



## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

City Hall, 258 Main Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820-2589

Phone: 607.432.6450  
Fax: 607.433.3420  
Internet Address:  
[www.oneonta.ny.us/cityclerk](http://www.oneonta.ny.us/cityclerk)  
E-Mail Address:  
[cityinfo@oneonta.ny.us](mailto:cityinfo@oneonta.ny.us)

### PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: City Clerk's Office  
Phone: (607) 432-6450

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### **City of Oneonta Earns Clean Energy Community Designation for its Commitment to Cut Costs and Reduce Energy Consumption**

The City of Oneonta today announced it has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), recognizing its leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy locally.

Announced by Governor Cuomo in August 2016, the \$16 million Clean Energy Communities initiative supports local government leaders across the state by providing grants to eligible municipalities to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in their communities. Clean Energy Communities advances the Governor's Reforming the Energy (REV) strategy by demonstrating the importance of communities in helping New York reach its Clean Energy Standard mandate of having half of the state's electricity coming from renewable energy resources by 2030.

The City of Oneonta received the designation for completing four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. In addition, the designation gives the City of Oneonta an opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 toward additional clean energy projects, with no local cost share.

Oneonta Mayor Gary Herzig stated that Council Member Melissa Nicosia is to be thanked for leading the city on this important initiative and that "The City of Oneonta is committed to environmental sustainability including energy efficiency, alternative transportation, and supporting the development of renewable energy sources."

"Congratulations to the City of Oneonta for its Clean Energy Community designation and for helping to build a cleaner and more sustainable New York," said Alicia Barton, President and CEO, NYSERDA. "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, local communities are joining the state to lower harmful emissions, achieve our ambitious energy efficiency goals, and combat climate change."

To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, the City of Oneonta completed the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- **Adopted a benchmarking policy** to track and report the energy use of the City’s municipal buildings.
- **Streamlined the local approval processes** for solar projects through adoption of the New York State Unified Solar Permit.
- **Completed energy code enforcement training** on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other municipal officers.
- **Installed an electric vehicle charging station** at the Dietz Street Parking Lot.

Cities, counties, towns and villages that complete at least four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions are designated Clean Energy Communities and are eligible to apply for funding of up to \$250,000 with no local cost share and the option of receiving up to 25 percent paid in advance to support additional clean energy projects. At least two of the four actions must have been completed after August 1, 2016. NYSERDA is accepting applications for funding on a rolling basis through September 30, 2019 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Funds are being provided through the Clean Energy Fund and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Additional clean energy action items communities can take to achieve designation include:

- **Participating in a Solarize campaign** to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.
- **Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades** to municipal buildings to achieve 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Implementing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** so residents can gain greater choice and control over energy use as a group.
- **Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification** through the Department of Environmental Conservation for developing a comprehensive program to reduce its carbon footprint and improve the environment.
- **Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program** that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.
- **Converting** streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.

Once all funding is exhausted for large or small/medium categories in a region, local governments designated a Clean Energy Community are eligible to apply for a \$5,000 grant, on a first-come, first-serve basis until such funds are exhausted.

Clean Energy Community Coordinators are also available at no charge to help communities to develop and prioritize clean energy goals, access easy-to-use resources such as guidance documents and case studies, and take advantage of available funding and technical assistance opportunities.

For more information on Clean Energy Communities, visit [www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec). Local government officials or employees can find contact information for their respective coordinator by visiting

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Contractors/Find-a-Contractor/Clean-Energy-Community-Coordinators>  
for assistance navigating the program.