Suffolk's Blue Goes Green: 4th Precinct Unveiled

Posted on October 21, 2010

Levy, Dormer Tout the Opening of County Government's Most Energy-Efficient Building to date

Smithtown, NY—Suffolk Executive Steve Levy and Police Commissioner Richard Dormer were joined today by an array of dignitaries in unveiling the police department's new, "green" Fourth Precinct facility that recently opened and is now occupied at the easternmost entrance to the North County Complex in Smithtown.

The state-of-the-art building, located at 727 Veterans Memorial Highway, meets the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard. The three-story, 36,000-square-foot building is more than double the size of the former precinct, which was located on the opposite side of the North County Complex from the new location.

"The opening of this building is a continuation—and a high point to date—of the green movement we are undertaking in Suffolk County government," Levy said. "This forward-looking project offers a glimpse of the type of efficient, environmentally-conscious building methods that we are replicating throughout county government."

Genius!)

The building's conservation features include solar panels that sit atop the precinct's flat roof, boilers with a 93.3 percent efficiency rating, a water heater with over 90 percent efficiency and automatic faucets and waterless urinals for water conservation. As a result, overall savings in energy costs are expected to amount to tens of thousands of dollars per year at the new facility, compared to comparably sized facilities.

This project was done through the assistance of LIPA's Efficiency Long Island (ELI) initiative. Efficiency Long Island is a 10-year, $924 million energy efficiency program launched in 2009, which offers a wide array of incentives, rebates and initiatives to LIPA's residential and commercial customers to assist them in reducing their energy usage and thereby lowering their bills.

"LIPA is proud to have played a key role in assisting Suffolk County to achieve LEED status at the new 4th precinct facility," said Michael J. Deering LIPA's VP of Environmental Affairs. "Partnerships like these demonstrate not only how government entities can save money but the important role that Suffolk County and LIPA can play to make Long Island a cleaner and more energy efficient place to live."

Suffolk Police Department personnel at the new Fourth Precinct will include patrol officers, plainclothes officers and detectives. There will be a total of 145 police officers and 39 superior officers working out of the Fourth Precinct, including the department's Domestic Violence unit, which is moving over from Sayville.

"This building provides additional space and technology for our officers to serve the public more efficiently and effectively," said Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer. "We are glad to contribute our part toward a cleaner, more sustainable Suffolk County."

Former Suffolk Police Commissioner and current Smithtown Councilman Robert Creighton spoke on behalf of the family of deceased Suffolk Chief Inspector Cy Donnelly, after whom the precinct has been named.

PRESS RELEASE

From The Office Of
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE
STEVE BELLONE

H. Lee Dennison Building • 100 Veterans Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 6100 • Hauppauge, NY 11788 • (631) 853-4000
/SteveBellone @SteveBellone

For Immediate Release
March 28, 2016
Contact: Vanessa Baird-Streeter 631.853.7801 (office), 631.885.2298 (cell);
Justin Meyers 516.967.2345 (cell)

Bellone and Utility Officials Announce County's Energy Saving Milestone

PSEG Long Island, LIPA Rebates Assist County in Reducing Annual Energy Costs by more than $3 Million

(**Hauppauge, NY-March 28, 2016**) Today, County Executive Bellone, PSEG Long Island and LIPA, highlighted a series of municipal energy-efficiency projects that advance Suffolk County and New York State's energy goals and provide more than $3,000,000 in annual energy cost savings for the county. By participating in PSEG Long Island's Commercial Efficiency Program, as well taking advantage of several State and LIPA rebates, Suffolk County has reached an energy saving milestone of 12,700,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), in accumulated annual savings.

"We are always looking for opportunities which will allow Suffolk County to reduce its carbon footprint," said County Executive Steve Bellone. "Working with PSEG Long Island, LIPA and NYSERDA, Suffolk County has been able to take advantage of the many energy efficiency and solar rebates offered by these agencies. Securing a prosperous future for Suffolk County is of paramount importance as we use every tool in the toolbox to achieve these real, long term savings."

