

Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Clean Energy Communities CEC Update—By The Numbers

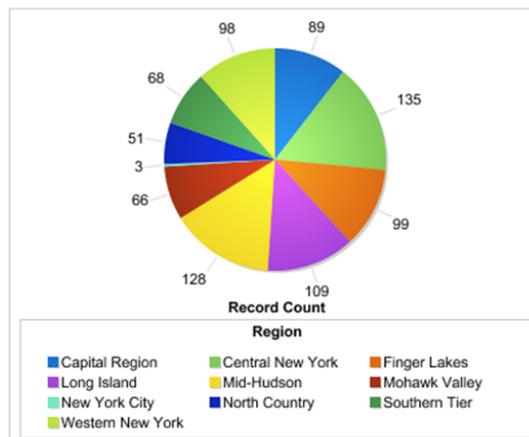
Matthew Halladay

G/FLRPC enters 2018 having reached exciting milestones under the Clean Energy Communities Program. Our nine county region now boasts 17 designated communities under the NYSERDA program. The initiative—kicked off in August of 2016—is designed to bring a unified approach to driving clean energy action and energy literacy in local governments and communities across the state. A cornerstone of the program is a designation that New York State counties and municipalities can achieve by completing 4 out of 10 High-Impact Actions that will have a positive effect on economic development, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, and energy cost savings while sustaining locally-driven priorities.

Designated Clean Energy Communities in our region now include: Village of Brockport, Village of Spencerport, Village of Bergen, Village of Sodus, Village of Fairport, Village of Churchville, Village of Livonia, City of Canandaigua, City of Rochester, City of Geneva, Town of Starkey, Town of Irondequoit, Town of Avon, Town of Batavia, Town of Pittsford, Wyoming

County, and Seneca County. Together, these communities have completed a combined 68 High-Impact Actions and are in line to receive over \$1,500,000 in no cost-share funding as a stimulus for advancing clean energy projects.

Approved Action Count by Region



Above: 37 communities in the Finger Lakes Region have completed at least one high impact action, generating 99 out of the 846 approved High Impact Actions across the State of New

York. Regionally, 37 communities have now participated in the program by completing 100 clean energy impact actions. The actions—aggregated with others in Western, NY—have equated to an estimated 41,314,000 kwh in energy efficiency savings and roughly 30,747 metric tons of CO2 emission reductions. The program is helping the NY State energy strategy Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) make possible its vision for New York’s energy future that connects a

vibrant private sector market with communities and individual customers to create a dynamic, clean energy economy. One of the targets set forth in REV aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the order of 40% below 1990 baseline levels by the year 2030.

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Upcoming Regional Events

G/FLRPC Spring Local Government Workshop, Friday May 18, 2018, Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford, NY. For more information visit <http://www.gflrpc.org>.

For further information call 585-454-0190, email gflrpc@gflrpc.org

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Further Support and New Program Opportunity

Our hope in 2018 and beyond is to continue to provide meaningful, localized support to communities via deep technical assistant and program guidance. With one “Tier 2” grant of \$150,000 still remaining for a large community (40,000 population+) in our region, our office is actively working toward this designation.

Additionally, NYSERDA has approved a new Program Opportunity Notice (PON) that further incentivizes community participation via a \$5,000 grant for completion of 4 High-Impact Actions, and therefore Clean Energy Communities designation. The new PON also streamlines the “Energy Code Enforcement Training” process and creates less onerous “Benchmarking” requirements for large communities.

Local governments that would like to achieve Clean Energy Community designation and/or High Impact Actions are able to utilize their local Clean Energy Communities Coordinator here at the G/FLRPC. High Impact Actions through the Clean Energy Communities Program include:

Benchmarking: Adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings on an annual basis.

Clean Energy Upgrades: Achieve a 10 percent reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy.

LED Street Lights: Convert at least half of the municipal cobra-head-style street lights within the jurisdiction to energy-efficient

LED technology.

Clean Fleets: Install an EV charging station and/or other alternative fuel infrastructure or deploy alternative fuel vehicles in the municipal fleet.

Solarize: Undertake a solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops in the jurisdiction through group purchasing and locally-organized community education and outreach.

Unified Solar Permit: Pass legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction.

Energy Code Enforcement Training: Train code compliance officers and other municipal officials in best practices in residential and commercial energy code enforcement.

Climate Smart Communities Certification: Earn Climate Smart Community (CSC) Certification at the certified, bronze, silver or gold levels through compliance with this robust, comprehensive rating system.

Community Choice Aggregation: Transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy supply by facilitating the aggregated purchase of electric supply for residential and small commercial customers within the jurisdiction.

Energize NY Finance: Allows property owners to pay back the cost of clean energy upgrades to their commercial or non-profit property through a special charge on their property tax bill.

