



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

November 6, 2014 AGENDA  
2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Gene Benson, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

### **Call to Order**

### **Attendance**

**Comments:** Committee Chair

### **Public Comment**

### **Reports:**

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
3. DPW Update

### **Presentation:**

1. Tailwaters Coalition/Agricultural Land Impacts

### **Discussion:**

1. Farmers Link to Farm to School Program
2. Agricultural Planner/Navigator Position

**Resolutions:** None

### **Adjourn**

## **OSE Activities Report for November 2014**

### **Reporting on October 2014 activities**

#### **I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES**

**NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center – In progress.**

- Legislators voted to advance the project to the next step, a more detailed scope of work.

**Solar PPA – NYSEDA awarded Solar City \$900,000 in incentives to develop the 2MW solar array at the Liberty Health Complex. The SC County Attorney's office is reviewing the paperwork in preparation for a soft deadline of November 17 for execution of the contract.**

#### **II. Energy Improvement Corporation/C-PACE Program**

Stephen Stuart has had extensive conversations with Elyssa Rothe and Mark Thielking of the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) and staff of Orange County Planning department who are implementing C-PACE for Orange County. The Orange County Attorney and Treasurer have both left their positions with the County, and so we were unable to schedule the meeting proposed at the October meeting of the Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee. At this time, our recommendation is to table EIC's invitation to join the program, and to monitor the progress of Orange and Ulster counties as they move towards implementation.

#### **III. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN/CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES**

We have met with town supervisors of Bethel and Lumberland (and the Lumberland Town Board) to start working on Action Plans for each of these municipalities. We will assist these towns in identifying specific goals and actions to reduce energy demand at town facilities, identify opportunities to replace town vehicles with right sized hybrids, reduce solid waste and increase recycling at town facilities, adopt uniform permitting for renewable energy installations and other advisable changes to town code, and identify public health and emergency planning measures associated with the anticipated impacts of climate change in the Catskills

- NYS is offering \$2,500 to towns as an incentive to help with expenses associated with adoption of uniform permitting procedures for solar PV.
- Carol is scheduled to make a presentation on Climate Action Planning for towns to the Sullivan County Association of Town Supervisors on Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

#### **IV. INFORMATIONAL OUTREACH**

Our September 30 informational event on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) was attended by all members of the Bethel Town Board and about 20 residents from various towns. The presenters discussed upcoming regulatory changes planned by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC), which will facilitate the creation of small scale community owned electricity generation from renewable sources. This new model will ease strains on the grid and foster more resilient and cost-efficient delivery of power at reduced costs. We will continue to study these developments. The PSC staff report and proposal, *Reforming the Energy Vision (REV)*, is available from the OSE office or at <http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/26BE8A93967E604785257CC40066B91A?OpenDocument>

Sullivan County Get \$et Energy Symposium October 22<sup>nd</sup> at SUNY Sullivan. Representatives from various NYS agencies and area non-profits gave presentations at this informational event organized by RUPCO and hosted by SUNY Sullivan. Speakers focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy options for residential, commercial and municipal applications. Local solar installers tabled at the event. Carol gave a presentation on the County's progress on CAP and renewable energy efforts, and on climate action planning as a context and framework for the most effective energy efficiency and renewable energy decisions.

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart

10-29-14

**Farmland Protection Plan Update:** We recently hosted the Public and partner meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was an opportunity for people to provide input on the draft plan. The committee will have a presentation for the Ag & Sustainability committee on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, with the intent to submit to the Legislature for adoption at the Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Educational Programming:** CCE coordinated a 2 day Orchard Management Workshop for October that focused on organic orchard management and hard cider production. CCE is also working with the FSA to assist Dairy Farmers to learn about the new Milk Protection Program through the Farm Bill and recently hosted a workshop for Dairy farmers on the program on 10/30. CCE also partnered with CCE Orange & Ulster on offering a Beef Quality Assurance certification class held on 10/25. See the list below for additional 2014 programming.

**In House Assistance:** Assistance included information on:

- Soil & Forage Testing assistance
- Loan and grant information, specifically info on the County Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Visited farms to provide them with info on the MPP and other funding opportunities
- Information on Agriculture Districts & Agriculture Assessments
- Assistance with Dairy Processing Requirements & equipment
- Assistance with general Beginner Farmer information
- Provided assistance with business planning information
- Assistance with identifying diseases/pests
- Assistance with Pesticide Credit information
- USDA Milk Margin Protection Program
- Animal Health
- Assistance on Orchard Management
- Assistance with info on processing facilities
- Information on land use resources

**Upcoming Classes for Remainder of 2014:**

November 13<sup>th</sup> Winter Greens/Tomatoes for High Tunnels, 1-4pm

November 14<sup>th</sup> Farmer Health Insurance Seminar, 1-3pm

November 22<sup>nd</sup> Maple Syrup School, 9am-3pm

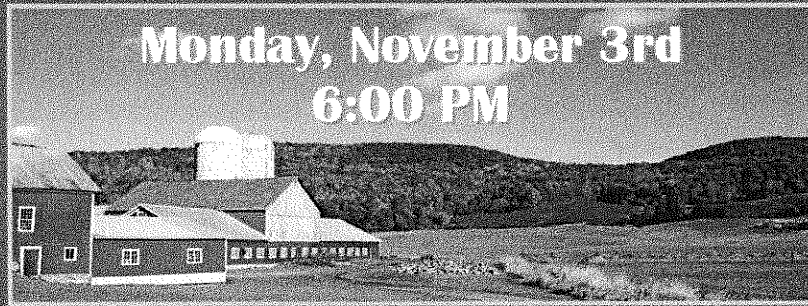
December 4<sup>th</sup> Dairy Lunch and Learn, 11am-1pm

December 8<sup>th</sup> Farm Funding Opportunities, 1-3pm



Please join us!  
**Public Workshop**  
**Sullivan County Farmland Protection Plan**

Cornell Cooperative Extension SC - 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY



Consultants from Community Planning & Environmental Associates will present draft recommendations and seek your comments & suggestions.

Contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management at 845-807-0527 or [planning@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.sullivan.ny.us) for more information.

Visit [www.planningbetterplaces.com](http://www.planningbetterplaces.com) to review the plan

The Farmland Protection Plan is made possible through a grant from NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County Invites You to:

## Greenhouse & High Tunnel Class



**Thursday, November 13**

**\$20 / person**

**Gerald J. Skoda Extension**

**Education Center**

**Liberty, NY**

*Learn season extension techniques from professionals!*

**Nov 13 | Growing Winter Greens & Tomatoes | 1:00 – 4 pm**

Learn from Cornell Extension Vegetable Specialist Judson Reid on how to manage growing and understanding the economics of tomatoes and winter greens in various season extension