

Solar Options

If you want solar power for your home or farm operation:

- **NY-Sun** is the umbrella for New York State incentives. See attached NY-Sun Customer Guide.
- **USDA REAP Grants** will cover up to 25% of the cost of installation, not including costs covered through other programs such as NY-Sun.
- **NYS Investment Tax Credit** = 25% of the cost, capped at \$5,000. Must be a new, grid-connected system.
- **Federal Investment Tax Credit** = 30% of the cost and has been extended through 2019. Must be a new, grid-connected system.

If you are looking to realize revenue from land put into solar production:

- **Lease option:** lease your land for a utility scale solar farm.
 - Power is fed into the grid. Landowner purchases electricity through the utility or an ESCO.
 - Landowner receives rent payments.
 - Developer receives tax credits and Renewable Energy Credits.
 - Property owner has little control over siting of the array.
 - Items of concern:
 - Will the land lose Ag status for tax purposes?
 - Will it be assessed as commercial or industrial use?
 - Are you taking productive farmland out of food production?
 - Does your town have up-to-date zoning for solar farms?
- **Community Shared Solar option:** form a consortium with neighboring residents and businesses to be off-takers for a shared solar installation built by a solar developer either (1) through local financing and owned by the off-takers, or (2) through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A number of financing strategies could be used.
 - Power is fed into the grid and off-takers are credited with the energy generated, according to their use.
 - Property owner does not have to be an off-taker.
 - In a PPA, the developer receives tax credits and Renewable Energy Credits.
 - Property owner(s) have more control over siting and terms of contract.
 - Items of concern:
 - Will the land lose Ag status for tax purposes?
 - Will it be assessed as commercial or industrial use?
 - Are you taking productive farmland out of food production?
 - Does your town have up-to-date zoning for solar farms?

About SASD

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development (SASD) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Sullivan County, NY. SASD is a knowledgeable and trusted resource for information on issues critical to the goal of sustainability, including climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and related opportunities for the creation of a robust local economy.

About SASD

Our Mission

Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development (SASD) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Sullivan County, NY. Our mission is to promote a new standard for mindful development that is environmentally responsible, socially equitable and economically just; to inspire the residents of Sullivan County to embrace the principles and practices of sustainability as personal and civic values; and to make energy efficiency and renewable energy accessible for all.

SASD is a knowledgeable and trusted resource for information on issues critical to the goal of sustainability, including climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and related opportunities for the creation of a robust local economy.

Our Work

Energy Projects: SASD has secured more than \$1.6 million in grants on behalf of Sullivan County businesses, farms, community organizations and municipalities. SASD's efforts have resulted in more than \$4.5 million in wind, solar electric, solar-thermal and geo-thermal installations, feasibility studies and energy efficiency retrofits. In addition to generating local economic activity, these projects help reduce overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieve substantial energy cost savings for Sullivan County residents, farmers, businesses, and towns. In 2015, SASD has developed two innovative community-scale projects: NY Prize micro-grid projects in the villages of Liberty and Monticello, working with the global engineering firm Booz Allen Hamilton; and a county-wide Community Choice Aggregation project, for which SASD submitted a petition to the NYS Public Service Commission in October, requesting status as a demonstration project for this transformative new program.

Policy Initiatives: Since 2009, SASD has served as consultant to the Sullivan County Legislature to advise and provide project support for energy policy and management in County operations. These efforts have resulted in solar installations at two County facilities and the development of a comprehensive plan for addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. In 2015, these efforts continue as SASD identifies additional opportunities for energy efficiency, renewable energy technology, GHG reduction and sustainable operations for municipalities, homeowners and businesses, and works with six Sullivan County towns to develop individualized energy and climate action strategies.

Education: SASD's outreach includes forums, workshops, presentations to town boards and citizen groups, publications, and promotion of free home energy audits and residential energy retrofits through NYSERDA. In 2014 and 2015, SASD has partnered with NAACL Theatre and the Town of Highland on *The Weather Project*, a multidisciplinary exploration of the weather, from folklore to cutting edge climate science. In February 2014, SASD's *Weather Project* Climate Change Symposium brought together artists and scientists from many disciplines to explore positive actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

**For more information, contact SASD's Co-Executive Directors:
Carol Roig: (845) 557-0343/Stephen Stuart: (845) 701-9126**