

**RESOLUTION NO. 1186 -2018, AUTHORIZING AN ANALYSIS TO ENCOURAGE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WHILE MINIMIZING ADVERSE IMPACTS TO OPEN SPACE AND WOODED AREAS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 387-2017 created a Renewable Energy Construction Task Force (“Task Force”) to conduct a survey of available public and privately held land in Suffolk County, identify parcels suitable for renewable energy production with limited adverse impact to the natural environment, and to assist the County in developing a sustainable renewable energy program; and

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County does not have a comprehensive plan for renewable energy development that balances the demand for development of renewable energy against the destruction of high quality natural areas such as forests, woodlands, and fields and the desire of communities to protect the environment and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force has held several public meetings and heard presentations from experts in the field of renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force also established a Spatial Analysts Subgroup (“Subgroup”) to explore the feasibility of developing a mapping tool that would identify parcels suitable for the development of renewable energy while limiting adverse impacts to the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subgroup consists of the following volunteer members:

- 1) Jessica Price, PhD (Conservation Landscape Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy);
- 2) Ross Baldwin (GIS Manager, Town of Southampton);
- 3) James Daly (GIS Manager, Suffolk County);
- 4) David Genaway (Deputy Director/GIS Manager, Town of Huntington);
- 5) Karen Leu (GIS Specialist, The Nature Conservancy); and
- 6) Stephen Lloyd (GIS Manager/Senior Spatial Analyst, The Nature Conservancy);

and

**WHEREAS**, the Subgroup has developed recommendations for the scope, methodology and timeline for a spatial analysis, using the Towns of Huntington and Southampton, to identify low-impact sites for solar energy generation in Suffolk County, contained in a Report appended in Appendix “A”; and

**WHEREAS**, such an analysis will produce a consistent, tested spatial analysis methodology that can be applied in other towns and at a larger scale for a County-wide or broader analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force has recommended that the Subgroup conduct a pilot spatial analysis, using the Towns of Huntington and Southampton, to identify potential sites for solar energy generation, while minimizing adverse impacts to the natural environment in Suffolk County; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Spatial Analyst Subgroup is hereby authorized and empowered to conduct a pilot spatial analysis, using the Towns of Huntington and Southampton, to identify potential sites for solar energy generation, while minimizing adverse impacts to the natural environment in Suffolk County; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the Subgroup will submit the results of their analysis to the Suffolk County Legislature's Public Works Committee, the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, the Clerk of the Suffolk County Legislature and the Suffolk County Executive within 270 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: December 18, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 31, 2018