"PSEG Long Island commends Suffolk County for its dedication to and investment in creating a cleaner and greener place to live and work on Long Island," said David Daly, PSEG Long Island president and COO. "Through participation in PSEG Long Island's energy efficiency and renewables programs, Suffolk County is reducing its operating costs as well as saving energy, the environment and money for Suffolk County residents."

LIPA CEO Tom Falcone said, “Suffolk County’s commitment to clean and efficient energy is advancing Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) to build a clean, resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. We applaud their efforts and look forward to continuing to work with Suffolk County to find ways to reduce demand and lower costs for its residents.”

Working closely with PSEG Long Island and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) Suffolk County has instituted many projects to reduce energy use and energy costs at county facilities. According to an independent evaluation, every dollar invested through PSEG Long Island’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs generates $3.20 in benefits to PSEG and its customers.

Suffolk’s efforts are estimated to have reduced peak electric demand during the critical summer months by more than 2,600 kilowatts (kW). The energy efficient measures installed have earned the County $3.5 million in rebates, including $211,075 from PSEG Long Island in 2015 alone.

Suffolk County has undertaken a multitude of projects which include: energy-efficient lighting retrofits; replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, with equipment that is more energy-efficient; improved energy management systems; and variable speed drives on pumps and motors, which can better manage motor speeds to save energy.

The annual energy savings from these projects is more than 12.7 million (kWh), equivalent to more than 1,750 average-sized homes, and more than 914,000 therms of gas and oil, enough to heat about 1,300 average-sized homes for a year. These upgrades have reduced the county’s annual maintenance costs by nearly $550,000.

The County is committed to building on its energy-efficiency efforts, which included nine major projects completed from 2009-2015 representing a current annual savings of approximately $3,000,000.

Energy efficiency projects completed include: the Riverhead County Center, Riverhead Criminal Courts Buildings, Board of Elections, H. Lee Dennison Building, Cohalan Courts and the Medical Examiners Buildings to reduce energy use and costs. They included new high efficiency lighting, heating and cooling systems, energy efficient windows and energy management systems.

In addition, the Board of Elections has a 100 KW photovoltaic installation providing clean, renewable energy, and the H. Lee Dennison Building and Cohalan Courts have installed combined heat and power (CHP) systems that recapture the heat created when generating electricity and use it to provide heat or hot water to the buildings.

“Suffolk County is a shining example of taking action on climate change by eliminating wasteful energy use with energy efficiency upgrades and aggressively pursuing opportunities to installing solar arrays on county facilities,” said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island, a not-for-profit organization. “This is the kind of local leadership we need

everywhere in order to transition to a clean energy economy powered by our abundant and local renewable energy sources."

"Under County Executive Steve Bellone's leadership, Suffolk County is demonstrating that government can lead by example in reducing our carbon footprint while saving money for years to come with an aggressive strategy to retrofit old inefficient heating, cooling, and lighting systems and installing clean renewable solar energy," stated Neal Lewis Executive Director of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College. "Suffolk County is a model Climate Smart Community that other municipalities should emulate; by taking advantage of incentives from LIPA, NYSERDA and PSEG Long Island, the upfront costs of clean energy retrofits are greatly reduced and the taxpayer savings from reduced energy bills and maintenance expenses, are enhanced and more quickly realized."

Gil Anderson, Commissioner Suffolk County DPW, Michael Deering- LIPA Director of Customer Service & Program Oversight, Tom Falcone, LIPA CEO, Neal Lewis, Executive Director-Sustainability Institute of Molloy College, County Executive Steve Bellone, Lisa Broughton, Suffolk County Energy Director and Bio/High Tech Development Specialist, Mike Voltz, PSEG Long Island Director of Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Dave Daly, PSEG Long Island President and COO, Gordian Raacke, Executive Director-Renewable Energy Long Island.

