

# Ulster County 2021 Climate Smart Communities Recertification Documentation

## PE4 Action: Green Power Procurement Policy

### **Background:**

Ulster County has maintained a policy of using 100% green power since June 4, 2014 when the County Executive signed [Executive Order 1 of 2014](#). This executive order has been updated every two years and will be updated in 2021 for calendar years 2021 and 2022.

As mandated by executive order, the County purchases 100% of its electricity for government operations through a combination of Green-e renewable energy credits (RECs), ESCO green power products and on-site/remote distributed generation projects.

To reinforce this commitment, in 2019, the County legislature adopted Resolution 315 of 2019 that resolved the following:

*“that 100% of Ulster County’s electricity utilized in 2019 and 2020 shall be purchased directly from local renewable energy sources, or as an interim solution only, by obtaining Green-e Energy certified Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).”*

### **Purchasing strategy:**

Ulster County’s purchasing strategy is detailed in the 2019 Ulster County Climate Action Plan – *Section II: Carbon Neutral Government Operations Strategy*. The Ulster County Department of Purchasing is the lead department for green power procurement with direct support from the Department of the Environment.

Additionally, through executive order and legislative resolution, the County is committed to supplying 100% of its annual building and fleet electricity usage from locally generated renewable energy sources by the year 2030. The County defines "locally generated" as power generated in both the same utility territory and NYISO load zone as the metered point of usage.

As an additional driver for local green power procurement, the legislature adopted Resolution 419 of 2019, a policy “For Consideration Of Solar Arrays On All New Or Renovated/Replaced Roofs On Ulster County Buildings.”

### **Documentation:**

- Link: County web address for public information and access  
<https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/sustainability-energy/renewable-energy>
- Link: Ulster County Climate Action Plan (reference Pages 23-31)  
[https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/Ulster%20County%20Government%20Operations%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%202019\\_web.pdf](https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/Ulster%20County%20Government%20Operations%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%202019_web.pdf)
- [Executive Order 1 of 2019](#)
- [Resolution 315 of 2019](#)
- [Resolution 416 of 2019](#)

# ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PATRICK K. RYAN  
*County Executive*



MARC RIDER  
*Deputy County Executive*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1-2019

### REGARDING THE COUNTY'S USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE YEARS 2019 AND 2020

**WHEREAS**, the County of Ulster has a clear governmental interest in protecting the environment and human health within the County and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, overwhelming consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), regarding the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon pollution including a rapid and unprecedented increase in atmospheric temperatures; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the County to accelerate the reduction of carbon pollution by maximizing its usage of locally generated renewable energy, reinforcing its commitment to protect the environment and human health in Ulster County and beyond; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section C-25(B) of the Ulster County Charter, the Ulster County Executive has the power and duty necessarily implied or incidental thereto to "supervise, direct and control the administration of all departments" of the County; and,

**WHEREAS**, starting in 2014, Ulster County has purchased 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, this environmental leadership, commitment to renewable energy and net carbon neutral government operations has been recognized by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section C-74(B)(2) of the Ulster County Charter and Section A16-1(B)(2)(a) of the Ulster County Administrative Code, the Purchasing Director has the authority and the discretion to execute utility contracts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK K. RYAN**, County Executive of the County of Ulster, in accordance with the aforementioned and in furtherance of my statutory duties, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Purchasing, in close coordination with the Department of the Environment, to ensure that for the years of 2019 and 2020, 100% of the County's electricity is purchased directly from local renewable energy sources or by obtaining Green-e Energy certified Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
2. Ulster County shall endeavor to continue to operate a net carbon neutral government and furthermore decrease greenhouse gas emission associated with its operations (through conservation, efficiency, on-site/local renewable generation) by 25% by 2025 and 80% by 2050 using the County's 2012 greenhouse gas emission inventory as a baseline.
3. Ulster County shall endeavor to supply 100% of its annual building and fleet electricity usage from locally generated renewable energy sources by the year 2030.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Environment, in close coordination with the Departments of Purchasing, Planning and Public Works, to implement the June 2019 Climate Action Plan for county government operations to meet the County's carbon emission reduction goals, drive deployment of clean technology and improve climate resilience.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the Department of the Environment Coordinator to act as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator for government operations.
6. Ulster County government shall support ways to decrease energy use, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of green power across our community and sets a goal of decreasing community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 (below 1990 levels) using the regional GHG emissions inventory as a baseline.
7. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise superseded or revoked.

