



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Justin Rodriguez
845.291.3255

Orange County named a Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA

*County recognized for reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving
clean energy*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County has been designated a Clean Energy Community (CEC) by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

“We are pleased to receive this recognition from NYSERDA,” Neuhaus said. “The CEC program provides a wonderful example of what we can do to foster local climate and clean energy action, while saving local governments and residents money on their energy bills, creating local jobs and realizing the tremendous opportunities provided by expanding the green economy.”

Introduced by Governor Andrew Cuomo in August of 2016, the \$16 million CEC initiative supports local government across the State to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in their communities. Work on this initiative was led by the County Planning Department with key support from County Executive Neuhaus, the County Legislature and Department of Public Works. The County of Orange received the designation for completing the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- Adopting a Legislative Policy and Initiating Benchmarking of energy use of County buildings

- Undertaking two community-based Solarize campaigns (in Warwick-Goshen and Countywide) to reduce solar installation project costs through joint purchasing.
- Earning Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification through actions reducing the community's impact on the environment. Orange County was the first County in New York to earn CSC certification.
- Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits

“NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities program helps further the County’s goals of reducing energy consumption and encouraging clean energy use in our community,” said David Church, Orange County’s Commissioner of Planning. “This initiative builds upon, and complements, the County’s DEC Climate Smart Community Certification, the first in New York and received in 2013 and is consistent with the goals of the County’s Comprehensive and Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plans.”

For more information on Clean Energy Communities, visit www.nyserra.ny.gov/cec.

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Photo caption: The solar panels at 5 Spoke Creamery on Pulaski Highway in Goshen. This was the first Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financed energy project in New York State.