



Presents

## Solar Smart Hudson Valley: Building Clean Energy While Preserving Important Lands

Sponsored by



Tuesday March 27, 2018

The Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home

8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**Registration at 8:00A.M**

The negative impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing in the Hudson Valley make it clear: we must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and switch to renewable energy supplies, and do it fast. But how do we protect the farmlands, natural resources and scenic views we have worked so hard to preserve while maximizing solar energy project buildout in the Hudson Valley?

Join us for an in-depth discussion of the issues surrounding the rapid development of solar projects and the need for regional planning for renewable energy development in the Hudson Valley so it can serve as a model for regional response to climate change. Through interactive panel discussions and presentations, attendees will gain knowledge about:

- current state policy and programs, and the market forces driving solar energy development in the Hudson Valley;
- responsible siting and design of solar energy projects;
- how planning and zoning can help communities maximize renewable energy development;
- building public support for new solar energy proposals;
- reconciling solar development with farmland and natural resources protection, and encouraging dual-use and development on previously disturbed sites; and
- developing a regional renewable energy plan.

With the tools and information provided, participants will be better prepared to take concrete actions that will make the valley a regional model for reaching state targets to mitigate climate change, while

simultaneously preserving the natural and economic assets that make the Hudson Valley such a special place to live, work and play.

## **Agenda**

**8:00-8:30**

**Registration Opens/Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:00 (30 minutes)**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks: The Climate Crisis and the Need to Transition to and Maximize Renewable Energy Resources**

(Steven Rosenberg, Senior Vice President, Scenic Hudson; Executive Director of The Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc.; Sacha Spector, Ph.D., Program Director for the Environment, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)

**9:00-9:50 (50 minutes)**

**The Renewable Energy Horse has Left the Barn**

*An overview of the State policy, market forces, and siting considerations that are driving solar energy development in the Hudson Valley.*

- New York State Renewable Energy Policy (Anne Reynolds, Executive Director, Alliance for Clean Energy New York) 15 minutes
- Renewable Energy Drivers and Patterns in the Hudson Valley (Valessa Souter-Kline, Policy Coordinator, New York Solar Energy Industries Association) 15 minutes
- Developers' Siting Considerations (Rob Garrity, Project Development, Borrego Solar) 15 minutes
- 5 minutes Q&A

**10 minute break**

**10:00 – 10:50 (50 minutes)**

**Yes in My Backyard: Building Public Support for New Renewable Energy Projects**

*A presentation of the local, regional and global benefits of renewable energy development, and a conversation about the myths surrounding solar energy facilities.*

- The Benefits of Renewable Energy (Betta Broad, Outreach Director, New Yorkers for Clean Power) 15 minutes
- How Shared Solar and Community Choice Aggregation Really Work (Evelyn Wright, Citizens for Local Power) 15 minutes
- Debunking the Myths Surrounding Solar PV Systems (Maureen Leddy, Project Manager, NYSERDA) 15 minutes
- 5 minutes Q&A

**10 minute break**

**11:00 – 12:30 (1 hour, 30 minutes)**

**Smart from the Start: Maximizing Renewable Energy Development While Preserving the Hudson Valley's Natural and Visual Resources**

*A discussion of principles, strategies and tools for guiding development to appropriate sites and maximizing solar energy development through local comprehensive planning and zoning.*

Moderator: John Cappello, Esq., Partner, Jacobowitz & Gubits, LLP, Counselors at Law

- Scenic Hudson's Clean Energy Siting and Design Principles (Audrey Friedrichsen, Land Use and Environmental Advocacy Attorney, Scenic Hudson) 15 minutes
- Central Hudson's Hosting Capacity Maps (Stephanie Genesee, Associate Engineer for Electric Distribution Planning, Central Hudson) 15 minutes
- Developing Solar Energy Projects on Agricultural Lands (Samantha Levy, New York Policy Director, American Farmland Trust) 15 minutes
- Maximizing Solar Development through Planning and Zoning (Jessica Bacher, Executive Director, Professor, Pace/Elizabeth Haub School of Law Land Use Law Center) 20 minutes
- Case study: Town of Warwick (Michael Sweeton, Supervisor) 15 minutes
- 10 minutes Moderated Discussion

**12:30 – 1:30 (1 hour)**

**Lunch (provided)**

**1:30-2:20 (50 minutes)**

**Have Your Cake and Eat it Too: Developing Solar on Conserved Lands, Farmland, and Previously Disturbed Lands**

*An informational session on how to achieve mutual benefits in solar energy development through siting on conserved lands, use of pollinator friendly plantings, and re-use of previously disturbed sites such as brownfields and landfills.*

- Land Trusts and Renewable Energy (Seth McKee, Land Conservation Director, Scenic Hudson) 10 minutes
- Pollinator-Friendly Solar (Cypress Creek Renewables Pollinator Program) 15 minutes
- Siting Solar PV Projects on Previously Disturbed Lands (Paul Curran, Managing Director, BQ Energy) 15 minutes
- 10 minutes Q&A

**10 minute break**

**2:30-3:50 (1 hour, 20 minutes)**

**Developing a Hudson Valley Regional Renewable Energy Plan: Plenary Discussion**

*A facilitated discussion of who the stakeholders should be, what information is needed, what form it should take, and the next steps for creating a renewable energy development plan for the Hudson Valley.*

Moderator: Hayley Carlock, Director of Environmental Advocacy, Scenic Hudson, Inc.

- Vermont Act 174 Energy and Land Use Planning and Mapping Requirements (James Sullivan, Director, Bennington County Regional Commission) 10 minutes
- Identifying Least-Conflict Solar PV Development in California's San Joaquin Valley (Dustin Pearce, M.E.S.M, GIS Analyst, Conservation Biology Institute) 10 minutes
- Regional Planning for Solar Energy Development on Long Island (Jessica Price, Ph.D., Landscape Conservation Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy) 10 minutes
- 50 minutes Facilitated Discussion

**3:50-4:00 (10 minutes)**

**Closing Remarks**