The County of Ulster



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Patrick K. Ryan, County Executive

Dated: June 18, 2019  
Kingston, New York

**Establishing A Policy Regarding Ulster County's Use Of Renewable Energy**

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairwoman Greene and Legislators Eckert, Heppner, Wawro, and Woltman)

Legislator Kathy Nolan and Legislators Eckert, Greene, Heppner, Wawro and Woltman offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County first pledged to become a Climate Smart Community in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County began purchasing 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources in 2014; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Ulster County established a sustainable green fleet policy addressing the vehicles of the fleet under the control of the County in order to improve vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County attained the Department of Environmental Conservation's Silver Climate Smart Community designation in 2016, the highest yet achieved through this program; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ulster County was featured in National Geographic magazine for its environmental initiatives and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County's Utility-Scale Solar Project became fully operational in 2018, generating approximately 20% of all the electricity used by the Ulster County Government; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2019, the County Executive signed an executive order to move the county toward the goal of having 100 percent of the county government's electrical needs produced by locally generated renewable energy sources by 2030; and

WHEREAS, New York State, in its Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, has established similar goals; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature desires to reinforce Ulster County's commitment to environmental leadership by codifying the County's renewable energy use into law; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that 100% of Ulster County's electricity utilized in 2019 and 2020 shall be purchased directly from local renewable energy sources, or as an interim solution only, by obtaining Green-e Energy certified Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs); and, be it further

**Resolution No. 315      September 17, 2019**

**Establishing A Policy Regarding Ulster County's Use Of Renewable Energy**

RESOVLED, Ulster County shall continue to operate a net carbon neutral government and shall decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations by 25 by the year 2025 and 80 by the year 2050 using the County's 2012 greenhouse gas emission inventory as a baseline; and, be it further

RESOLVED, Ulster County shall supply 100% of its annual building and fleet electricity usage from locally generated renewable energy sources by the year 2030; and, be it further

RESOLVED, Ulster County shall endeavor to achieve the Department of Environmental Conservation's Gold Climate Smart Community designation by the year 2025; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that Ulster County Government shall assist and support our towns and communities in increasing the use of green power and decreasing community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 80 % by the year 2050; **and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, that in order to determine whether these goals remain attainable and/or whether or not they should be modified or amended, the Coordinator of the Ulster County Department of the Environment shall file, with the County Executive and the Clerk of the Legislature on or before March 1st of each year, an annual report detailing the status of each of the goals outlined above,**

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Collins, Delaune, and Fabiano)

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment as amended on August 8, 2019

Referred back to Energy and Environment Committee at Legislative Session on August 20, 2019

Passed Committee: Energy and Environment on September 5, 2019



**Establishing A Policy For Consideration Of Solar Arrays On All New Or Renovated/Replaced Roofs On Ulster County Buildings**

Referred to: The Energy and Environment Committee (Chairwoman Greene and Legislators Eckert, Heppner, Wawro, and Woltman), The Public Works and Capital Projects Committee (Chairwoman Petit and Legislators Fabiano, Greene, Litts, and Nolan), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairwoman Archer and Legislators Donaldson, Gerentine, Maio, Joseph Maloney, Petit, and Ronk)

Legislators Joseph Maloney and Laura Petit offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County understands that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily exacerbated by the current burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County's timely response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to build livable, energy independent and secure communities, vibrant innovative economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County has established itself as an energy and environmental leader through policies, resolutions and local laws, including those establishing the County as an Energy Smart Community, requiring the purchase of renewable energy, establishing energy efficient building standards, establishing a County Green Fleet Policy, and other resolutions regarding green, energy conscious purchasing; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Executive signed Executive Order Number 1 of 2019, which the Legislature codified on September 17, 2019, establishing ambitious new goals for the County's ongoing efforts to combat climate change, including community-wide greenhouse gas emissions targets and the adoption of the Ulster County Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, County owned buildings, under the Capital Improvement Plan, will continue to have old roof systems renovated/replaced or may erect new buildings in the future; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, as a Green Initiative and Climate Smart leader, it shall be the policy of the County of Ulster to require an engineering feasibility study on all new, renovated and/or replaced roofs on County owned buildings to support solar arrays; and, be it further

**Resolution No. 416      December 18, 2019**

**Establishing A Policy For Consideration Of Solar Arrays On All  
New Or Renovated/Replaced Roofs On Ulster County Buildings**

RESOLVED, when a determination has been made that a rooftop solar installation is not feasible for any such Ulster County project, a report to the Public Works and Capital Project Committee shall be made within 30 days of said determination,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Fabiano)

Postponed in Committee: Public Works and Capital Projects on October 2, 2019

Passed Committee: Public Works and Capital Projects as amended on November 6, 2019

Defeated in Committee: Energy and Environment on November 7, 2019

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on \_\_\_\_\_.

