

CCA Meeting: Penfield Town Hall, 2/7/18

- **Introductions and Clean Energy Community Run Through**

NYSERDA recently amended PON 3298 to incentivize more participation in the Clean Energy Communities program. They have approved an additional \$5,000 in funding for communities who are designated by performing 4 of 10 High-Impact Action items and all previous awards have been approved for that tier or block. They have streamlined the grant distribution process for the new Tier of incentives to make it easier to receive funds. Additionally, they have reduced the requirements of benchmarking energy use for communities with populations of 40,000 or more, and have created a new, more time-efficient protocol for the Energy Code Enforcement Training for communities with a population of 39,999 and lower.

Matt and Dave of G/FLRPC brought to light that our region has only 1 more grant of \$150,000 to distribute to a large community, and have been working to get one of those communities designated. Municipalities and counties in our region has thus far received over \$1,500,500 in grant funding through the CEC program, with 37 communities completing 99 High Impact Actions to date.

- **CCA and CEC**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is 1 of 10 High-Impact Actions under the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program. Many communities across the region have expressed interest in learning more about CCA as a possible avenue for implementing cost savings for their energy users, as well as transitioning traditional suppliers away from “brown” energy products to “green” energy products. Either way, a CCA is a tool that changes the supply of energy that traditional energy consumers have by modifying the procurement process. Though new and still in experimental phases, many in the region are watching and listening on how CCA is implemented in the G-FL area.

With only Sustainable Westchester as a functional pilot model in New York, there are still many questions to be answered. Joule, Rochester People’s Choice Coalition (RPCC) and other partners have been performing extensive outreach to inform decision makers and the public on the CCA process, as well as bolster participation in the coming aggregation. This meeting was the 4th workshop held to allow community representatives to hear presentations on CCA and ask questions to a potential local administrator of our region’s aggregation.

- **Quick Background on CCA**

The April 21, 2016 Order from the Public Service Commission authorized the establishment of CCA programs by municipalities statewide. The Order allows municipalities to establish a CCA where the municipality(ies) competitively select an ESCO to supply electricity or natural gas to all mass market (residential and small commercial) customers on an opt-out basis. The PSC acknowledged in the Order that a “one-size-fits-all” approach to CCA was not likely to be effective in NYS; therefore, the Order provides a construct for communities to develop innovative programs, products, and services that align with the NYS’s energy goals and, more specifically, the objectives of Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) and the Clean Energy Fund (CEF). Although the Order specifies requirements, terms, and conditions that CCAs need to follow, it also provides flexibility for CCAs to propose unique and varied approaches to CCA

administration and programmatic offerings. In NYS, villages, towns, and cities are eligible to form a CCA or an inter-municipal CCA.

The Order prevents county governments from forming a CCA independent of the municipalities within the county, but a county can act as the CCA Administrator for a CCA formed within their boundary or otherwise assist in the organization, development, and/or implementation of CCA. The CCA Order also prohibits large Commercial and Industrial customers from being enrolled in CCA on an opt-out basis.

PSC order requires:

1. A CCA Implementation Plan (template available in the NYSERDA Toolkit);
2. A Data Protection Plan; and
3. Local law authorizations (template available in the NYSERDA Toolkit).

- **Important Notes per the CCA Program Plan submitted to the PSC by Joule Assets**

1. Communities should strive to pass a local allow allowing for CCA by **April 1st** to participate in this aggregation. Please see the [Projected Timeline for the Community Choice \(Energy\) Aggregation Program link](#) for further actions and timeline of execution.
2. The aggregation threshold where bulk purchasing power through CCA is effective historically comes in at around 20,000 customers (not household members). There are diminishing returns around 90,000 customers.
3. Communities will be able to customize their energy mix to a degree, choosing an energy mix from among those being secured through the aggregation program and contracting efforts.
4. Joule/RPCC will put out one RFP that meets the requirements of the participating communities (i.e. contract length, rate guarantees, energy mixes) but each community will then have their own contract with the winning bidder. This will create product ownership options at both the community and consumer level. Consumers who want to opt-up into different energy source streams (i.e. from one mix option to another) will have the freedom to do so.
5. All mass market customers who aren't already in ESCOs or blocking? them will be opted into the program automatically. There will be an opt out period following execution of agreement for customers who do not wish to participate in the program. These customers will not see rate increases due to the CCA. Those who don't opt-out will be allowed to leave the supply contract at any point with no penalty. The local administrators will handle the outreach for this through direct mailings, etc.
6. Municipalities are indemnified
7. Consumers will see guaranteed savings on their bills as compared to the average utility costs for the previous 12 to 24 months.
8. Will be equal access for all income-levels, no individual contracts. The utility is still responsible for collection of delinquencies, this will not shift to the community, nor will any other utility management issues.
9. There is concern about how CCAs will clearly support and provide a path for bringing in more clean energy projects. Some in the area are viewing CCA as a possible bottleneck to localized Community Distributed Generation projects like community solar. Glen from Joule, as well as folks at NY-SUN, don't believe this is the case, in fact quite the opposite and are bullish on this

being a springboard for further incentivizing local producers, developers, and financiers of renewables.

10. We have heard that the Joint Utilities have commented on the Implementation Plan, and touched on an important point brought up by those at the meeting regarding integration of consolidated billing. More to come once these comments are synthesized by Joule.