

## **PV Power: The Town of Red Hook Installs Solar Panels on Town Hall**

The Town of Red Hook has reached another milestone in its efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency measures by installing solar panels on the roofs of Town Hall and the Recycling Center. These panels will not only allow the Town to serve as an example of sustainability to the broader community, but they will also allow the Town to save a substantial amount of money on its electricity bills.

This accomplishment is the result of the efforts of the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) who applied for funding on behalf of the Town. In 2008, the Town Hall had a 3.7 kW demonstration solar panel system installed on the roof. The following year, the CAC applied to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for funding and was awarded over \$120,000 to install its current 23 kW solar panel system. Since this system was connected to the grid on June 22, 2011, it has generated nearly 2,000 kWh of power to the Town Hall. The power generated by these systems is expected to provide roughly half of the electricity needs of Town Hall, and the system installed on the Recycling Center, which is 1.2 kW, will supply 100% of that building's electricity needs.

"The installation of these panels on the roofs of Town Hall and the Recycling Center once again demonstrates Red Hook's leadership in the area of promoting environmentally and economically sound policies," said Sue Crane, Red Hook Town Supervisor. "The system will not only provide environmental benefits such as a reduction in greenhouse gases, but also financial benefits by generating savings on the Town's electricity bills. For years the Red Hook Town Board has been privileged to consistently support energy smart programs and technology."

"The Conservation Advisory Council is thrilled to have the new system at Town Hall," said Brenda Cagle, Chair of the CAC. "We've been very fortunate to receive grant funding from NYSERDA to make this installation a good financial investment for the town. As a Climate Smart Community and a member of the 10% Challenge, the Town is working hard to lead by example in the use of renewable energy."

Solar panels, also known as photovoltaic (PV) panels, generate electricity by capturing sunlight and transforming it into useful electricity. Any excess power generated can be sold back into the grid. The system was designed and installed by Hudson Valley Clean Energy.

