

# BUILDING A BETTER ULSTER COUNTY



COUNTY EXECUTIVE MICHAEL P. HEIN

## 2015 State of the County

### Environment Stewardship

Under County Executive's Mike Hein leadership, Ulster County is now the first County in New York State to become Net Carbon Neutral. County Executive Hein outlined an aggressive environmental agenda in his 2015 State of the County address. These initiatives include the development of a four megawatt solar energy proposal, the installation of new plug-in electric car charging stations and the conversion of the entire County bus fleet to biodiesel, making Ulster County a Statewide leader in environmental stewardship. In addition, County Executive Hein discussed his Executive Order mandating that 100% of the County's electricity come from green renewable energy sources -- the first of its kind in New York State and placing Ulster County among the most environmentally-friendly counties in the nation.

- **Net Carbon Neutral:** Due to the County Executive's dedication to environmental stewardship, Ulster County is now the first County in the State to be Net Carbon Neutral. These efforts offset all of the emissions from County-owned office buildings, County fleet vehicles and the carbon emissions generated by County employees commuting to work.
- **Development of a Four Megawatt Solar Installation Proposal:** These solar panels, proposed to be located at the old Town of Ulster landfill and SUNY Ulster, are expected to generate the energy equivalent to 5,200 barrels of crude oil or 310,000 gallons of gasoline.
- **Installation of 12 New Plug-In Electric Car Charging Stations:** These charging stations will be located at every County-owned office building and will be free of charge to all non-commercial vehicles. In addition, this year each and every sedan the County is planning to purchase will be replaced with hybrid plug-in electric vehicles.
- **UCAT Bus Fleet Conversion to Biodiesel:** The entire UCAT bus fleet will be converted to a biodiesel blend significantly reducing the County's carbon emissions.
- **Energy from Renewable Resources:** In addition to acquiring 100% of all electricity from renewable resources, the County Executive announced the purchase an additional 6,000 renewable energy credits. These credits offset an additional 50% of the County's energy usage. These offsets equate to the amount of carbon emitted from approximately 30 million miles of car travel.