

Mid-Hudson Energy \$mart Communities

An outreach project of the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority

Winter 2011 Edition

In This Issue

[Be a Shining Example](#)

[NYSERDA Agricultural Program](#)

[New York Energy Code](#)

[Green Acres Development](#)

[Spotlight on Warwick](#)

[A Wind Success Story](#)

ShiningExampleNY

Be a Shining Example in Your Community or School

NYSERDA has partnered with local manufacturers and retailers to make low-cost Compact Fluorescent lamps (CFLs) available for community organizations and school groups. These CFLs can be used for general awareness, special events, fund raising, science projects, and other worthy opportunities.

By submitting a brief one-page application, NYSERDA will connect your organization with a manufacturer or retailer who will provide a minimum of 100 CFLs to your group for a fraction of the cost.

For more information or to request an application, please contact Mid-Hudson Energy \$mart Communities, 845-331-2238.

NYSERDA

Launches Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program



NYSERDA announces the availability of approximately \$3.2 million in incentives to help farmers make energy efficient upgrades.

This Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program (AEEP) seeks to help eligible farms and on-farm producers identify and implement electric and natural gas energy efficiency measures. Ideal customers must pay into the System benefits Charge and include orchards, dairies, greenhouses, vegetables, vineyards, grain dryers, maple producers, and poultry/egg farms.

To help identify eligible measures,

Nation's First Zero-Net Energy Home Development

[Green Acres New Paltz, NY](#)



Homes that generate more energy than they use are finding owners at Green Acres, a 25 lot development of single family homes off of Route 32 in New Paltz. Since March 2009, five homes have been purchased and occupied and two more homes have been constructed. Two of the occupied homes completed their first year with a surplus and two more will complete their first year in the coming months.

Zero-Net Energy is achieved in Green Acres through a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy applications. The homes feature insulated concrete form (ICFs) walls, spray foam insulated rafters and triple pane windows. To ensure a healthy environment, the homes contain a heat recovery ventilator (HRV) that provides constant fresh air and low or no volatile organic compound (VOC) materials. Finally, the homes incorporate both solar photovoltaic panels to generate energy and geothermal systems to generate heating and cooling.

The homes at Green Acres took full advantage of NYSERDA's [Solar Electric Incentive Program](#). Residential system incentives are capped at 7kW per site/meter. Since these homes are ENERGY STAR(R) Rated and LEED Certified, future homes built at Green Acres will also be able to take advantage of NYSERDA's new [Green Residential Building Program](#).

Anthony Aebi of Greenhill Contracting Inc. believes that this type of building makes sense on all fronts. In addition to saving energy, the homes at Green Acres are built to last longer than a conventional home and are less susceptible to damage. Features like open space floor plans, well day lit spaces, and climate controlled rooms promote healthy living and increase a resident's quality of life.

The four-bedroom homes range from 2,440 to 3,400 square feet. Monthly mortgage payments average 10 - 20% higher than conventional, similar-size homes. That increase is almost, if not completely offset by the energy cost savings a homeowner will experience. By eliminating the need to purchase fuel, a homeowner can save approximately \$6,000 per year, which may increase due to rising energy costs.

"The energy saving features are cost neutral because the higher mortgage is offset by lower energy bills," architect Dave Toder said. In fact, many of the residents in Green Acres feel that they are spending less money per year than if they bought a conventional house.

Buyers also benefit from the federal tax credits for solar and geothermal systems. The 30% federal tax credit can allow the buyer to place a larger down payment on their home.

Aebi and Toder find that these homes are very repeatable and commented, "We would like to encourage this type of building and show that it's doable, affordable and the investment pays back surprisingly rapidly."

The development team includes developer / builder Anthony Aebi of Greenhill Contracting, Inc., architect Dave Toder of BOLDER Architecture, solar consultant John Wright of Hudson Valley Clean Energy, HVAC consultant Lloyd Hamilton of Verdae LLC and realtor Wendie Reid of Wendie Reid Realty. For more information regarding these homes, please visit: [Green Acres New Paltz](#).

For more information about energy efficient new construction, please visit NYSERDA's [ENERGY STAR Homes Program](#).

NYSERDA will cover the cost of energy audits worth \$1,500 or less. For eligible projects, NYSERDA will provide up to 75% up to \$250,000 for project costs. AEEP will process applications on a first come first served basis until all funds are fully committed.

For more information please call 1-7800-732-1399 or visit www.nyserda.org/programs/agricultural

Are you aware that New York's Energy Code is changing?

In January 2011, the 2010 Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State will be based on the 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 (the current ECCCNYS is based on the 2004 IECC supplement and ASHRAE 90.1-2004).

NYSERDA will be hosting a series of 1-hour informational webinars to assist NY ENERGY STAR Homes program participants' with the transition. Critical information regarding the implementation schedule and technical details will be provided during these sessions.

