

## VILLAGE OF HAMBURG ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, February 8, 2017; 7:00 PM

Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

**Present:** Commission Members:, Tom Collins, Edwin Drabek, Andy Schrauth

**Guest:** Teresa Bosch de Celis & Matthew Wattles, UB Regional Institute  
Peyton Hillis, Cecilia Izydorczak, Hunter Philisinger, Matt Pfister & Thomas Flannery,  
Orchard Park High School Students

**Excused:** Chair - Adrienne Punturiero, Village Board Liaison - Mark DiPasquale, Mark Mol

**Absent:** Tim McDonald, Stuart Wheaton

### Clean Energy Community Program / UB Regional Institute

- Discussed requirements of program
- Village has population <40K making it a 'small community'; grants available to first 14 small communities completing 4 of 10 High Impact Actions; **first 4** receive \$100K grants; **next 10** receive \$50K grants
- UB Regional Institute will help Village in completing program items
- Following are descriptions of the 10 High Impact Actions with comments (UB Regional Institute suggested those four with an asterisk may be the easiest/quickest to complete)

### **\*Benchmarking**

- Relatively easy and quick to complete, but requires annual efforts/man-hours
- Need to pass a resolution (not a law) adopting a benchmarking policy for municipal buildings to measure and share data on building energy use over time (annual reporting)
- Once resolution passed, may submit completion of High Impact Item; benchmarking done after
- Building must be 1,000 sq.ft. or larger; buildings may be exempted from the benchmarking requirement if determined that it has characteristics that make benchmarking impractical; at a minimum, publicly disclosed energy use information shall include each building's energy use intensity (EUI), annual greenhouse gas emissions, and an energy performance score where available.
- UB Regional Institute will aid us by taking our data and setting up matrices (~50 hours of free technical assistance)
- Village must annually post the benchmarking data on their web site

### **\*Clean Energy Upgrades**

- May be easy to complete
- Associated w/ benchmarking; need a min. of 10% reduction in municipal bldg. energy use against baseline
- May include any upgrades after January 2014
- Upgrades may be in progress - may enter estimated savings
- Up to half of the required reduction in greenhouse gas emissions may be achieved with renewable energy sources
- Must submit an EPA Portfolio Manager benchmarking report for each municipal building and documentation that demonstrates a minimum 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions against the baseline

### ***Clean Fleets***

- May or may not be easy to complete
- Requires to have one municipally owned alternative fuel vehicle or charging/fueling station
- Clean vehicles may be plug-in electric, CNG or hydrogen fuel cell
- Clean charging/fueling station may be electric vehicle charging station or compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station
- Must submit documentation of above

### ***Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification***

- More difficult and long-term process; takes time to complete
- Must become a min. of a 'Certified' Community requiring a min. of 120 points
- Points are obtained by completing actions
- First must adopt the CSC Pledge and submit a certified copy of the adopting resolution to the Department of Environmental Conservation (will automatically become a Registered Climate Smart Community). Can then implement actions at your own pace. There is no time limit between adoption of the pledge and commencement of the remainder of the certification process.
- Must complete, at a min., the following 13 priority actions before earn credit for this High Impact Action
  - 1.1 Pass a resolution adopting the CSC Pledge
  - 1.2 Create a community task force focused on climate mitigation and adaptation
  - 1.3 Appoint a Climate Smart Community coordinator
  - 1.4 Create an internal green team focused on climate mitigation and adaptation
  - 2.1 Develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory
  - 2.2 Develop a community GHG emissions inventory
  - 2.3 Establish a government operations emissions reduction target
  - 2.4 Establish a community emissions reduction target
  - 2.5 Develop a government operations climate action plan
  - 2.6 Develop a community climate action plan
  - 3.1 Conduct energy audits of local government buildings
  - 7.1 Conduct a vulnerability assessment
  - 7.3 Review existing community plans and projects to identify climate adaptation strategies as well as policies or projects that may increase vulnerability

