



SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S NEW

- **Westchester Power is green and growing!**--Croton has joined and residents are enrolled. Pound Ridge and Ardsley await Public Service Commission approval, Sleepy Hollow has passed the enabling law and is positioned to move ahead and others are starting outreach. These new communities are helping increase the amount of renewable energy purchased in Westchester.
- **Clean Transportation** program -- SW is pleased to offer a second Nissan Leaf Discount Program. Electric vehicles (EVs) save consumers money and reduce fossil fuel usage and emissions. [Click here](#) to see how you can be part of the movement, and save up to \$12,500 on a 2018 Nissan Leaf through our program.
- **Westchester Community Solar** program -- A new program offered by Westchester Power, allows everyone within an eligible area to support local, solar energy! [Read how](#)
- **Solarize** -- [Learn how](#) you can go solar and take advantage of ongoing and future Solarize campaigns.
- Sustainable Westchester **Water Committee** Relaunches.
- **Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling** will get a lot easier for everyone thanks to a new one-stop website and phone app! Find out if your municipality is taking advantage of this cost effective program by [clicking here](#).
- **Zero Waste Westchester** -- If you share this dream and want to contribute towards it, join Sustainable Westchester's Zero Waste Advisory Committee, and attend the launch meeting in July. [Learn more.](#)
- **Virtual Power Plant ("VPP")** -- Sustainable Westchester is working towards demonstrating a VPP in the County, aggregating a limited number of residential hosts fit with a solar and electricity storage system supplied by Tesla. Tesla is already involved in a VPP with O&R Utility in Orange & Rockland counties, but for Commercial & Industrial hosts.
- **Solar plus Storage** -- Coming soon to a school near you! Sustainable Westchester is moving forward with a project of solar plus storage at a school site which will benefit both the school and the local community, through peak demand reduction and a Community Distributed Generation project.

IN THE NEWS



[Electric Vehicle Charging Station](#)--SW unveiled **Ossining's** newest EV charging station at the town's Green Ossining Earth Day Festival.

[Rye Sustainability News](#)-- CCA presentation to the **City of Rye**. A large group turned up at the Rye Free Reading Room on March 19 to hear SW staff, Jenna Amundsen and Virginia Steinberg, present an overview of the Westchester Power program and what it means for Westchester County.

[The Record Review](#)-- A favorable article encouraging participation by the **Pound Ridge Energy Action Committee** helped pave the way for the public hearing and subsequent vote to join the Westchester Power program.

[Solar For Everyone](#)--SW launched its Community Solar program. [See photo](#).

["People to be Heard"](#)--Program Director Dan Welsh appears on the **White Plains Community Media's** show. Host John Bailey was particularly interested in the new community solar program, but the conversation ranges from battery storage to Indian Point.

[News 12 TV report](#) - Virginia Steinberg visits Sleepy Hollow to explain and answer questions about the Westchester Power program.

The [Village of Ardsley](#) held a public hearing on March 19 at which WP program director Dan Welsh outlined the benefits to **Ardsley** in joining the CCA.

FOCUS AREAS & INITIATIVES

ENERGY



Westchester Power

As we hit the 2-year mark in the what remains the first and only operating Community Choice Aggregation program in NY, we happily welcome new munis as they join!

Croton became the 21st municipality to join Sustainable Westchester's Westchester Power program (CCA). Residents and small business customers now enjoy the benefits of savings and going green with 100% renewable energy.

Pound Ridge and **Ardsley** have completed all the requirements to come in and await Public Service Commission final approval.

Sleepy Hollow We are working with the Village to support the final outreach activity. Our next opportunity to engage residents will be on Saturday, June 23rd at TASH Farmers' Market.



We continue to get out into the communities to engage residents and small businesses

- * SW participated in the 2nd annual *Yorktown Small Business Association Small Business Fair* on May 23, engaging with local residents and small businesses.
- * Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow--A packed room of senior citizens listened to a presentation about CCA and **“How to Read Your Bill.”**

Sustainable Westchester launches Community Solar program

Many people – whether owners of homes with shaded roofs or renters – can’t install solar on their own homes. Community Solar is a new program offered by Sustainable Westchester that allows everyone within an eligible area to support local, solar energy! In a nutshell, residents contract to purchase a share of the value of solar energy produced by a large solar installation located nearby at a discount.



Our Community Solar program is one of the first available in Westchester, allowing you to support and enjoy monthly savings from local, renewable energy with no investment and no installation of equipment on your property (and no-penalty cancellation with the proper notice)! You can find more information [here](#), as well as a brief video of our Montrose launch [here](#). We encourage you to [sign up](#) to secure a spot in the Community Solar queue so that when the next open project comes to your area, you will be first in line for the limited subscription spaces!



Solarize Our Congregation & Solarize Pelham / Croton-Cortlandt

Sustainable Westchester administers the 2018 Solarize campaigns – Solarize Our Congregation (covering 80 congregations across 8 counties) and Solarize Westchester (in Croton, Cortlandt, and Pelham). The successful Solarize model employs a group discount pricing structure, a pre-vetted and competitively selected solar installer, and community-based outreach and education to bring the benefits of solar energy to the chosen communities at a reduced cost.