LONG ISLAND
CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP
TASK FORCE

Mission: Facilitate the exchange of information and ideas and work to identify regional leadership that advances the promotion of plans, policies, and programs to reduce our carbon footprint, cut local air pollution, save energy and money, build a clean energy sector on Long Island, and create green jobs. — ***A project of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College***

Molloy College Suffolk Center, Farmingdale, NY

Keynote Address

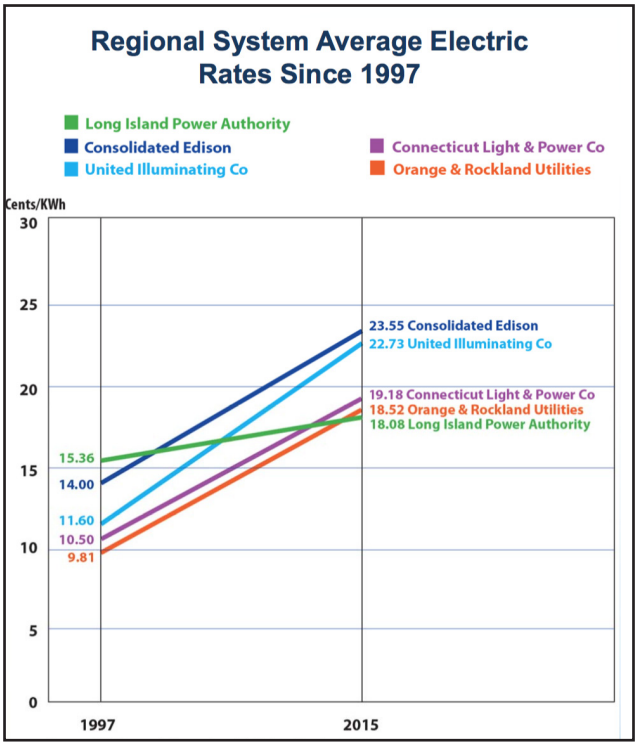
The June 2016 meeting featured LIPA CEO Thomas Falcone addressing the group. Mr. Falcone updated the group about the progress that had been made since the LIPA reform act was passed.

The reform clearly aligns the interests of LIPA and PSEG, by paying incentives to PSEG based on perfomance on defined metrics. Among these metrics are customer service and customer satisfaction. Based on after-call surveys, customer service has improved from a score of 65% to 93% favorable. Customer complaints are down 26% and are now the lowest in the State.

Mr. Falcone described the rate process in 20 years, which included input from LIPA, the Department of Public Service, and the public through hearings and written comments, as laid out in the LIPA reform. He believed the process went well. It was an open process that required PSEG to prove the costs they were basing the request for a rate increase on. The delivery charge increase that was approved is helping to pay for system improvements.

In order to align incentives with LIPA-set priorities, PSEG Long Island recieves bonuses based on achieving specific metrics and is performing well.Currently there is an almost $2 billion investment going on. This investment in infrastructure is double the historic rate for LIPA. They are focusing on improving the specific electric circuits that have been responsible for the most problems. The goal set for energy efficiency efforts is a 520 MW reduction by 2018, and based on current performance, they are on track to make that goal.

The LIPA Chairman addressed the issue of high rates. He explained that LIPA's high rates are due to several factors, including fuel costs, labor costs, and taxes, all of which are higher on Long Island than in many other parts of the country. Additionally servicing the debt from buying LILCO adds to LIPA's expenses. When compared to other utilities that have similar costs, Mr. Falcon asserted that LIPA's rates are not the highest. When the LIPA debt is retired in 2033, rates will be reduced significantly.



From the LIPA Annual Report

Newsletters and updates are regularly sent out via email.
If you would like to added to the list please send an email to: si@molloy.edu or call: 516-323-4510.

The floor was then opened to questions and answers.

Neal Lewis – The rate increases of a half percent, two percent, then another two percent over the next three years is substantial compared to 17 years prior, during which there had only been two increases of just about 2% each in that whole time. Why did that have to be done?

Mr. Falcone – The increase may see like a lot relative to before, but not a lot relative to other utilities. Previously, there had been a hesitance to do anything that would make rates go up, so spending on things like tree trimming and storm hardening were not as aggressive. Now those investments have been accelerated.