### ***Community Choice Aggregation***

- May take time and be difficult
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a municipal energy procurement model that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity for virtually all homes and small businesses within your jurisdiction. The utility remains responsible for energy delivery and billing.
- To earn credit for this action, must
  - submit a copy of the adopted legislation authorizing the municipality's participation in an opt-out CCA program
  - Submit a copy of an executed electric service agreement between the applying jurisdiction and an Energy Services Company (ESCO) to supply electricity to participating customers on an opt-out basis that is a 100% renewable clean energy product mix, to be produced in North America and certified by Green-e.
- UB Regional Institute can help by getting in -touch with energy brokers
- This makes more sense to do if several municipalities act together in a group
- Don't think a CCA program that only aggregates gas supply will qualify

### ***Energize NY Finance***

- May be difficult to complete
- Energize NY Finance, also known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing, is a program adopted by an eligible local government that allows property owners to pay back the cost of clean energy upgrades to commercial or non-profit property through a special charge on their property tax bill.
- Energize NY Finance enables eligible buildings to secure funds to tackle significant energy upgrades and renewable energy projects
- This financing structure is available through the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC). EIC is a development corporation and a New York State nonprofit established specifically to assist municipalities and property owners achieve long-term energy savings and/or generate renewable power for use on site
- Submit documentation of the following to complete action
  - Submit a copy of the adopted legislation authorizing the municipality to establish a Energize NY Finance Program
  - Submit a copy of an executed Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) Municipal Agreement
  - Submit a copy of a letter confirming EIC membership
- Eligible building types must be commercially-owned (including non-profits)
- Erie County is considering completing this action

### ***\*Energy Code Enforcement Training***

- Relatively easy and quick to complete; Village should consider doing this one; Village would have to coordinate with Town given current sharing of code enforcement official
- Must enroll in the Clean Energy Communities Energy Code Enforcement Training Module
- Action Item entails in-office meeting between NYSERDA Training Provider, the local code enforcement officer and at least two other municipal officials to discuss the following:
  - Current energy code enforcement processes and practices employed by the municipality
  - Complete collaborative plan review of two different new construction projects in the municipality (could be Village or Town)
  - complete collaborative field inspection of two different new construction projects in the municipality for all required inspections detailed in C/R104 of the energy code (could be Village or Town)

### ***LED Street Lights***

- This may be a possibility for the Village to complete
- UB Regional Institute can do analysis to determine how to best complete this item (look at amortization of current 'mortgage' on street lights to determine best way to proceed with Action Item)
- Must convert at least 50% of all municipal and utility-owned cobra-head-style street lights to LED within the Village
- Documentation should include the number of street lights converted, including the proportion of converted cobra-head street lights to total cobra-head street lights
- A minimum of 10 fixtures must be converted to LED to qualify
- Cobra-head-style street lights may be utility owned or municipality owned

### ***Solarize***

- This may be difficult to complete
- If Erie County completes this action, Village may 'piggyback' on their efforts and qualify for completing this Action Item
- Solarize is a short term (approximately 6 -9 months, including planning and outreach), local effort that brings together groups of potential solar customers through widespread outreach and education connecting them with a solar installation company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing
- After a thorough pre-qualification process, a designated solar installer(s) will be named for the campaign
- Residents and businesses who sign up for solar installations by a specific deadline will be able to take advantage of group rates below market prices. The more customers who sign up, the lower the price will be for everyone.
- Must submit a list of at least ten (10) solar customers that resulted from the solarize campaign within your jurisdiction to satisfy Action Item

### ***\*Unified Solar Permit***

- Relatively easy and quick to complete; should do this regardless of decision on becoming a Clean Energy Community
- Must approve legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit (a standardized permit application designed to streamline the approval process for installing solar in the community)
- This will allow installers and municipalities alike to save time and resources permitting solar electric systems
- Once completed, Village is eligible to receive a \$2,500 grant (separate from any Clean Energy Community grant)

*Next regularly scheduled meeting - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Schrauth