

The Town of Warwick Earns Clean Energy Community Designation for its Commitment to Cut Costs and Reduce Energy Consumption

The Town of Warwick today announced it has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), recognizing its leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy locally.

Announced by Governor Cuomo in August 2016, the \$16 million Clean Energy Communities initiative supports local government leaders across the state by providing grants to eligible municipalities 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 mandate of having half of the state's electricity coming from renewable energy resources by 2030.

The Town of Warwick received the designation for completing four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. In addition, the designation gives the Town of Warwick an opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 toward additional clean energy projects, with no local cost share.

"I am proud the Town continues in its efforts to promote and encourage the use of sustainable energy within our community. We have been leaders here in Orange County and will continue with projects like adding more vehicle charging stations and the potential purchase of our municipal streetlights with conversion to LEDs", said Supervisor Michael Sweeton.

"The Town of Warwick Clean Energy Community designation is another example of how local communities are pursuing energy and cost saving initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint and help cut operating costs," said Alicia Barton, President and CEO, NYSERDA. "Under Governor Cuomo, consumers across New York are reaping the benefits of cleaner, more affordable energy, while helping protect our natural resources for the generations of New Yorkers to come."

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

- **Participated in a community-based Solarize Campaign** called Sustainable Warwick to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.
- **Streamlined the local approval processes** for solar projects through adoption of the New York State Unified Solar Permit.
- **Adopted a Benchmarking Policy** to track and report the energy use of the Town's municipal buildings.

- **Completed energy code enforcement training** on best practices in energy code enforcement for the Town's Building Department.

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 and the option of receiving up to 25 percent paid in advance to support additional clean energy projects. 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.

Additional clean energy action items communities can take to achieve designation include:

- **Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades** to municipal buildings.
- **Implementing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** so residents can gain greater choice and control over energy use a group.
- **Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification** through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for developing a comprehensive program to reduce its carbon footprint and improve the environment.
- **Installing electric vehicle charging stations and using alternative fuel vehicles**, such as electric cars, for municipal business.
- **Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program** that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.
- **Converting** streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.

Once all funding is exhausted for large or small/medium categories in a region, local governments designated a Clean Energy Community are eligible to apply for a \$5,000 grant, on a first-come, first-serve basis until such funds are exhausted.

Clean Energy Community Coordinators are also available at no charge to help 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.nyserda.ny.gov/cec. Local government officials or employees can find contact information for their respective coordinator [here](#) for assistance navigating the program.