Please register for the session by clicking on the links below:

[March 16, 9 am - 10 am](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3

Clarkstown Environmental Summit
Clarkstown High School South
[For More Information](#)

March 4 - 6

Hudson Valley Spring Home Show
Gold's Gym, Poughkeepsie, NY
[For More Information](#)

ENERGY SMART STUDENTS PROGRAM:

March 1 (Part I) & March 2 (Part II)

Spotlight on Warwick: Tackling the 10% Challenge



The Town of Warwick is the second municipality in the Hudson Valley and the first in Orange County to take on the 10% Challenge. Warwick is taking on the challenge to reduce electrical, hot water, heating, and transportation energy and increase renewable energy within its community. Even before the campaign began, the Town had already taken a step in the right direction by installing solar panels on the Senior Center.

The campaign to reduce energy by 10%, was initiated by a volunteer citizen's group known as Sustainable Warwick. This group has been in existence for about 3 years and seeks to educate and engage the community in initiatives that protect the environment and reduce Warwick's carbon footprint. Other projects include a campaign for using reusable bags, creating community gardens, helping the Village of Warwick begin community composting, and more.

To tackle the 10% Challenge, Sustainable Warwick first approached the key institutions in the community. The group received support and commitments from the Town of Warwick, the Villages of Warwick, Florida, and Greenwood Lake, the School Districts of Warwick Valley, Florida Union, and Greenwood Lake, and the Albert Wisner and Florida Libraries. In addition, the Warwick Chamber of Commerce supports the campaign and even donated money for posters to raise awareness around town.

The Warwick Valley School District has taken their commitment seriously and believes that they can reduce energy by more than 10% in 2011. To start off the new year, the school board approved a grant-assisted \$4.8 million energy project that includes energy efficiency upgrades and a wind turbine installation. This turbine is expected to cut costs at the Standfordville Elementary site by \$10,000 - \$12,000 a year.

Community activists continue to support and increase coverage of this campaign to the rest of the community. Bill Makofski on the future of the campaign says, "Community leaders (municipalities, school districts, libraries) have already been working on energy savings and are very supportive of the 10% Challenge. We want to celebrate their efforts and use their involvement to spread the campaign to the general public through our Energy Fair, web page, and news articles and letters to the editor. Our objective is to raise awareness and encourage action."

For more information regarding Sustainable Warwick and the 10% Challenge, please visit <http://www.sustainablewarwick.org/>.



Telling Native American stories at October's Energy Fair.

A Wind Success Story: Buckwheat Bridge Angoras Sheep Farm



Focus on Solar (Grades 5 - 12)
NYS United Teachers Office, Kingston, NY
4 - 7 pm each day
[Online Registration Link](#)

March 9
Sustainable Living (Grades 6 - 12)
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Green County, Acra,
NY
5 - 7:30 pm
[Online Registration Link](#)

March 31 (Part I) & April 7 (Part II)
4E's of Energy (Grades K - 6)
SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY
5:30 - 8:30 pm each day
[Online Registration Link](#)

April 5 (Part I) & April 12 (Part II)
4E's of Energy (Grades K - 6)
Ulster BOCES Adult Career Education Center, Port
Ewen, NY
5 - 8 pm each day
[Online Registration Link](#)

April 8
Energy Trilogy (Grades 7 - 12)
Bennett Elementary School
Boiceville, NY
8 am - 2:30 pm
[Online Registration Link](#)

The Buckwheat Bridge Angoras sheep farm in Columbia County has joined the growing number of agricultural producers that are choosing to invest in clean energy to power their operations. Farmer and urologist Dr. Dan Melamed told us that an on-site wind turbine installed at the farm in September had already generated 3,466 kilowatt hours of electricity by December. The turbine-- which will produce all of the necessary electricity to power the farm's spinning mill and have the capacity to sell excess power back to the grid--cost about \$110K, but Melamed's participation in NYSERDA's on-site wind turbine program cut that cost by more than half. NYSERDA's financial incentives, coupled with an anticipated 30% federal renewable energy tax credit made the project affordable and even lucrative. Dr. Melamed said, "The windmill seems to be working well so far, but wind in this area can vary significantly with the different seasons so I think that will be important to see how it does over the course of a whole year".

Buckwheat Bridge Angoras can now boast that its fine-wool and Mohair products are not only local, but processed using clean energy. NYSERDA funding for similar on-site wind turbines totaling \$16.6 million will be offered over the next five years and allocated based on the estimated annual electrical output of the turbine.

For more information about NYSERDA's wind incentives, visit www.powernaturally.org.

NYSERDA is a public benefit corporation funded in part by a System Benefits Charge. New York Energy \$martSM helps to maintain momentum for the State's efforts to develop competitive markets for energy efficiency; demand management; outreach and education services; low-income services; and to provide direct economic and environmental benefits to New Yorkers. Research and development projects include environmental effects of energy consumption, development of renewable resources, and advancement of innovative technologies.



Mid-Hudson Energy \$martSM Communities is an outreach program of the New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Our aim is to help the public access energy efficiency and renewable energy loans, grants, and technical assistance through New York Energy \$martSM Programs. By making energy improvements to homes, businesses, schools, municipalities, and institutions, we are encouraging energy efficiency and the transition to a sustainable future.

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