Neal Lewis – Regarding the long-range Integrated Resource Plan, one thing that I disagreed with when LIPA was reformed is that PSEG was put in charge of long-range planning. I believed it should be in the hands of LIPA, which is charged with protecting the public interest. Is the Clean Energy Standard a central component of the IRP? They looked at compliance with the CES. Offshore wind sites might be needed by other utilities to meet State CES goals. Will theIRP come before the LIPA Board to be approved?

Mr. Falcone – I'm comfortable with PSEG being in charge of the IRP analysis, because they have the information and the day-to-day experience with running the utility. LIPA and the DPS are also involved in the IRP process. After reviewing the plan, we asked them to go back and rework the IRP to include the Clean Energy Standard.

David Schieren – What about the status of substations? Many of them are at capacity and can't accept more solar PV. Can they be improved and made omni-directional, so that more solar can be installed?

Mr. Falcone – The preferred thing is to inject the most solar at the least cost, by putting it in locations where additional grid investment is not needed. We have to look at the system. Since utility solar will be sited where there is less population, more investment in the system will be needed.

Jay Best – I understand that NYSERDA's residential efficiency programs are being handed over to utilities on Long Island. How will they continue?

Mr. Falcone – There is still State funding for low and moderate-income programs for the short term. Rebates for solar have been reduced, and are being phased out, the main incentive for solar is now the Federal tax credit.

Neal – The rest of the state is moving to fuel neutrality in efficiency programs. Could LIPA agree to fuel neutrality?

Mr. Falcone – Fuel neutrality is an open discussion. We will see something there.

Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski asked about solar during the Q&A

June 2016

LONG ISLAND
CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP
TASK FORCE

Mission: Facilitate the exchange of information and ideas and work to identify regional leadership that advances the promotion of plans, policies, and programs to reduce our carbon footprint, cut local air pollution, save energy and money, build a clean energy sector on Long Island, and create green jobs. — ***A project of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College***

Molloy College Suffolk Center, Farmingdale, NY

Utility-Scale Solar PV and Open Space: 'Green vs. Green'?

Background of the Debate

The development of utility scale solar PV projects on Long Island has become controversial. The first discord was community opposition to a solar farm that was constructed on a former sod farm in Shoreham. Since then, more proposed solar projects have been opposed by environmentalists, open space advocates and civic leaders who are concerned with the preservation of open space, and particularly woodlands. Several articles have appeared in *Newsday* and other media highlighting the debate on the relative value of renewable generation and preserving open space as a 'Green vs. Green' conflict.

Some of the projects that have drawn opposition include an undeveloped but industrially zoned 100-acre site in Mastic near the Forge River, a golf course in the Shoreham area, and the largest solar PV facility ever proposed in New York State, at the former Shoreham nuclear power plant site.

This solar farm in Shoreham on the site of a former sod-farm generated community opposition.

At the June 24, 2016 meeting of the **Long Island Clean Energy Leadership Task Force**, the Sustainability Institute brought together a panel of environmental stakeholders with different points of view of the issue which has been growing more contentious. This resulted in an informed, respectful discussion of the issue.

"This is a debate between people who are all concerned with protecting the environment, but who either have different priorities, or have drawn different conclusions from the facts. When people who agree on most things do disagree on a particular issue, it can become heated." Neal Lewis, executive director of the Sustainability Institute, who moderated the panel.

Last December in Paris, almost 200 countries came to an agreement to take action on global warming and set a goal of keeping global warming to no more than a 2ºC increase, with no more than 1.5º C being preferable. Meeting this challenge will require a conversion of the electric power sector to renewable generation.

Continued inside...

A video of the panel discussion can be seen on Vimeo.
Part #1: *https://vimeo.com/172192908*
Part # 2: *https://vimeo.com/172213194*.
Use the password: CleanEnergy2016

Thank you to civic leader and open space advocate Mike Madigan for recording and making the discussion available online.

