

# Westchester Power

## Village of Tarrytown Board of Trustees Meeting



Tarrytown, NY

8/15/22

Presented by:

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Claire Kokoska Manager, Solar Programs



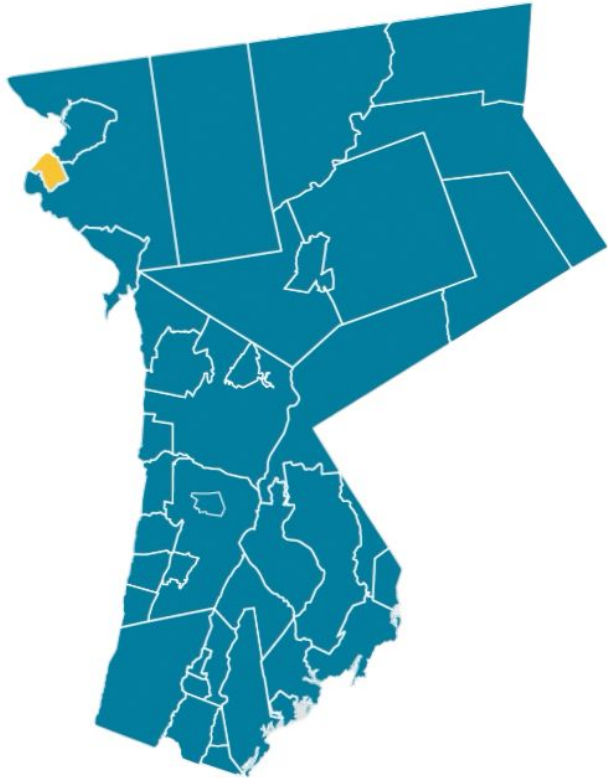
**SUSTAINABLE  
WESTCHESTER**



SUSTAINABLE  
WESTCHESTER



# SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER



- **We are a consortium of member municipalities:**  
44 cities, towns and villages + Westchester County and including Tarrytown.
- **We offer sustainable, environmentally & fiscally sound solutions to build resilient communities.**
- **Many of our programs focus on achieving a “clean energy” environment.**



# SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER PROGRAMS

## COMMUNITY ENERGY

WESTCHESTER POWER



COMMUNITY SOLAR

## BUILDING ENERGY

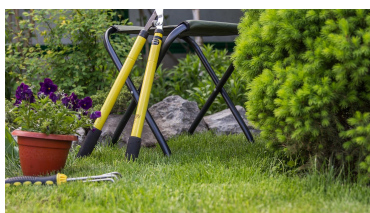
CLEAN HEATING & COOLING  
EnergySmart HOMES & COMMERCIAL



GRID REWARDS™

## ELECTRIFICATION SOLUTIONS

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION



SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING  
LAND CARE AND ELECTRIC TRANSITION

## ZERO WASTE

RECYCLE RIGHT APP



# NYS CLIMATE LAW: LEADS THE NATION

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

**70%**

Renewable energy by 2030 (now under 30%)

**40%**

Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction by 2030 (85% by 2050)

**35%**

Benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency programs  
delivered to Disadvantaged Communities



