

RECORD REVIEW

The official newspaper of the towns of Bedford, Pound Ridge and Lewisboro, New York

February 1, 2019

Towns win bid for pilot energy program .,

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The towns of Bedford, Pound Ridge and Lewisboro have been selected to participate in HeatSmart Westchester, the first of its kind campaign in New York state to promote clean heating and cooling systems in local communities.

Midge Iorio, executive director of Bedford 2020, said on Thursday more details about the program will be unveiled next week after the leaders of the campaign convene for a planning meeting Monday.

Bedford 2020, the Pound Ridge Energy Action Committee and the Lewisboro Sustainability Committee are organizing the local rollout of the program, which was created by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

These groups also prepared a joint application for the pilot program on behalf of the three towns in Septem-

ber. While towns and municipalities were permitted to apply individually, Bedford, Pound Ridge and Lewisboro opted to do so together as a

"coalition community," reflecting their shared interest in the program.

HeatSmart is a 20-week informational campaign that aims to make residents aware of, and generate interest in, options for clean heating

and cooling, such as air source heat pumps and geothermal systems. Experts will be available to help residents evaluate different options and help decide which systems would work best in their homes.

The campaign will begin with a kickoff event in March, followed by additional outreach efforts and workshops for residents.

NYSERDA launched the HeatSmart campaign as a pilot in Westchester County, and will eventually

The rollout schedule and other details of the HeatSmart

Westchester campaign will be announced next week.

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expand it to other regions of the state. Sustainable Westchester is managing the HeatSmart Westchester campaign team, which also includes representatives from several companies and the Association for Energy Affordability. The companies participating in the campaign are Abundant Efficiency, EarthKind Energy and Dandelion Energy.

Participation in HeatSmart is free to the three towns. The Record-Review previously reported a \$150,000 grant from NYSERDA will finance the campaign.

NYSERDA has also granted HeatSmart Westchester \$50,000 to train the energy efficiency and clean energy contractors involved in developing the campaigns and planning events with community leaders. These professionals were selected

via a bidding process.

It is not yet known whether any cost savings would be available through HeatSmart to residents who wish to install clean heating and cooling systems; however HeatSmart Westchester officials previously said they hoped the program could potentially offer discounted assessments or services to the pilot participants.

NYSERDA's Solarize campaign included such discounts. In order to be considered for HeatSmart, each municipality was required to have participated in Solarize Westchester, a Similarly-structured campaign designed to promote solar power in chosen communities. Lewisboro and Pound Ridge mounted a joint Solarize campaign in 2017, while Bedford and Mount Kisco were selected for the campaign in 2015.