The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College

7180 Republic Airport • Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-323-4510 • email: si@molloy.edu
molloy.edu/si

LONG ISLAND CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

In addition to global warming concerns, Long Island has an interest in preserving open space, especially forested land and productive farmland, to protect drinking water, biodiversity, community character, and to combat sprawl. Open space advocates argue that the environmental benefits of solar power do not trump the need to protect open space and habitat, and that woodland and farmland should not be sacrificed for solar, which could be sited on roofs, parking lots and highway medians.

However, some argue that to meet State renewable energy goals economically, utility-scale facilities that require significant space to generate large amounts of electricity may be required. It has been calculated that by offsetting the use of fossil fuels, utility-scale solar installations reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 times or more what would have been sequestered by the trees that are cleared for them. Since the cost for large, ground-mounted solar PV is lower than for solar carports or rooftop installations, including ground mounted solar in the mix will achieve more renewables faster, for the same investment and ratepayer cost. Also, we do not know whether there are sufficient appropriate rooftops, parking lots and other developed locations to host enough solar PV to meet the new aggressive NY State goals.

The tension between these two environmental objectives has resulted in conflicts over specific projects and the relative benefits of utility-scale solar versus preserving woodland or agricultural land among groups of people who are all concerned with protecting the environment. Some groups and individuals have come to the conclusion that in no case should existing woodland and agricultural land be used for solar PV development.

A recent study carried out in the southern UK looked at outcomes for biodiversity on 11 solar PV farms (The Effects Of Solar Farms On Local Biodiversity: A Comparative Study; H. Montag, G Parker & T. Clarkson. 2016.), found that biodiversity was generally better on the solar sites than nearby control sites that were "under the same management as the solar farm was prior to its construction." Many of these sites were agricultural land or meadows, but some included forested areas.

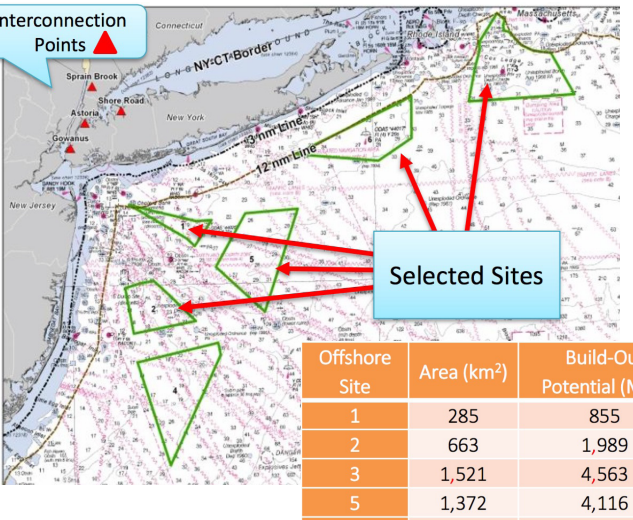
A paper by Damon Turney and Vasilis Fthenakis of Brookhaven National Labs found that 22 of the considered 32 impacts to be beneficial. Of the remaining 10 impacts, 4 are neutral, and 6 require further research before they can be appraised. None of the impacts were found to be negative relative to traditional power generation. They ranked the impacts in terms of priority, and find all the high-priority impacts to be beneficial.

Scope of the Challenge

Gordian Raacke of *Renewable Energy Long Island* opened the panel discussion by describing the urgency of the problem and the scale of change necessary to address it. In order to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, which is the goal for 2050, not only does the electric system need to be de-carbonized, but enough additional energy needs to be generated to power transportation, industry, heating and agriculture as those are taken off fossil fuels and switched to electric power. Mr Raacke exhorted the group that to meet the challenge, "We must act collectively and immediately." He urges that the next step needed is a comprehensive LIDAR analysis of Long Island's solar potential.

Neal Lewis, *Sustainability Institute*, provided context for the discussion by noting that the New York State has released a **Clean Energy Standard** that calls for at least 50% the State's electricity to be generated from renewables by 2030 (sometimes referred to simply as *50 by 30*). Long Island's contribution to that goal calls for between 22% and 25% of our electricity to be generated by renewables. Currently, L.I., which leads NY State gets only 1.6% percent of its electricity from solar PV.

