

Romaine Announces Landmark Plan for Distributed Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Generating Facilities on Town-Owned Sites and His Comprehensive Renewable and Alternative Energy Plan to Take the Town "Green"

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Supervisor Ed Romaine (right) reviews one of the proposed sites for the Distributed Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Generating Facilities at Brookhaven Calabro Airport with Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society and Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

Farmingville, NY - On March 11, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine held a press conference at Town Hall to introduce his innovative and comprehensive alternative "Green" energy initiatives and energy efficiency plan to "Take the Town Green." The Supervisor was joined by fellow board members Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Dan Panico, Councilman Tim Mazzei and Councilwoman Jane Bonner, as well as County Legislator Sarah Anker, William Miller, the Town's renewable energy consultant from TRC Solutions and representatives from green energy and local environmental organizations who stand in support of the plan. In attendance from the environmental community were Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Peter Gollon, Energy Chair of the Long Island Sierra Club.

The primary element of the Supervisor's plan is a proposed public/private partnership for Distributed Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Generating Facilities to be constructed on up to 15 Town-owned sites. The Town will lease the sites to a solar developer who will cover the cost of all construction and maintenance of both solar array and small-scale wind turbine sites while the Town will receive an estimated \$40 million to \$50 million over the next 20 years. This landmark renewable energy project has been in development by the Town for more than two years and is the first ever of its kind in the United States and larger in megawatts (MW) than the 200 acre solar farm at Brookhaven National Laboratory. When operational, the solar and wind generating facilities will provide up to 50 megawatts (MW) of Alternating Current electricity. This is enough to power 8400 homes for 24 hours a day. The developer will provide the power to LIPA through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the utility company.

The Supervisor's plan is consistent with New York State's Renewable Energy Initiatives including the Renewable Energy Portfolio, New York Solar Jobs Act Legislation and the New York Energy Highway. It avoids annual emissions from on-island fuel burning plants generating an equivalent amount of electricity by reducing carbon, sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide pollution. In addition, a stipulation of the plan is that it be environmentally compatible with the town-owned sites, including a provision that no trees would be cut to accommodate the solar or wind turbine arrays. The project is expected to be operational by the year 2015 and will create 675 craft jobs at peak construction times.

Supervisor Romaine said, "This is by far the most sweeping renewable energy plan on Long Island and puts the Town on a green path to rely less on foreign sources of fuel and to reduce our carbon footprint. Fiscally, this plan is of significant benefit to the Brookhaven taxpayers and also a giant leap forward to my goal, by the year 2020, for 30% of the Town's energy needs to be provided by renewable power. I am proud to lead the way with this landmark proposal to a cleaner and greener Brookhaven."

"This project is advantageous to our environment, our economy, and to the taxpayers of this Town," commented Brookhaven Town Deputy Supervisor / Councilman Dan Panico. "It is my sincere hope that other municipalities will follow suit, as we do our part toward the goal of clean independent sources of energy, throughout this Country."

Councilman Tim Mazzei said, "I am proud to have been involved from the start of this groundbreaking plan. Its impact on the environment will be significant while at the same time create another revenue stream for the town and much needed jobs for our workforce."

"It's important that we take the lead in making renewable energy a priority," said Councilwoman Bonner, "This makes both ecologic and economic sense for Brookhaven Town and I am happy to support the Supervisor's landmark plan."

Bill Miller, Vice President, Energy Sector of TRC Solutions said, "Without question, the most compatible sites for utility-scale renewable energy facilities are in our federal, state and local governments' domain. Brookhaven Town is the very first one in the United States to take a holistic approach hosting renewable energy on a portfolio of government-owned developed sites. I expect Brookhaven's landmark project will serve as a model to inspire other towns and cities to follow."

Each proposed site will include at least one, or a combination of ground, roof or car port solar arrays and some will also include low profile wind turbines. In addition, a plane port solar array is proposed for Calabro Airport and 10 solar fueling stations are planned for Town Hall where residents can charge the batteries in their electric powered vehicles. The proposed Town-owned sites in the plan include:

- Brookhaven Town Hall
- Manorville Compost Facility
- Waste Management Complex (Landfill)
- Holtsville Park Ecology Center
- Moriches Athletic Complex
- Centereach Pool
- Vehicle Control Building
- Calabro Airport
- Brookhaven Amphitheater
- Medford Athletic Complex
- Percy Raynor Memorial Park
- Martha Avenue Recreation Complex
- Mastic Aquatic Center and Skate Park (Optional)
- Cedar Beach (Optional)
- Corey Beach (Optional)

At the March 12 Town Board Meeting, Supervisor Romaine will move a resolution to accept the findings and recommendations of the evaluation committee and authorize the Town Attorney to commence negotiations with American Capital Energy (ACE), the company that the Evaluation Committee recommends to bring the plan to fruition.

ACE is the premiere solar engineering, procurement and construction contractor and solar developer in the United States. They work with utilities to meet their renewable energy portfolio standard requirements through strategic partnerships with solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturers and experienced installation companies. ACE has installed more than 40 MW of solar PV in seven states and their projects include some of the most challenging brownfield installations and some of the largest solar rooftop arrays in the United States. The sub-contractor on the project is Eldor Contracting Corp., a Holtsville, New York based electrical contracting company that specializes

utility-level construction for multi-megawatt interconnections.

"Brookhaven Town is paving the way for government at every level to switch to renewable energy sources. The plan is particularly commendable because it explicitly rejects tree cutting in connection with this green initiative, thus not compromising our natural resources for alternative energy," said Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

"This large scale renewable energy project is historical not only for Long Island but for New York State. Advancing implementation of 50 MW shows Brookhaven is thinking 'outside the barrel' for energy and economic solutions. This plan generates revenue, produces clean energy, creates jobs and advances Long Island's energy independence from harmful fossil fuels. What's not to love? Congratulations to Supervisor Ed Romaine for advancing a sustainable pathway into the millennium," said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

"I commend Supervisor Romaine and members of the Town Board for their vision to promote clean and renewable energy in the Town of Brookhaven," said LIPA Vice President of Environmental Affairs Michael J. Deering, "LIPA remains committed to working with government officials, business leaders, and community members to advance clean and efficient energy."

"Supervisor Romaine's plan is a win-win for the Town of Brookhaven," said Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters. Not only will these measures help make the town a clean-energy leader; they will also generate much-needed revenues. This is exactly the kind of creative leadership Brookhaven needs. We look forward to working with Supervisor Romaine to implementing this and other sustainability initiatives in the future."

"Scientists say we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% to avoid disastrous climate impacts," said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island, a regional not-for-profit organization, "Towns play a crucial role in the transition to a clean energy future and it is exciting to see the Town of Brookhaven using solar leasing and other renewable energy on a large scale."

Peter Gollon, Energy Chair of the Long Island Sierra Club said, "The Long Island Sierra Club applauds Supervisor Romaine and the Town of Brookhaven for taking a giant step toward creating a fully renewable energy economy on Long Island. These renewable energy projects will provide income to the Town, reduce air pollution from existing fossil fuel generation, and reduce the production of carbon dioxide that science indicates is causing global climate change. The other towns and counties on Long Island would do well to follow Brookhaven's leadership towards a sustainable and non-polluting energy economy."

James Tripp, Senior Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund said, "We applaud the initiative taken by Supervisor Ed Romaine to expand the Town's commitment to energy renewables generation on its properties and energy efficiency in its buildings. The Town is thus starting to do its share to reduce its contribution to global warming and sea level rise and advance distributive solar and wind technologies."

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