**NYSERDA**

# This presentation answers these questions:

## COMMUNITY ENERGY

WESTCHESTER POWER



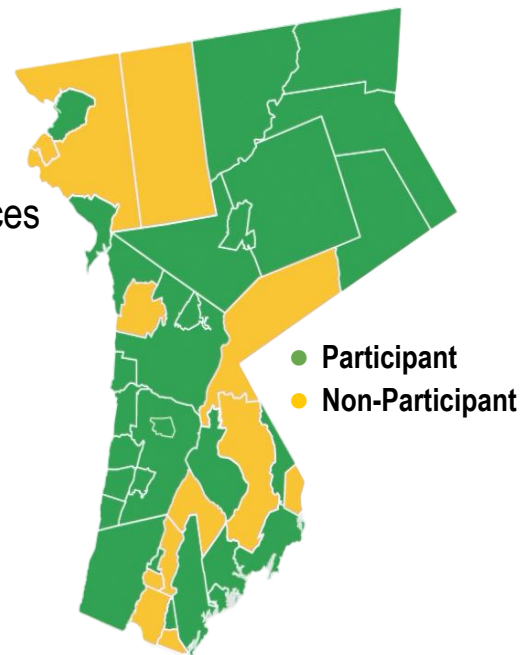
1. What is the **Westchester Power** community energy program?
2. **What is the Westchester Power Solar Credit offering?**
  - 2.1. What is the timeline for launching Solar Credit offering?
  - 2.2. Why are households in utility assistance program a priority for Solar Credits?
  - 2.3. How do we prioritize utility assistance program households?
  - 2.4. How does the Solar Credit offering work?
  - 2.5. How are the Solar Credits applied to a bill?
  - 2.6. What are other benefits for solar credits?
  - 2.7. What are our support services for Solar Credit offering?
  - 2.8. What are the next steps for Tarrytown to participate?
    - **Adopt updated local CCA enabling law**

# 1. What is Westchester Power?

- Community energy program administered by Sustainable Westchester for **29 Participating Municipalities** (a.k.a. “Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)”)
- **Regulated** by NYS Public Service Commission (PSC)
- **Municipally reviewed and approved** as a safe avenue for clean energy choices
- Program uses **opt-out model** for all its offerings
- **Two offerings** from Westchester Power:
  - **Electricity Supply** launched in 2016 (fixed rate electricity supply) from renewable energy or standard grid mix. **145,000** households and small businesses participate in **29** municipalities.

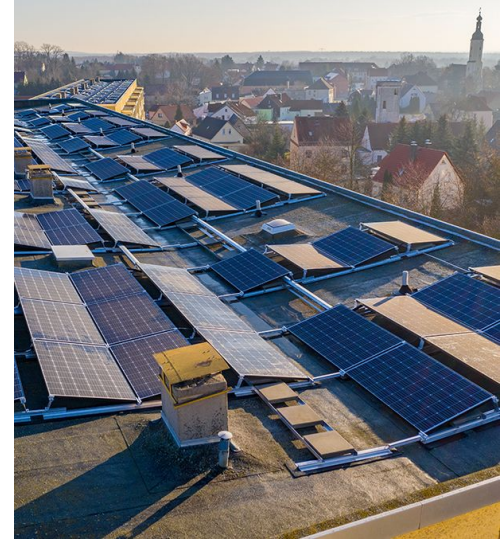
**NOTE: Electricity Supply offering is not available for households enrolled in the utility’s assistance programs** because fixed rate cannot guarantee saving.

- **Solar Credit** launching Q4 2022 (enhanced community solar)



# Westchester Power's Solar Credit offering

- Our enhanced **community solar** (shared renewables) offering provides **solar credits (monetary savings)** in electricity bills to eligible participants on an **opt-out basis**.
- **Low- to moderate-income households** are our **top priority** to receive solar credit savings and increase climate justice.
- Because **solar credits do guarantee savings**, **all households enrolled in utility's energy assistance programs** are eligible to receive solar credits.
- The Solar Credit offering will be made available to **all Westchester County municipalities**.





## 2.1. Timeline for launching Solar Credit offering



- **August 2021:** Sustainable Westchester **submits Solar Credit plan** to NYS PSC.
- **September 2022:** **NYS PSC approves** our Solar Credit plan.
- **July 2022 - December 2022:** **Municipalities adopt the local Enabling Law.**
- **September 2022 - ongoing:** We **begin the required 60 day education and outreach** in municipalities that adopt the Enabling Law and choose to participate.
- **December 2022 - ongoing:** We **obtain NYS approval for each municipality** that undergo 60 days of outreach.
- **March - May 2023:** Households enrolled in the utility assistance program in first participating municipalities **start to see the savings.**
- **2023 - 2024:** We **continue enrolling households enrolled in utility assistance program** as we contract more solar projects.
- **2024 - beyond:** After we serve all the assistance program households, we **expand to households, businesses, organizations** in Disadvantaged Communities...and eventually to all other residents.