Solar PV represents one of two technically and commercially feasible technologies that could make



Offshore Site	Area (km²)	Build-Out Potential (MW)
1	285	855
2	663	1,989
3	1,521	4,563
5	1,372	4,116
6	1,027	3,081

The ocean off Long Island has the potential to generate lots of wind energy, although that energy is likely to be shared with other regions of New York to help them meet their clean energy goals.

Gordian Raacke Renewable Energy Long Island | *Lisa Broughton Suffolk County* | *Bob Boener PSEG-LI* | *David Schieren SunPower by EmPower Solar* | *Adrienne Asposito Citizens Campaign for the Environment* | *Bill Feldman Empire Clean Energy Supply* | *Richard Amper LI Pine Barrens Society*

a significant contribution towards the goal set by the NY State Clean Energy Standard. The other is offshore wind power. PSEG Long Island projects that to meet the CES goal, Long Island will need an annual 4,718 GWH of renewable generation by 2030. This is roughly equivalent to 21,160 acres of utility-scale solar power roughly equivalent to 120 BNL solar farms, or 225 offshore wind turbines at six MW each. The numbers for one potential scenario to meet the CES goal was reviewd with the panel, consisting of of 113 offshore wind turbines, 160,000 residential PV rooftops (about 1 in 5 L.I. homes), 1,875 acres of carports (half of L.I. parking lots over 1 acre), 13,400 commercial PV roofs, and still a significant amount of ground mounted solar would still be necessary, as much as 2,325 acres.

David Schieren, CEO of *SunPower by EmPower Solar,* outlined some of the things that could be done starting now. He said that with energy efficiency, geothermal heating and solar power, "the construction of zero energy homes is now in reach."

The So-Called 'Green vs. Green' Conflict

Ground-mounted, utility scale solar benefits from economies of scale and simpler engineering that reduce its cost significantly as compared to other PV options, including residential and commercial rooftops and carports on parking lots.

Lisa Broughton, Energy Director of *Suffolk County* described how, as a leader on clean energy, the County has moved on all these fronts. Suffolk has installed solar carports at six sites generating a modest total of 12.8 MW, and rooftop PV on 7 large buildings, for a total capacity of just 250 kW. A recent study of county owned roofs found that only one out of the 30 roofs examined was suitable for solar PV. They have also been reviewing potential locations for ground-mounted installations. A proposal to develop a ground-mounted solar PV facility on County owned land once considered for develoment of County facilities was recently put off due to concerns raised by legislators about protecting woodland.

Aerial view of solar carports at Suffolk County Riverhead Complex

Adrienne Esposito of *Citizens Campaign for the Environment* said that some of the opposition to solar has been based on misinformation or misunderstanding. She said that there shouldn't be a wholesale ban on clearing trees for solar projects, but that each proposal needs to be evaluated individually. Some of the criteria she laid out were whether the land is zoned for industrial development (commercial or industrial development such as stores, warehouses, parking lots, etc.) and what the impact of other likely development would be as compared to solar; if the land has important environmental attributes, is there is a realistic mechanism for preservation; in the case of open space that is publicly owned and safe from development pressure, she is against solar development.

Dick Amper, Executive Director of the *Pine Barrens Society* addressed the issue of appropriate siting of projects. He said that even if his only concern were solar, he would try to avoid public pushback on solar projects that could occur if they are not sited properly. He called for better planning to identify the places where solar is the best use, and incentives to direct solar development to those areas.

There was discussion among the panel of what entity would be best to provide

planning for the development of solar. PSEG Long Island has much of the information that is needed for such planning, but does not see itself as the proper entity for land use planning. Some panel members pointed out that PSEG might not have the incentives to maximize the adoption of solar.

Some of the information that is needed to create a strategy for meeting clean energy goals with solar includes the number of suitable rooftops and their total MW potential and where substations exist that have the capacity to accept large amounts of solar power. It was mentioned that the requirements for interconnection were more restrictive in the PSEG's service territory than in the rest of the state.

