects.
- **Initiated a community-based Solarize campaign** to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.
- **Completed energy code enforcement training** on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other municipal officials.
- **Approved an energy benchmarking policy** to track and report energy use in the Town's municipal buildings.

"The Town of Cazenovia is proud of our designation as a Clean Energy Community. We have been working for quite a few years to reduce our energy footprint and develop strategies to adapt to and mitigate effects of climate change," said Kristi Andersen, Town of Cazenovia Board Member. "We are pleased to be one of the first communities in our region to receive this designation."

Village of Pulaski

To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, the Village completed the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- **Adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit** to streamline the approvals process for local solar projects.
- **Converted streetlights** to energy efficient LED technology.
- **Completed energy code enforcement training** on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other municipal officials.
- **Approved an energy benchmarking policy** to track and report energy use in the Village's municipal buildings.

"The Village of Pulaski is pleased to be the recipient of the Clean Energy Community designation by NYSERDA," said Pulaski Mayor, Karl W. Hax. "The Village Board and staff worked effectively and efficiently together to complete the high impact actions which will greatly benefit the residents of this community."

Cities, counties, towns and villages that complete at least four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions are designated Clean Energy Communities and are eligible to apply for funding of up to \$250,000 with no local cost share with the option of receiving up to 25 percent paid in advance to support additional clean energy projects. Those with fewer than 40,000 residents are eligible to apply for up to \$100,000. At least two of the four actions must have been completed after August 1, 2016. NYSERDA is accepting

applications for funding on a rolling basis through September 30, 2019 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Funds are being provided through the Clean Energy Fund and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Clean Energy Community Coordinators are also available at no charge to support cash- or resource-strapped communities to develop and prioritize clean energy goals; access easy-to-use resources such as guidance documents and case studies; and take advantage of available funding and technical assistance opportunities.

For more information on Clean Energy Communities, visit www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec. Local government officials or employees can find contact information for their respective coordinator here for assistance navigating the program.

Accelerating Central NY Rising

Today's announcement complements "Central NY Rising," the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State has already invested nearly \$3 billion in the region since 2012 to lay the groundwork for the plan – capitalizing on global market opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship and creating an inclusive economy. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Syracuse, Oswego and Auburn as a destination to grow and invest in.

Now, the region is accelerating Central NY Rising with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State's \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion – and the region's plan, as submitted, projects up to 5,900 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

About Clean Energy Fund

The 10-year, \$5.3 billion Clean Energy Fund is a core component of New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision strategy to achieve a clean, resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. It is designed to deliver on New York State's commitment to reduce ratepayer collections, drive economic development, and accelerate the use of clean energy and energy innovation. It includes a minimum of \$234 million in funding over the first three years to support clean energy opportunities specifically to benefit low- to moderate-income communities throughout the State. The CEF also supports the aggressive Clean Energy Standard, which requires that 50 percent of the State's electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

About the Regional Greenhouse Gas initiative (RGGI)

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the nation's first program to use an innovative market-based mechanism to cap and cost-effectively reduce the carbon dioxide emissions that cause the climate to change, and New York State took a leadership role in adopting regulations that lowered the emissions cap. Emissions from power plants in New York State are down approximately 45 percent since 2005, and auction proceeds from sale of the RGGI allowances have reduced electricity expenditures and created thousands of green energy sector jobs.

About Reforming the Energy Vision

Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York's economy. REV is building a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency and generating 50 percent of the state's electricity needs from renewable energy by 2030. Already, REV has driven a nearly 800 percent growth in the statewide solar market, enabled over 105,000 low-income households to permanently cut their energy bills with energy efficiency, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors. REV is ensuring New York State reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and achieves the internationally-recognized target of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050. To learn more about REV, including the Governor's \$5 billion investment in clean energy technology and innovation, please visit www.ny.gov/REV4NY and follow us at @Rev4NY.

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