

12/2017 For Immediate Release – For more information contact Daniel Sturm at (845) 583-4350 ext. 12 or [bethelsupervisor@libertybiz.rr.com](mailto:bethelsupervisor@libertybiz.rr.com)

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

White Lake - The Town of Bethel 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 of 2016, 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.

Bethel received the designation for completing 4 of 10 high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. The second town in Sullivan County to achieve such designation.

According to Town Supervisor Daniel Sturm "the Town of Bethel is committed to the fight against climate change. We have taken the lead to raise public awareness of this critical issue. Adopting environmentally friendly policies and programs is saving taxpayer dollars as well as decreasing our carbon footprint. It is a win-win for all concerned."

NYSERDA President and CEO, NYSERDA said, "Congratulations to the Town of Bethel for their commitment to advancing Governor Cuomo's ambitious energy strategy to build a clean, resilient and affordable energy system. The Town serves as an example for communities across the state that want to reduce energy costs and create a more sustainable future."

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

- **Benchmarking** - Adopted a policy to track and report the energy use of the Town's municipal buildings.

- **Clean Fleets** - Installed two electric vehicle charging ports at the Town of Bethel Justice Court Building.
- **Unified Solar Permit** - Adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit to streamline the approvals process for local solar projects.
- **Energy Code Enforcement Training** - Completed training on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other Town officials.

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](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec). Local government officials or employees can find contact information for their respective coordinator for assistance navigating the program.

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