# Why are households in utility assistance program a priority for the Solar Credit offering?

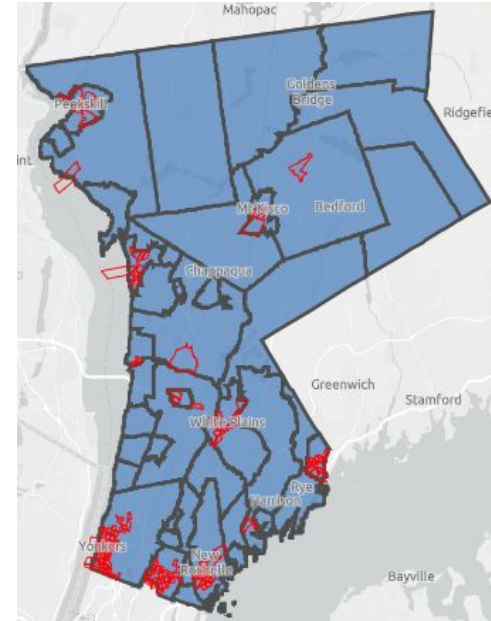
- Households enrolled in the utility assistance programs face the highest **burden** of energy costs with greatest need for any savings from solar credits.
- Utility assistance program participants may be **recipients of**:
  - Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
  - Safety Net Assistance (SNA)
  - Medicaid and other similar programs...

Note: Enrollees in utility' energy assistance programs are referred to as **Assistance Program Participants (APP)** by the PSC.



# How do we prioritize utility assistance program households?

- **30,000+ households in utility assistance programs in Westchester County** and approximately **204 in Tarrytown**, according to US Census American Community Survey data.
- Households in **census tracts designated as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)** are being prioritized.
  - DAC criteria is developed by the Climate Justice Working Group and takes into account Environmental Burdens and Population Vulnerabilities.
- After that, we will prioritize households in **non-DAC designated census tracts with the lowest Area Median Household Income**.
- Households in utility's assistance programs in municipalities that **adopt the enabling law sooner will be prioritized** over those municipalities that adopt it later on.
- We will **enroll households in utility's assistance programs across all municipalities participating in the Solar Credit offering** before moving to the next customer group, households in DACs **not** in the utility's assistance programs.



- **Designated Disadvantaged Communities**

## 2.3. (cont'd) Details: Sample Order of Census Tracts

Order	Census Tract GEOID	Municipality	Climate Justice Working Group Draft Criteria Data for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)				Median Household Income (past 12 months)	Est. households in utility's assistance programs
			DAC Designated	Statewide Combined Percentile Rank	Burden Score Percentile	Vulnerability Score Percentile		
1	36119014100	City of Peekskill	Yes	<b>0.9881</b>	0.9841	0.8449	\$49,614	473
2	36119000401	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9839</b>	0.9502	0.8370	\$54,683	351
3	36119014200	City of Peekskill	Yes	<b>0.9816</b>	0.9462	0.8550	\$54,668	262
4	36119000402	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9772</b>	0.8604	0.8761	\$50,485	403
5	36119001600	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9764</b>	0.9673	0.8728	\$60,875	133
6	36119001000	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9755</b>	0.8379	0.9847	\$20,850	377
7	36119000202	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9695</b>	0.7980	0.7807	\$64,307	222
8	36119000300	City of Yonkers	Yes	<b>0.9692</b>	0.6900	0.9713	\$30,677	674
9	36119003500	City of Mount Vernon	Yes	<b>0.9678</b>	0.9074	0.9613	\$34,489	226
10	36119013301	Village of Ossining	Yes	<b>0.9651</b>	0.8321	0.7853	\$64,242	213

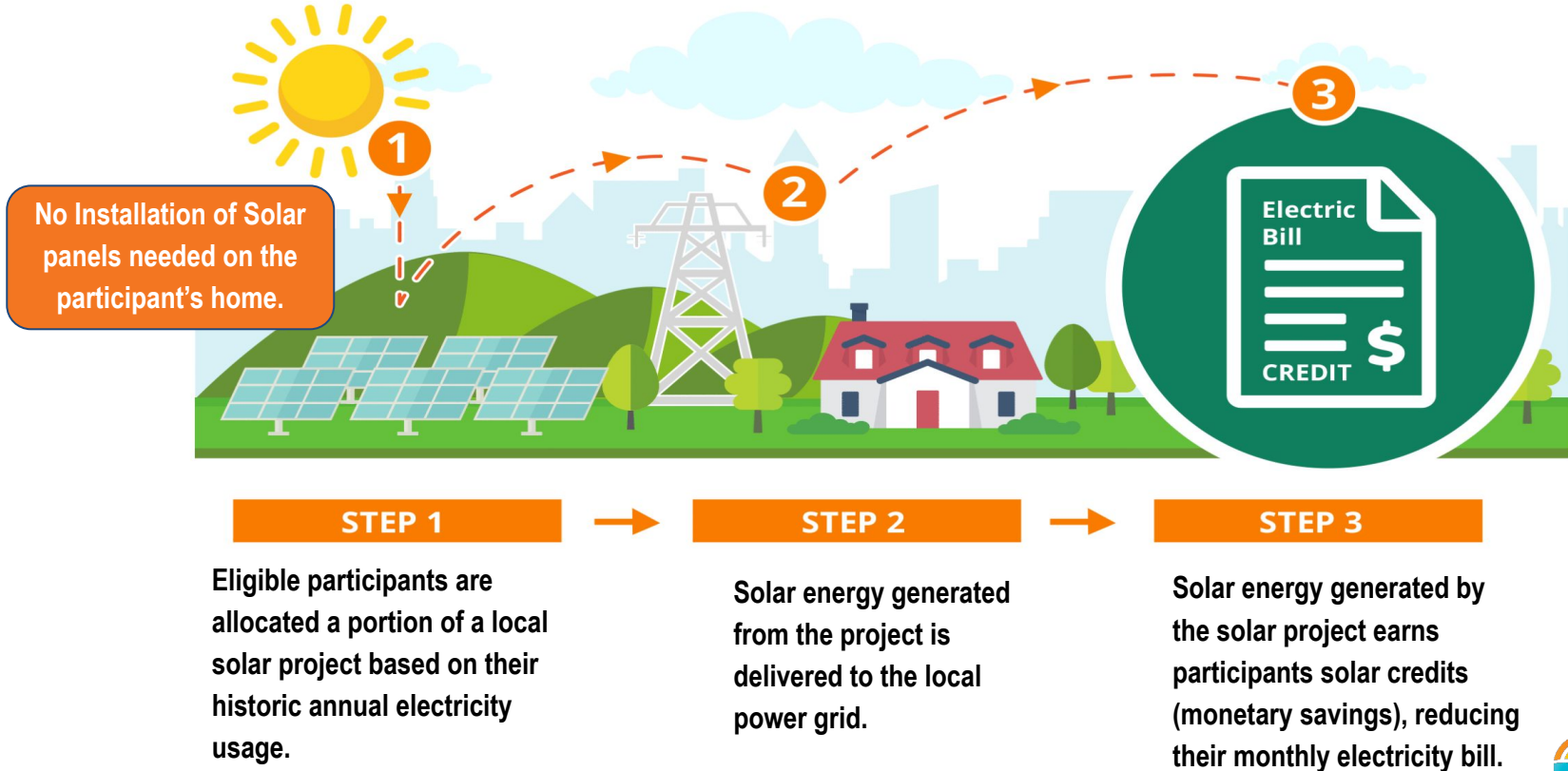
**NOTE: Households in utility's assistance programs in municipalities that adopt the enabling law sooner will be prioritized over those municipalities that are adopt it later on.**

Source: Census.gov (American Community Survey)



# How does the Solar Credit offering work?

The Solar Credit offering uses NYS's community solar model:



# (cont'd) How does the Solar Credit offering work?

## Notification and Enrollment Process:

1. **Sustainable Westchester performs targeted outreach** in each participating municipality through meetings, webinars, etc.
2. **Notification letters are sent to each eligible households** as local solar project capacity becomes available.
3. Eligible community members have **30 days to opt out before being automatically enrolled** as subscribers to the Solar Credit offering.
4. Households that **choose not to opt out of the offering are matched to a local solar project** for enrollment using NYS community solar model.



# (cont'd) How does the Solar Credit offering work?

The Solar Credit offering uses an opt-out model:

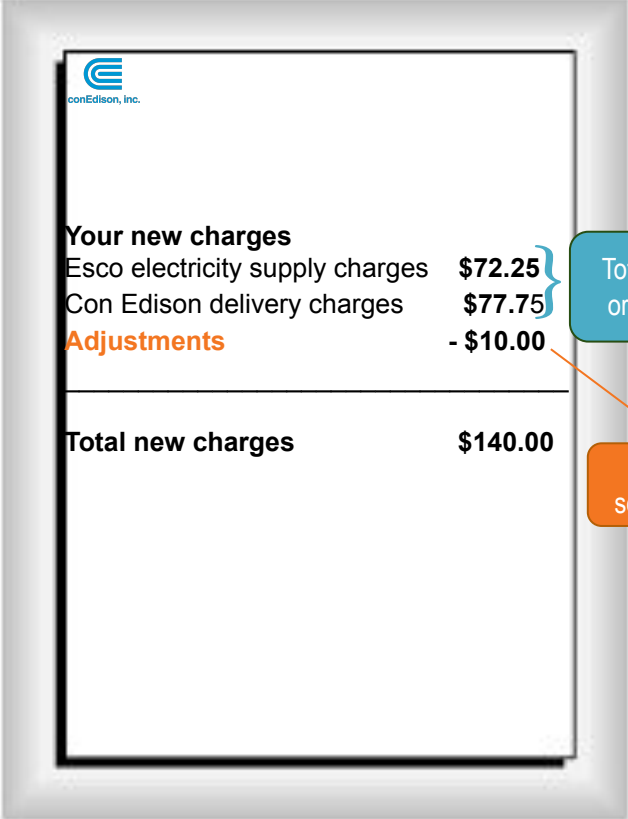
- Although NYS's community solar model has been around **for over 5 years**, the participation of low-to-moderate income households on an sign-up basis has been very low to date, despite **significant** efforts to reach them.
- To **reach and direct benefits to low-to-moderate income households on a large scale**, Sustainable Westchester is using **the Westchester Power program and its opt-out model**.




# How are Solar Credit savings applied to a bill?

For example in this ConEd bill the participant's **electricity charge is \$150** this month:

1. The participant earned a **\$100 solar credit**
2. A **\$90 solar credit subscription fee** is applied
3. After the subscription fee reduces the solar credit, the participant **retains \$10 (10% of the solar credit savings)**. This will be titled **"Adjustments"** on the participant's bill.
4. The participant **pays \$140 in total**, a \$10 savings on the overall electric bill this month!



The image shows a stylized representation of a ConEd bill. The bill itself is a white rectangle with a black border, set against a light gray background. At the top left of the bill is the ConEdison, Inc. logo. The bill lists 'Your new charges' with two items: 'Esco electricity supply charges' for \$72.25 and 'Con Edison delivery charges' for \$77.75. These two items are grouped by a large right-facing curly bracket. Below these is a line for 'Adjustments' in orange text, with a value of '- \$10.00'. A horizontal line separates this from the 'Total new charges' of '\$140.00'. To the right of the bill, there are two callout boxes. The top one is a light blue rounded rectangle with a white border, containing the text 'Total electricity charge originally due is \$150'. An orange arrow points from this box to the 'Adjustments' line on the bill. The bottom callout is an orange rounded rectangle with a white border, containing the text 'This is your 10% solar credit savings.' An orange arrow points from this box to the '- \$10.00' value in the 'Adjustments' line.

 conEdison, Inc.	
<b>Your new charges</b>	
Esco electricity supply charges	\$72.25
Con Edison delivery charges	\$77.75
<b>Adjustments</b>	<b>- \$10.00</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Total new charges</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

Total electricity charge originally due is \$150

This is your 10% solar credit savings.



# What are the benefits for solar credits?

## Benefits for Households:

- **Save on each electricity bill!**
  - Average assistance program household saves \$110/year (\$9/month).
  - 30,000+ households in utility's assistance programs have potential \$62 million in savings over 20 years.
- **How customers pay their bills will remain the same.** Solar credit savings will be printed on each bill.
- **Remain enrolled in utility assistance programs!** When eligible participants receive **solar credits**, this has **no impact** on their current assistance program benefits



# (cont'd) What are other benefits for solar credits?

## Benefits for Households:

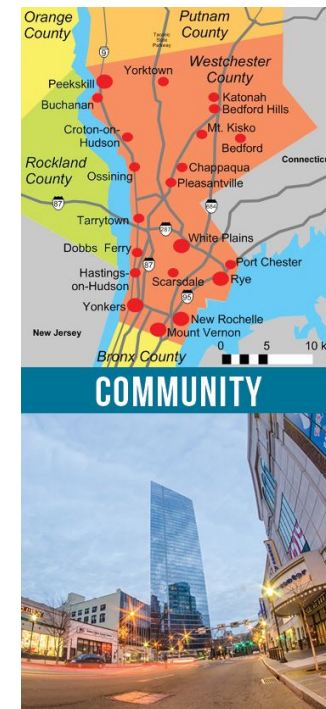
- **Keep preferred electricity supplier**
  - If you have ConEd now, you can keep ConEd with no impact on or effect from your solar credits.
- **Use your power to choose.**
  - Eligible participants may choose to participate by doing nothing or to opt out by calling, emailing, or mailing us at any time at no cost.
- **Cancel anytime without penalty.**
- **Support a local solar farm**
  - Solar credits must come from solar farms in ConEd territory.
  - Each project decreases fossil fuel use, improves air quality, and provides local jobs for installation and operation.



# (cont'd) What are other benefits for solar credits?

## Benefits for Communities:

- Promotes climate justice
- Strengthens local economies with retained savings
- Stimulates and accelerates local renewable energy development at scale, along with environmental benefits & green jobs
- Advances several Reforming the Energy Vision and Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals



# Our Support Services for Solar Credit offering

- **Community outreach** – virtual and in-person (as available) community information sessions
- **Collateral material** (to include newsletter content, social media, flyers, etc.)
- **Notification letter** sent directly to eligible residents and small businesses to include program offerings, opt-out option and resources links
- **Customer service** – Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm (phone calls and emails)
- **Support for spanish-speaking residents** by offering materials and customer service in Spanish





# Next steps for Tarrytown



1. **Municipalities** that wish to make the Solar Credit offering available to their eligible residents must:

- **Adopt Updated Enabling Law:** The PSC requires that participating municipalities adopt specific language adopting the Solar Credit offering.
- **Sign the Administration Agreement:** To enable the Solar Credit offering for your constituents, your municipality must execute the Administration Agreement.

2. After the enabling law is adopted, **Sustainable Westchester starts targeted community outreach**

- For NYS approval of municipal participation we must submit:
  - a copy of municipality's up-to-date local enabling law,
  - evidence of at least 2 months of outreach and education after adoption of the enabling law, and
  - a sample notification letter.

# (cont'd) Enabling Law Updates

- The annotation images that follow use a typical form of the local law adopted by the City of New Rochelle in 2015 as the base for the redline of changes
- The major impetus behind these updates is recent decisions by the PSC that have clarified CCA's procedures and inclusion of new product offerings such as opt-out Community Distributed Generation under CCA
- Sustainable Westchester has worked on definitions of both existing terms and new terms and concepts to help our municipalities participate in opt-out CDG
- This work has been reviewed by the Department of Public Services and Pace Energy & Climate Center

[City of New Rochelle, NY](#) / [The Code](#) / [Part II, General Legislation](#)

## Chapter 131 **Community Choice Aggregation Energy Program**

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Council of the City of New Rochelle 9-16-2015 by Ord. No. 176-2015. Amendments noted where applicable.]

**LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_\_\_**

### **A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND ITS COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM IN THE City of New Rochelle**

Be it enacted by the City Council of City of New Rochelle as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 131 of the Code of the City of New Rochelle titled "COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM," is hereby amended to read as follows:

# What else can municipalities do to help our Solar Credit offering?

- **Involve Sustainable Westchester** in all solar and energy storage projects for which your municipality is a stakeholder
  - Some of these projects may be able to brought into the Solar Credit offering





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THANK YOU!

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