

## **The Village of Kinderhook Earns Clean Energy Community Designation for its Commitment to Cut Costs and Reduce Energy Consumption**

The Village of Kinderhook 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 advance the Governor's Green New Deal by demonstrating the importance of communities in helping New York reach its goal of having a carbon-neutral economy as soon as practicable and a carbon-neutral power grid by 2040.

The Village of Kinderhook received the designation for completing four of ten high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. With the designation, the Village of Kinderhook has an opportunity to apply for up to \$35,000 toward additional clean energy projects, with no local cost share.

Mayor Jim Dunham thanked the Climate Smart Task Force, headed by Chairman Bill Mancini, for the extensive work the task force has done in advancing the high-impact, clean energy actions. At this time the village is proposing to use the \$35,000 grant on energy saving projects such as replacement of the old, inefficient boilers at the Village Hall and installing solar panels on the roof at the firehouse.

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

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

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:

- **Implementing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** so residents can gain greater choice and control over energy use a group.
- **Converting** streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.
- **Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades** to municipal buildings to achieve 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Participating in a community-based Solarize campaign** to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing.
- **Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification** through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) 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.

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.

The Village of Kinderhook grant is supported by Lafarge Mitigation Funds which are available for local governments in Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties. This additional funding is made available through the settlement of a lawsuit by the State of New York against Lafarge North America, Inc.

Clean Energy Community Coordinators are also available at no charge to help communities 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 [here](#) for assistance navigating the program.