Over 500 people have gone solar through our Solarize programs in the past. Hundreds have already signed up for solar site assessments through Solarize Westchester as of early June, and dozens are scheduled to install solar!

The deadline to sign up for a solar contract through Solarize Westchester is June 25th. The deadline to sign up for a solar contract with Solarize Our Congregation has been extended to November. But don't wait! The sooner you go solar, the sooner you can take advantage of the energy produced by the warm, summer rays! Visit [here](#) to learn more and take the next step to schedule a site assessment with our vetted solar installers!

TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE



Clean Transportation program (EVs)

SW teamed with the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV), to mobilize 75+ municipal and community leaders to a successful Electric Vehicle Forum on April 27. Discussion focused on the current status and future of EVs in Westchester County with panel discussions to address best practices, what is being done on a local level, the challenges faced and cross-sector solutions.

Photo: White Plains Mayor Tom Roach speaks to fellow municipal officials.

Bud Nicoletti, 1st Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Public Works & Transportation, and Sustainable Westchester organized over 50 law enforcement representatives from throughout Westchester to a **“Show and Tell” of the Ford Police Hybrid Responder** on April 10th. The Hybrid Responder gets double the gas mileage of a standard Ford Police Responder – and at a lower total capital cost.



Thanks to the leadership of members and the County, SW now has [Municipal Fleet Discounts](#) available for the All-Electric Nissan Leaf and Chevy Bolt; the Toyota Prius Prime Plug-In EV Hybrid; and the Ford Police Hybrid Responder. We are currently promoting \$12,500 of discounts, cash incentives, and tax credits for the Nissan Leaf for everyone who lives, works or studies in Westchester. More info, [Click Here](#).

Sustainable Westchester assisted the Town of Ossining in winning \$48,000 in EV charging station grants, and joined Ossining’s Earth Day festival for the ribbon cutting ceremony that launched the opening of 3 EV charging stations (6 charging ports in total). Sustainable Westchester also supported the Towns of Rye, Mamaroneck, and Mount Pleasant - as well as the City of Peekskill – in applying for NYS ZEV grants for 9 additional charging stations (18 charging ports).

EV forum at Teatown Lake Reservation -- Always on the move, Ron Kamen, who directs SW’s Clean Transportation initiatives, presented to an engaged audience at Teatown’s 2nd annual EV Forum on June 2. He discussed the current state of the industry and its promising outlook for the future benefits we can all achieve by driving green.



WASTE & RECYCLING



Neha Dhanik, Sustainable Westchester's waste reduction and recycling program manager, has developed an exciting shared service package offering based around the [ReCollect technology platform](#). Residents of participating municipalities will have access to a **one-stop website or mobile app** where they can find their address-specific garbage pick-up schedules, what goes (and doesn't go) in curbside recycling bins, nearby places to donate, repair, recycle any of the 500+ items found in their household or work place, and also easily report any problems to their local municipal staff without having to call or wait on phone. All of this is made possible by Sustainable Westchester's program design and **bulk discounted purchase strategy**. [This program](#) promises to **relieve municipal workload** while providing a **more satisfying experience for residents**.



Participating in this program will cost municipalities a fraction of what they'd pay if they were to purchase, implement and maintain this website and phone app on their own. **30 municipalities have received a detail presentation and demo of this program**. Many are now sharing this information with their staff, discussing with their boards to pass a resolution confirming their participation! Municipalities so far that have signed up for this service are the villages of Bronxville, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Tarrytown, Tuckahoe and Mamaroneck.



Westchester Zero Waste Advisory Committee

To further our zero waste goals, we are inviting Westchester community leaders who are passionate about waste reduction and recycling to join Sustainable Westchester's Zero Waste Advisory Council/Committee. If you share this goal, come join counterparts from Dobbs Ferry, Harrison, Hastings, Irvington, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Pelham, Pleasantville, Scarsdale and Rye. This group will meet once every quarter to discuss best practices, lessons learned, and dive deep into numerous waste reduction strategies.

Launch meeting in July. If you wish to learn more, email Neha@SustainableWestchester.org.

WATER

The SW Water Committee has relaunched, focusing on creating a **countywide Clean Water Action Agenda** that will guide Westchester County municipalities in taking practical steps to protect their water resources, such as reducing pollution and flooding from stormwater and sewage infrastructure, to restoring public access, healthy habitats, and free flowing streams. They held their kick-off meeting in late January and a follow up meeting on May 9. Stay tuned for updates!



Lower Hudson Urban Waters Summit--On March 1, over 120 were in attendance at Pace University for the Lower Hudson Urban Waters Summit, co-sponsored by SW, that brought citizen watershed groups in the Lower Hudson Valley together with non-profit organizations, universities, municipalities, and agencies at the county, state and federal levels to discuss the latest results of citizen water quality monitoring, and identifying opportunities for acting on results.

55 Maple Avenue
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
United States

914-242-4725

[Unsubscribe Here](#)

