

# NYSERDA Funnels Millions into Renewable Energy in Westchester

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) recently awarded \$30 million to help fund large-scale solar power and biogas projects, most of which is earmarked for deployment in the New York metropolitan area. The program is aimed at large electricity consumers, such as department stores, discount stores, apartment complexes and government and industrial facilities and will enable customers to generate clean energy on site, for their own use.

NYSERDA will award up to \$30 million each year for the next five years, \$25 million of which is targeted for renewable energy projects in New York City or Westchester County annually. The NYSERDA incentive, paying up to 50 percent of the cost of a project up to a maximum of \$3 million, will propel renewable energy installations that otherwise may not be financially viable.

One Valhalla-based company receiving funding is ConEdison Solutions Inc., which plans to leverage its \$3 million award for large solar photovoltaic arrays. "The NYSERDA funds are going to enable us to do our first solar installations in Westchester County. We were able to approach some of our existing local customers and present the opportunity to invest in solar, which wouldn't have been possible without the NYSERDA award," said Michael Perna, vice president of marketing and business development for ConEdison Solutions.

The company plans to target multiple commercial real estate sites, as well as industrial and governmental facilities. Perna estimates that ConEdison Solutions will install 500 kilowatts to 1 megawatt of rooftop solar in Westchester as a result of this initiative. When displacing fossil-fuel-generated electricity, a megawatt of solar can prevent approximately a million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere and have the equivalent environmental

benefit of getting 100 cars off the road, according to NYSERDA.

"The customers may save money on their electric costs, but I think the real value comes from compliance with corporate responsibility commitments and sustainability objectives," explained Perna. "Also, predictability is an advantage. Customers like to know that they won't have to deal with the price fluctuation involved with purchasing grid power."

ConEdison Solutions, an energy services company and subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc., is well known for providing residential customers

with the option to support wind and hydroelectric power with their electricity purchasing dollars. The company also makes energy efficiency and renewable energy projects available to customers through performance contracts and power purchase agreements, which eliminate the need for cap-

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ital outlay.

Other first-round winners of this competitive NYSERDA solicitation included Alteris Renewables Inc., altPOWER, Bright Power, Earthkind Energy Inc., Martifer Solar USA, OnForce Solar Inc., Ross Solar Group L.L.C., SolarCity, SolarEnergy Systems L.L.C., Solartech Renewables, SunEdison, and SUNation Solar Inc., SunRay Power and MS Harrison L.L.C.

The bidders had to identify at least 25 percent of their intended projects in order to be eligible for the award and proposals had to be cost effective in order to be competitive. The structure of the program is meant to take advantage of the economies of scale presented by large installations.

*For more information regarding NYSERDA programs and upcoming funding opportunities, visit [www.nyserderda.ny.gov](http://www.nyserderda.ny.gov) or contact your local Energy Smart Communities coordinator at [Elizabeth.Silleck@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Silleck@gmail.com).*