

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

The Town of Red Hook 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, 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.

The Town of Red Hook received the designation for completing 4 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 Red Hook an opportunity to apply for up to \$100,000 toward additional clean energy projects, with no local cost share.

John B. Rhodes, NYSERDA's President and CEO, said, "Congratulations to the Town of Red Hook on this noteworthy achievement and for committing to its citizens a future with cleaner energy. Governor Cuomo's nation-leading REV strategy is helping communities across New York reduce their energy costs and protect the environment."

Robert McKeon, Town Supervisor, "The Town of Red Hook is pleased to be recognized as the first municipality in Dutchess County and only the fourth township in NY to achieve this milestone. The designation is simply an acknowledgement of our steadfast commitment to create a healthier and more sustainable community for our residents. We're excited to once again partner with NYSERDA to further adoption of Red Hook's Climate Action Plan and add additional projects to spur our local economies. Folks may not realize that energy and energy efficiency jobs now amount to more than all the fossil fuel industries combined. In addition to the projects listed below, Red Hook is beginning an Energize NY program, installing electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall and converting our street lights to LEDs."

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

- Solarize – Undertake a local Solarize campaign to increase the number of solar installations
- Energy Code Enforcement Training – Train compliance officers in energy code best practices
- Benchmarking – Adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings
- Unified Solar Permit – Streamline the approvals process for solar

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. 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.nysERDA.ny.gov/cec. Local government officials or employees can find contact information for their respective coordinator [here](#) for assistance navigating the program.



Photo: Town of Red Hook Supervisor Robert McKeon looks on as a NYSERDA consultant explains the Energy Code review inspection process at a Red Hook home.