Farmingville May 19, 2010 - Councilwoman Connie Kepert, who introduced groundbreaking legislation in 2006 requiring any new single-family dwelling, multiple-family dwelling, Planned Retirement Communities (PRC) to meet Energy Star guidelines, has enhanced that legislation with a two-fold amendment requiring larger homes to be more efficient as well as closing a loophole that will necessitate renewal of building permits to comply with energy star requirements. "These amendments will result in a significant reduction in homeowners' energy costs as well as reducing carbon emissions," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

The first amendment requires larger homes which use more energy to score higher on the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) test. Although the average family size has dropped over the years the size of homes has increased dramatically by 1,247 sq.ft. "Homes being built with a square footage of over 4,500 square feet will be required to score a higher HERS rating of 87, while those that are less than 4,500 square feet will continue to meet the 84 HERS rating required in the 2006 legislation," stated Kepert.

The second amendment closes a loophole which allowed old building permits issued prior to the adoption of Energy Star Legislation to be renewed without complying with the more efficient building code. "Over the last four years the Town of Brookhaven has renewed an average of 1000 building permits per year, these enhancements will equate to a substantial economic and environmental impact here in Brookhaven," stated Kepert.

"I commend Councilwoman Kepert for making a great law even better. Today's trailblazing code amendments will improve an already great law by closing the permit renewal loophole and by setting higher energy efficiency standards for larger homes. We estimate that this law, which began in Brookhaven, has already saved Long Island homeowners over one million dollars. With these enhancements we expect that homeowners will save hundreds of millions in avoided fuel costs in the coming decades," stated Neal Lewis, Executive Director of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College

"When you consider a home that meets the Energy Star guidelines not only saves an average of 30% in energy costs, but that it offsets the release of 2.25 tons of greenhouse gases that would otherwise pollute our atmosphere, that's making a real difference," concluded Kepert.