

**Goal:**

*Support environmentally conscious initiatives in Sullivan County that will generate economic benefits and preserve significant natural resources.*



## **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES**

The term “alternative energy” refers to a variety of methods for producing energy from renewable resources, including sunlight, wind, flowing water and the constant temperature of the earth’s crust. Rising fuel prices and a growing concern for the health of the environment has resulted in an increased amount of attention on these alternative methods of powering our culture. Benefits of alternative energy include increasing grid stability, decreasing the dependence on foreign sources of fuel, and providing a new source of competition in energy production as well as other public health, environmental and personal use benefits.

On September 22, 2004 the New York State Public Service Commission voted in favor of requiring that 25% of electricity sold in New York come from renewable resources by the year 2013, a bold statement and clear indicator of the direction our state government wishes to pursue. In order to accomplish this goal, it was determined that 3,700 megawatts of electricity generation capacity using renewable resources would have to be installed statewide.

Sullivan County has the capacity to tap into its own natural resources and become a leader for the alternative energy movement in New York State. Rivers and streams are abundant, hilltops and fields provide sufficient exposure to the wind, and sunlight is a resource every community has access to. Sullivan County could potentially profit financially from a practice that would be beneficial to one of its most valuable resources - the natural environment.

Alternative energy, however, requires planning, construction, assembly and maintenance creating jobs for engineers, research scientists and skilled technicians. Sullivan County intends to follow in the pioneering steps of the New York State Public Service Commission and make sure that trained professional energy specialists are available to identify, evaluate and disseminate information related to emerging and evolving energy sources and technologies. In addition to contributing to job growth and the economy, these trained technicians will deal with the integration of current energy sources along with newly developing alternative energy distribution systems and the development of an informed and highly educated workforce.



## Policy Area V Economic Development

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### **STRATEGY 5.12**

Discover methods by which alternative energy may be used as an economic stimulant.

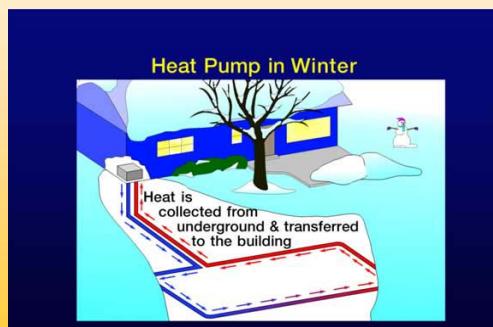
#### **Timeframe**

**SHORT TERM**

**INTERMEDIATE**

**LONG TERM**

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Leadership Role (C/M/P)</b>	<b>Status (A/P/C)</b>
Showcase the County's use of solar panels on the roof of the new DPW bus garage.	C	A
Conduct a "wind market assessment" of Sullivan County's wind resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the economic potential of the wind industry in Sullivan County;</li> <li>• Determine the best sites for alternative energy located within the County; and</li> <li>• Pursue the development of wind energy.</li> </ul>	C/M/P	A
Provide technical assistance to and sponsor educational seminars for the public and local municipalities.	C/M/P	P
Educate the public about the benefits of alternative energy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing educational materials — fact sheets, brochures, videos and CD-ROMs;</li> <li>• Disseminating educational materials on the Sullivan County website, in seminars and at public educational facilities.</li> </ul>	C	P



Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partners  
Status: A – Active P – Pending C – Complete

### Resources

#### Documents

- ❖ **Common Sense: Making the Transition to a Sustainable Energy Economy.** American Solar Energy Society. May 2005.
- ❖ **Guidelines for Assessing the Economic Development Impacts of Wind Power.** National Wind Coordinating Committee, October 2001.
- ❖ **Fact Sheet 1: Impacts of Wind Power.**
- ❖ **Comparative Costs of Wind and Other Energy Sources.** Wind Energy Fact Sheet. American Wind Energy Association.
- ❖ **Investing in Wind Power.** Wind Energy Fact Sheet. American Wind Energy Association.
- ❖ **Community Wind Financing Handbook.** Environmental Law & Policy Center. 2004.

#### Organizations and Programs

- ❖ **Wind Powering America** - [www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica)  
US Department of Energy program aimed at improving wind energy technology through public/private partnerships that enhance domestic economic benefit from wind power development and coordinate with stakeholders on activities that address barriers to wind energy use.
- ❖ **American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)** - [www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)  
National trade association that represents wind power plant developers, wind turbine manufacturers, utilities, consultants, insurers, financiers, researchers, and others involved in the wind industry.
- ❖ **Wind Power New York (WPNY)** - [www.awea.org/wpny/index.html](http://www.awea.org/wpny/index.html)  
Promotes the development of New York's wind-powered electricity generation.
- ❖ **American Solar Energy Society (ASES)** - [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)  
National organization dedicated to advancing the use of solar energy for the benefit of U.S. citizens and the global environment.
- ❖ **Power Naturally** - [www.powernaturally.org](http://www.powernaturally.org)  
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) renewable energy initiatives.
- ❖ **Biomass Research & Development Initiative** - [www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov](http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov)  
Joint initiative of the Department of Energy and USDA to accelerate research and development of biobased energy and products.

