

SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER:

## A Brief Historical Perspective

Sustainable Westchester's beginnings can be traced back to the economic crisis of 2008. The \$831 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in early 2009, had as its primary goal job creation, in part through targeted public investment in such areas as energy efficiency. In 2009, a group of northern Westchester County municipalities teamed up to create a collaborative energy efficiency program, targeted for homeowners, to win some of the federal Recovery Act stimulus funding.

Meanwhile, in 2010-11, numerous civic leaders in the Hudson River municipalities in southern Westchester County saw the benefits of forming a sister consortium. With NWEAC as a model, eleven municipalities created the Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (SWEAC), comprised of the appointed chairs of municipal environmental committees.

### **In the true POWER OF COMMUNITY...**

On November 13, 2013, a unanimous vote at a meeting of the members resulted in an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation for Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium, Inc., changing the name to Sustainable Westchester, Inc., with Herb Oringel as Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Sustainable Westchester was essentially the product of combining NWEAC and SWEAC. The combined organization held its inaugural Board of Directors Meeting on December 19, 2014 at Greenburgh Town Hall.