Additional information on the Clean Energy Communities Program is available online at: <http://www.gflrpc.org/clean-energy-communities.html>. For more information on the Clean Energy Communities Program, please contact Matt Halladay at mhalladay@gflrpc.org or 585-454-0190 x 22.

G/FLRPC’s Revolving Loan Fund

G/FLRPC manages a revolving loan fund which serves gap financing needs of small and medium sized manufacturing and service businesses located in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties.

One issue that is frequently associated with small and medium sized businesses is the level of capital available to them through traditional lending channels. The revolving loan fund works to mitigate that issue and strengthen what we consider our regional economy’s backbone — small and medium-sized businesses.

The revolving loan fund provides \$20,000 to \$200,000 loans at a low fixed-interest rate for up to 8 years for those that qualify.

If you would like to learn more about the Revolving Loan Fund please visit: www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/EconomicDevelopment/RLF.htm or contact David Zorn at (585) 454-0190 x14 or dave.zorn@gflrpc.org

Local Update of Census Addresses Update

Catherine DuBreck

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program is the only opportunity local governments have to review and update the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF). The MAF is used by the Census Bureau to send out the Decennial Census short form survey (new for 2020: the Census Bureau will send a postcard with a link to complete the short form survey online). Reviewing and updating the MAF is the only way to ensure a complete count.

G/FLRPC continues to serve as the LUCA Liaison for the governments within the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region. Data collection and outreach occurred during the summer and fall of last year (2017). Through webinars, workshops, presentations, and continued dialogue, we received hundreds of municipal and county-level address lists from across the region. Examples of these address lists included dog license lists, mobile home park addresses, apartment complex unit information, and county and municipal Real Property information among others. We appreciate your help in supplying these address lists.

In October 2017, we officially registered each of the nine counties for the LUCA program. This means sometime between mid-February and April we will receive nine county-level MAFs from the Census Bureau. County registration also covers the municipalities within each county. Because several municipalities were relying on the county files for their address updates, registering at the county level was the most efficient way to ensure every address provided to us was included in our local databases and used to update the MAFs.

Since early November 2017, we have been working on formatting and compiling the address lists received. In order to successfully combine all of the address lists received into one local address database per county, each address list first had to be formatted into our template. After formatting every address list received for a county, the formatted lists were combined into one spreadsheet per county, the local address database, which will be used to compare against the MAF once received.

At the time of writing this update article, the MAFs have not yet been received. Though the time frame during which we may receive them is quite large (anytime between mid-February and April), once received we will only have 120 calendar days to review, update, and return the MAFs. After we review and update the MAFs, the Census Bureau will then review our updates and return to us Feedback Materials, including a list of addresses per county that they have rejected. This begins the Appeals phase of the LUCA program. After receiving the Feedback Materials, we will have 30 days to file an appeal. Please stay tuned for outreach regarding the Appeals process, as we will need your help once more to confirm whether the rejected addresses are indeed residential.

Until then, we are working hard to finish up formatting and compiling our last county local address database and are patiently waiting for our nine county MAFs to arrive.

For additional information on the LUCA program please visit <http://www.gflrpc.org/luca.html> or contact Catherine DuBreck at cdubreck@gflrpc.org or 585-454-0190 x20.

Spring 2018 Regional Local Government Workshop

Friday May 18, 2018, Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford, NY

For the Workshop information, including registration brochure please visit <http://www.gflrpc.org/fallworkshop.html> or contact David Zorn at Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council at dave.zorn@gflrpc.org or 585-454-0190 x14.



A Sense of Place

Liberty Pole
Rochester, NY

A liberty pole is a long-standing American tradition of political protest and celebration. Before and during the American Revolution wooden poles serving as flag poles or for display of political sentiments were often erected in town squares. English authorities would periodically destroy them – leading to violent struggles with the “Sons of Liberty.”

A place for patriotic tribute. After the war, poles were erected in communities to commemorate those struggles and celebrate patriotic pride. Rochester’s first Liberty Pole was built on the same spot in 1846. When it was destroyed in a storm, the new one went up in 1860, standing proudly at 102 feet tall with a large wooden ball and weather vane. The new Liberty Pole remained as a place for social gatherings until Christmas Day 1889, when it, too, crashed in a violent wind storm.

A significant public art installation. Designed by award-winning Rochester architect James H. Johnson (creator of the “mushroom house” in Perinton) it was completed in 1965. The 190-foot-high stainless steel structure paid tribute to the past traditions, while boldly proclaiming the modern age in its style. As with most art, it attracted its share of vocal fans and detractors. Whatever you may think of the current liberty pole, it has certainly stood up to all kinds of weather.

Source: <http://landmarksociety.org/2014/09/liberty-pole/>

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**Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates*

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