Common Ground

Despite disagreement on the use of open space, woodlands or agricultural lands for utility–scale solar PV facilities, there was broad agreement on a number of action that need to be taken to promote renewable energy on Long Island:

- Targets and goals demanded by Paris agreement and set by Albany need to be translated into enforceable policy and action. The challenge is great and the response must be community-wide.
- The Clean Energy Standard of 50% renewable energy by 2030 must be supported.
- Local governments should adopt a 'Merton Rule' requiring new commercial construction to meet a percentage of expected energy consumption with on-site renewable generation.
- Energy efficiency to reduce both total use and peak demand is vital, as it both immediately reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and ultimately reduces the total investment in renewable generation that will be needed.
- A significant commitment to offshore wind will be necessary to meeting the 50 by 30 goals.
- Increasing the number of solar rooftops and carports must be a priority.
- More data is needed about the potential of rooftops and carports and their costs relative to utility scale, ground-mount solar. Specifically, a LIDAR analysis of the MW capacity of Long Island's built environment, including residential, commercial buildings, and parking to locate solar PV.

Offshore wind, utility scale solar PV, solar carports, commercial PV roof and residential PV are all potential sources of renewable energy for Long Island. They all present benefits and challenges.

The Sustainability Institute at Molloy College

If you would like receive copies of any meeting handouts or materials, please call the Sustainability Institute at 516-323-4510.

Long Island Green Homes

Thank you to the RAUCH Foundation for supporting Long Island Green Homes

Long Island Community Foundation
Helping Long Islanders Make a Difference

Thank you to the Kraft Fund at the LI Community Foundation for a grant supporting the launch of the Sustainability Insitute in 2009.

newsday.com/news/local/politics/ny-lisola0212609415apr01,0,1136054.story

Newsday.com

Suffolk activates solar panels on police HQ

BY JENNIFER SMITH

jennifer.smith@newsday.com

9:23 PM EDT, April 1, 2009

The largest municipal solar project yet in Suffolk County made its debut Wednesday under steel-gray skies at the county police headquarters in Yaphank.

His coat whipping in the wind at a rooftop news conference, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy flipped four switches and activated the 304 panels. Depending on the season and weather, solar energy captured by the 40-kilowatt photovoltaic system will provide 10 percent to 20 percent of the building's power, county officials said. Suffolk expects to save about $7,000 annually in utility bills for the building, which is open 24 hours a day.

Levy also signed an executive order requiring all new county buildings of more than 10,000 square feet to have solar panels. "Suffolk alone is not going to be able to solve the world's energy problems," Levy said. "But if we act and show what can be done, we can be a model for other municipalities."

The Yaphank system is expected to generate 58,000 of the roughly 3.5 million kilowatt hours the building uses each year, reducing annual energy use by about 2 percent. That offset will prevent an estimated 22.5 tons of carbon from being released into the atmosphere, Levy said.

It is one of a handful of large-scale municipal solar projects on Long Island, where residential installations are more common. Some 1,800 local homeowners have switched to solar panels, said Gordian Raacke, executive director of Renewable Energy Long Island.

"I have a solar array on my house that is only about 3 kilowatts in size, so this is many times bigger," he said.

Roughly half of the project's cost was covered by a $260,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, which has funded local projects of similar scale. The Town of Hempstead installed a 40-kilowatt system atop town hall in 2006, and the Town of Brookhaven plans to use a grant from the authority to install panels on a carport to power its town hall.

The state money came from the settlement of an air pollution lawsuit against Ohio Edison that required the company to spend millions on clean energy projects in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey.

The Yaphank system will also serve as a demonstration site so researchers can compare the performance of different types of solar panels. Sixty-four flexible panels are mounted on penthouses on the roof, 160 rigid panels sit flat, and another 80 on the building's south side are tilted to catch the most sunlight.

Last summer Suffolk broke ground on a new police station house in Smithtown that will get about 8 percent of its power from a 50-kilowatt photovoltaic solar system.


S-7
7


SOLSMART
GOLD
SolSmart.org
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy