



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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East Hampton Town First in NY State to Set 100% Renewable Energy Goals

Town Board Votes Unanimously to Meet 100% of Community's Electricity Needs with Renewable Energy Sources by 2020

[May 20, 2014 - East Hampton, NY] The Town Board of the Town of East Hampton, New York, today voted unanimously to establish a goal to meet 100% of the town's community-wide electricity needs with renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy by the year 2020.

“Energy efficiency improvements and solar rooftop systems can save homeowners several of thousand dollars a year while building local solar farms can generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in lease revenue for the town,” said Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell. “Making the switch to clean energy is just the right thing to do, both for the environment and for keeping more money in the local economy and creating jobs here.”

In response to several LIPA/PSEG-Long Island Requests for Proposals, the town has already selected a number of proposals from solar developers for large scale solar farms on town owned land. Looking further ahead the Town Board also set a goal of meeting the equivalent of 100% of community wide energy consumption in all sectors (electricity, heating, and transportation) with renewable energy sources by the year 2030.

“Our everyday lives are impacted by the effects of global warming. We owe it to the children of East Hampton to do something about climate change and air pollution caused by fossil fuels”, said Town Councilwoman Sylvia Overby who is the liaison on the Energy Sustainability Committee. “Meeting our future energy needs with clean, renewable energy sources will require a strong commitment from town government and all East Hampton residents. It is time and we are ready to face that challenge.”

The move comes as the area has seen an increase in summer peak demand for electricity and PSEG Long Island began installing unsightly transmission lines which have become a point of public contention and legal action. The 100% goal was prompted by a unanimous recommendation from the Town's Energy Sustainability Committee and builds on a Comprehensive Energy Vision document, adopted by the Town last October, which called for establishing specific energy efficiency and renewable energy goals and timelines.

"Establishing goals for renewable energy is the lowest hanging fruit in sustainable energy practices since the technologies have advanced sufficiently to be efficient and cost effective," said Frank Dalene, President of Telemark Inc., Peconic Institute executive board member and chairman of the Town's Energy Sustainability Committee. "East Hampton will once more become a national leader environmentally, this time on a new frontier, in the sustainability and resilience front."

While this makes East Hampton the first municipal government in the State of New York, and possibly the East Coast, the effort is in line with a NY State Executive Order (#24-2009) which calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors 80% by the year 2050 in order to mitigate climate change.

"Setting these bold renewable energy goals for the eastern tip of Long Island positions East Hampton as a visionary leader in the fight against climate change and an example of how we can all become part of the solution," said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of the not-for-profit organization Renewable Energy Long Island and a member of the Town Energy Sustainability Committee. "This puts East Hampton on the map of 100% renewable energy communities worldwide which are committed to switching to carbon-free energy sources."

A 2012 study commissioned by Renewable Energy Long Island, the Long Island Clean Electricity Vision, found that Long Island could generate 100% of its electricity from renewable and carbon-free sources.

East Hampton's 100% clean electricity goal would be met when renewable energy sources in the town generate the same amount of electricity as is consumed annually.

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