GREENER BY DESIGN:
Implementing Renewable Energy Initiatives in County Government

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October 19, 2015
REM Conference
Ulster County Introduction

- 183,000 Residents
- 1271 Employees in County Work Force
- ~$330 million annual budget
- One of over 1600 municipal entities in NYS

Where the Catskills meet the Hudson River

Environmental Legacy - From John Burroughs to Woodstock and beyond
Ulster County Government Operations
Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2012)

- Employee Commute: 2,992 MTCO$_2$e (22%)
- Buildings & Facilities: 5,804 MTCO$_2$e (43%)
- County Fleets: 4,899 MTCO$_2$e (35%)

Driving 32.8 Million Miles/Year

CO$_2$: 13,777 MT CO$_2$e
Ulster County & Renewables

2007- 10% of total annual use covered by RECs

2010- First solar installation on County building

2014- Executive Order to purchase RECs to cover 100% of our 13million Kwh annual consumption

2015- County Executive commits to install 4MW of Solar

2015- Net Carbon Neutral, Carbon Credits
Ulster County Government

2007- Established UC Department of the Environment

2008- Ulster County Energy Policy

2009- Transition to Charter Form of Government

2011- NYS Climate Smart Community
Ulster County Carbon Footprint Reduction Program

1. Avoid & Reduce Emissions
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Onsite Renewable Generation
4. Offsetting-RECs and Carbon Credits
5. Continuous Monitoring & Evaluation

SUSTAINABLE
ULSTER COUNTY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE MICHAEL P. HEIN
Ulster County Carbon Footprint Reduction Program

1. Avoid & Reduce
   • Right size operations, operational efficiency

2. Energy Efficiency
   • Employ energy conserving technology (LED lighting), water bottle filling stations

3. On site renewables
   • County owned installation and large scale PPA arrangements

4. Offset
   • Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
   • Carbon Credits

5. Monitor & Evaluate
   • Building by building utility tracking
   • Tracking of unleaded and diesel use
Challenges

- Procurement
- More effectively track our utility usage
- Technical support for complicated projects
- Determine the responsible balance between facility improvements and new technologies
- Keep initiatives cost neutral if possible
Implementation

• Technical Assistance - Lends expertise & credibility
  – US EPA Green Power Partnership
  – US EPA Repowering America
  – US DOE NREL Local Technical Assistance Program
  – NYSERDA- NY-SUN Initiative
  – NYS Climate Smart Communities Technical Assistance
“Change begets change. Nothing propagates so fast.”
-C. Dickens