

This is an invitation for you to get involved in helping local businesses save money while acting locally to address the global challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that affect

CLIMATE CHANGE

2018 Ulster County Green Business Challenge and Free Volunteer Training

The Goal: With the help of volunteer GBC Ambassadors and local experts, 100 Ulster County businesses, organizations, or municipalities will complete an energy retrofit, install solar or other renewable energy, or implement another action that will both save money and significantly reduce carbon emissions.

The purpose of the Ulster County Green Business Challenge is to help Ulster County businesses, organizations and municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emission to mitigate climate change, and, in most cases, reap considerable savings doing so. We also want to support our local green building contractors, renewable energy providers and other businesses that implement sustainability practices.



Green Business Challenge Ambassador Training

Sign up today; we will contact you with more information about the training session

Thurs., May 24, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to become a Green Building Challenge Ambassador to help area business take significant Climate action. The goal of Ulster County Climate Smart committee is to get 100 businesses to undertake an energy audit and retrofit, insulate and air-seal their building, switch to LED lighting or air- or ground-source heat pumps, install solar, purchase locally generated renewable energy, reuse food waste by participating in the HV Food Bank or composting, purchase an electric vehicle or install an EV charging station, and more. To accomplish this ambitious goal, a team of experts will train volunteers to work with Ulster County businesses, organizations and/or municipalities to implement these and other climate solutions that will really have an impact -- then to speak with their favorite business to help them take action, with support from the trainers. This training is worth taking in its own right -- chock full of valuable information for residents and businesses alike. At SUNY/Ulster's Kingston Learning Center, 94 Mary's Ave., Kingston. This training is free, but space is limited so pre-registration is required at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreenBusinessChallengeTraining

GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE ACTIONS Here is list of actions that can be taken:

- 1) **Energy Audit:** Undertaking an energy audit is usually the first step because that will help GBC participants to understand and prioritize the most effective actions to take, however the audit must be followed by one or more of the following actions:
- 2) **Energy Retrofit:** Undertake an energy retrofit, which can include: Air-sealing and insulation; Installing ground-source (geothermal) or air-source heat pump for heating and cooling; switching to LED lighting: interior, exterior or municipal street lighting
- 3) **Install a solar array or other renewable energy system to generate your own power:** Wind or small, low-impact hydroelectric would also qualify.
- 4) **Purchase 100% renewable energy from a LOCAL source of renewable energy,** such as a Community Solar Project or hydroelectric facility.
- 5) **Purchase an electric vehicle or install one or more electric vehicle charging stations.** Switching to EV fleets is a great way to improve transportation, especially if combined with renewable energy generation
- 6) **Restaurants and other food waste generators implement food waste reuse with Food Bank of the Hudson Valley and/or composting** via local haulers who will take it to the UCRRRA or other composting facilities.
- 7) These actions fit a broad range of businesses and are relatively the easiest to implement, but any other action that reduces energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, or otherwise addresses climate change is welcome.

FINANCING All projects are eligible for financing from one source or another-- **very important to businesses.**

Pace Financing: Ulster County is a member of the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) and offers [PACE financing](#). Energize NY PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) provides low cost, long-term alternative to traditional loans to fund clean energy projects in commercially owned buildings.

Local banks and credit unions also offer financing for energy improvements and other climate solutions, as does the Ulster County Revolving Loan Fund.

NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority) www.energy.gov/savings/existing-facilities-rebate-program See also: www.energytaxsavers.com

Community Solar (CS): Businesses with large, flat roof areas or property that is suitable for a large ground array can explore becoming a partner in a Community Solar development, which could net the building owner significant savings and revenue. This 918 Ulster Community Solar project on Ulster Avenue in Town of Ulster is owned by SMCBC, LLC., a local real estate company in Kingston. It generates about \$30,000/year revenue. The developers of this project are a good source of information for business development of community solar.



Locally-generated Hydroelectric Power: **Natural Power:** Sarah and Harry Terbush of Windsor Machinery run three local hydroelectric plants in the Central Hudson service area and are now selling Hydroelectric Power from their Wallkill Power Plant. Until recently their hydropower could only be sold to Central Hudson, but now they can sell directly to the customer and are proud to supply clean, renewable energy at a lower cost than Central Hudson. They have enough locally-generated hydropower for approximately 200 customers -- get yours today!! See NaturalPowerGroupInc.com or e-mailed them at: NaturalPowerGroupInc@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Participating businesses, organizations and municipalities will be acknowledged for the contribution to this important, if ambitious, challenge with a Pride of Ulster County award, and more!

For further information, please contact:

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