Petition to Discharge successfully executed

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
TBD PER PROJECT

Resolution No. 416      December 18, 2019

**Establishing A Policy For Consideration Of Solar Arrays On All  
New Or Renovated/Replaced Roofs On Ulster County Buildings**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this  
20<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2019.

Approved by the County Executive this  
24<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2019.

[s] Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk

[s] Patrick K. Ryan  
Patrick K. Ryan, County Executive



## PE4 Action: Green Power Procurement Policy

2 Points

4 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

Adopting a policy to require the use of renewable energy to meet government needs helps drive the expansion of the market for renewable energy. Depending on the scope of the local government's facilities and operations, its purchasing power can be considerable. This type of policy makes a commitment to allocate funding for the purchase of renewable energy, renewable energy credits (RECs), and/or the installation of renewable energy systems. A renewable energy procurement policy is a key action that helps local governments achieve their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals and demonstrates their leadership in supporting the shift to an economy powered by clean, renewable energy.

### B. How to implement this action

The local Climate Smart Communities (CSC) task force and local government staff should begin conversations with elected officials to build support for the purchase or installation of renewable energy. Conversations might include strategies to increase the reliance on renewable energy in phases, to spread costs over time, ensure reliability, and make a smooth transition. The policy could be developed through a larger climate action planning process, or the policy could be a standalone initiative to develop a strategy for scaling up the percentage of energy sourced from renewables and to adopt a policy initiating that process.

The next step is to draft a policy or resolution for adoption by the legislative body. This can be developed by local government staff and/or by an elected official. Also consult with the local government attorney for guidance on drafting and enacting the new policy.

In drafting the policy, local governments should also take into consideration any data on municipal energy use, such as those undertaken for [PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory](#) and [PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits](#) and renewable energy feasibility studies, such as those completed under [PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies](#). Such analyses should inform the strategy for increasing the use of renewables. If a GHG inventory and/or feasibility study has not been performed, local governments may want to include one as a requirement in the policy.

Local governments may gather input for this policy through engagement with key stakeholders and/or the public at large. They may also want to consider consulting with utilities, state agencies, and green power marketers and brokers.

For this CSC action, the policy must include specific goals and timeframes that define the proportion of government energy use to come from renewable sources. To receive full credit for this action, local governments must also develop a plan for implementing the policy that outlines the approach to increasing the use of renewables in government facilities and operations. This plan could be included in the policy or resolution or could be a standalone document.

Once the policy is finalized and passed, local governments may want to celebrate this accomplishment through a press release or event designed to increase public awareness around the benefits of switching to clean, renewable energy.

### C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame for establishing such a policy depends partly on the level of local support for renewable energy and the quality of information available about the options and the energy needs of local government operations. The costs and resource needs for developing a policy and/or passing a resolution may be considered part of the normal legislative costs. However, some local governments may elect to perform a renewable energy feasibility study as part of developing

the policy, which will require staff time and possibly consultants (see guidance under *PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies*).

#### **D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?**

This action is applicable to any local government. Staff who manage government's GHG inventories would likely help provide data to inform the policy. Staff from the planning department may be involved in drafting the policy and developing a plan to implement it. The legislative body would facilitate the adoption of the policy.

#### **E. How to obtain points for this action**

Points for this action are tiered based development on the two following components:

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Adopt a resolution or policy to increase government use of renewable energy.	2
Develop a plan or strategy for increasing the use of renewables.	2

#### **F. What to submit**

Submit a policy that is consistent with the guidelines described above and provide evidence that it was formally adopted by the local government. The policy may have been adopted any time prior to the application date. For full points, also submit the plan or strategy for implementing the policy. The implementation plan can be included in the policy or could be a standalone document. Applicants should also provide information on progress toward meeting their renewable energy targets, if applicable.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

#### **G. Links to additional resources or best practices**

- [US EPA Green Power Procurement](#)
- [DEC CSC Renewable Energy for Climate Smart Communities](#)
- [DEC Renewable Energy - Cutting Pollution, Creating Opportunity](#)

#### **H. Recertification requirements**

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.