#### Funding Sources

- ❖ **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** - [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
Offers grants for the research, development and installation of alternative energy sources across the state. Grants are available for residential, agricultural, educational and commercial settings.
- ❖ **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Offers grants for the development and installation of alternative energy sources.

#### Other

- ❖ **AWEA Communications Toolbox** - [www.awea.org/smallwind/swtoolbox.html](http://www.awea.org/smallwind/swtoolbox.html)  
Informational resource to reference routinely in communicating with policy makers and support advocates of small wind systems.

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### STRATEGY 5.13

Explore avenues for alternative energy use in agricultural settings.

#### **Timeframe**

**SHORT TERM**

**INTERMEDIATE**

**LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Encourage the use of alternative energies on farms to offset large monthly energy bills.	C/M	A
Submit applications to grant programs through USDA and NYSERDA to assist farmers in getting funding for purchasing and installation of alternative energy equipment and processes.	C/A	A
Take advantage of the current statewide alternative energy policies such as the NYS Net Metering Law to encourage the use of alternative energy.	C/M/P	P



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### Resources

#### Documents

- ❖ **Fact Sheet 2: Net Billing and Net Metering FAQ's**
- ❖ **10 Steps in Building a Wind Farm.** Wind Energy Fact Sheet. American Wind Energy Association.
- ❖ **Wind Power Today.** American Wind Energy Association.
- ❖ **Micro-hydro Power Basics.** Severn Wye Energy Agency.
- ❖ **SCCC GeoExchange Factsheet.** Sullivan County Community College.

#### Organizations and Programs

- ❖ **Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE)** - [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)  
Comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy.
- ❖ **Biomass Research & Development Initiative** - [www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov](http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov)  
Joint initiative of the Department of Energy and USDA to accelerate research and development of biobased energy and products.

#### Funding Sources

- ❖ **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** - [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
Offers grants for the research, development and installation of alternative energy sources across the state. Grants are available for residential, agricultural, educational and commercial settings.
- ❖ **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Offers grants for the development and installation of alternative energy sources.

#### Other

- ❖ View images, reports and impacts of a municipal owned wind turbine located in the Town of Hull., Massachusetts - [www.hullwind.org](http://www.hullwind.org)

## Policy Area V Economic Development

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### STRATEGY 5.14

Pursue alternative energy industries as a means for job creation.

#### **Timeframe**

**SHORT**

**INTERMEDIATE**

**LONGTERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Work with potential employers to employ local personnel to construct, operate and maintain alternative energy industries.	C/P	A
Recognize and emphasize the labor intensive qualities of wind energy sources resulting in greater job creation than natural gas and coal.	C	P
Develop training programs with Cornell Extension, Sullivan County Community College and other educational institutions.	C/P	P



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### Resources

#### Documents

- ❖ **The Economics of Wind Energy.** American Wind Energy Association.
- ❖ **Guidelines for Assessing the Economic Development Impacts of Wind Power.** National Wind Coordinating Committee, October 2001.

#### Organizations and Programs

- ❖ **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** - [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
Offers grants for the research, development and installation of alternative energy sources across the state. Grants are available for residential, agricultural, educational and commercial settings.
- ❖ **Power Naturally** - [www.powernaturally.org](http://www.powernaturally.org)  
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) renewable energy initiatives.

#### Funding Sources

- ❖ **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** - [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
Offers grants for the research, development and installation of alternative energy sources across the state. Grants are available for residential, agricultural, educational and commercial settings.

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### STRATEGY 5.15

Pursue alternative energy innovation to enhance tourism.

#### **Timeframe**

**SHORT**

**INTERMEDIATE**

**LONGTERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Promote a clean living theme for Sullivan County as the use alternative energy increases.	C/M	P
Market alternative energy production facilities as tourist destinations, such as "wind parks."	C/M	P



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## Resources

### Documents

- ❖ **The Fenner Wind Power Facility Brochure.** Self-guided tour of the Fenner Wind Power Facility and Area Attractions.
- ❖ **Wind Power Myths vs. Facts.** American Wind Energy Association.

### Organizations and Programs

- ❖ **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** - [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
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- ❖ **American Solar Energy Society (ASES)** - [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)  
National organization dedicated to advancing the use of solar energy for the benefit of U.S. citizens and the global environment.