



Two Key Resources: Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities

**Quarterly Webinar: Clean Energy Communities Program
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Capital District Regional Planning Commission**

10:00-11:30 AM

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Register here for webinar:

<https://bit.ly/2CmQLo0>

Clean Energy Communities
Overview

Carla Castillo, Regional Clean
Energy Communities Program
Director, Hudson Valley Regional
Council

Climate Smart Communities – How
Your Community Can Get Involved

Dazzle Ekbald, Climate Policy
Analyst, NYS Department of
Environmental Conservation

Climate Action Planning Institute

Jim Yienger, Managing Principal,
Climate Action Associates

Europa McGovern, Clean Energy
Communities Coordinator, Hudson
Valley Regional Council

Municipality Case Studies

Q&A Period

Presenters

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Speaker Bios



Carla Castillo is Deputy Executive Director / Clean Energy Communities Coordinator for the Hudson Valley Regional Council. Carla directs NYSERDA's CEC Program, promoting economic development and supporting municipal cost-savings through energy efficiency and clean energy projects, resulting in municipal energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Carla received an MCP in City & Regional Planning and an MS in International Development from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in Latin American Studies from UCLA. Carla volunteers in the Town of Cornwall, chairing the Cornwall CAC, partnering with schools to implement recycling programs, and sits on the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Carla previously worked in Philadelphia, focusing on sustainability and neighborhood revitalization at the neighborhood, city, and regional levels while at New Kensington CDC, Recyclebank, the Reinvestment Fund, and The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. She stabilized distressed neighborhoods through the development of affordable homes as an affordable housing lender and technical assistance provider to community development corporations. Carla also worked with internationally-based microfinance CEOs to advance the micro-finance industry.



Dazzle Ekblad works out of NYSDEC's central office in Albany. As Climate Policy Analyst for the Office of Climate Change, she focuses on management of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program, including administering the CSC Grant Program and acting as the program lead for the CSC Certification Program.

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a voluntary, incentive-based program for New York communities to engage in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate resilience through adaptation measures. The CSC Grant Program offers 50/50 matching funds for climate change adaptation projects each year through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Through the CSC Certification Program, communities can also earn points for a wide variety of actions, including strategies that align with Clean Energy Communities.



Jim Yienger is a forward thinker and leader in local government climate and sustainability with 20 years of experience in climate science, local energy policy, and software technology. He has a knack for standing back from individual problems, finding systematic root causes, and creating solutions that scale to standards. Under Clean Energy Communities, Jim assists municipalities in the Eastern NY region with their projects after they receive Clean Energy Community designation. He is available to guide communities

through the grant process, provide suggestions, and any assistance necessary to keep the process from application completion to project submission on track and on time.



Europa McGovern is a Planner / Clean Energy Communities Coordinator at HVRC and works closely with elected officials and dedicated volunteer groups on the various actions that local governments can pursue under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program, and she provides support on strategies related to climate action and other sustainability-related planning and funding opportunities to municipalities throughout the Mid-Hudson Region.

Europa completed her Masters in Conservation and Policy at Stony Brook Universities' School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. She is a dedicated volunteer herself, serving on the City of Poughkeepsie's Waterfront Advisory Committee and on the Board of Directors at the Poughkeepsie Farm Project. She has been known to ride her bicycle in to HVRC's office in Newburgh when not driving her electric car.