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Battery storage study kicks off in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake

Researchers investigate peak shaving benefits

TUPPER LAKE, N.Y. — Clarkson University researchers are conducting an energy study in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake that could help the two villages reduce their electricity costs through a process called “peak shaving.”

An energy storage peak shaving feasibility study for Tupper Lake and Lake Placid municipal electric departments will investigate the use of battery energy storage to “peak shave,” a technique that reduces power consumption during periods of maximum demand. The project is being funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), with additional cost sharing funds from Clarkson University.

"This is an interesting time for battery energy systems, with significant performance improvements and declining costs," said Thomas Ortmeyer, Research Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Clarkson University and lead researcher for the project. "Our study investigating using battery systems to better manage the electric grid power draw has the potential to lower costs for Tupper Lake and Lake Placid Municipal Electric District customers. We are looking forward to working with these districts and ANCA on this project."

Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) Energy Circuit Riders (ECRs) worked with Lake Placid and Tupper Lake municipal leaders to identify their initial interest in using batteries to peak shave. ANCA ECRs, who serve as field agents for ANCA's Clean Energy Program, also assisted with developing the grant proposal for the study. The Clean Energy Program focuses on advancing clean energy efforts in the region by helping communities plan, finance and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The energy storage project will analyze energy costs and patterns with energy loads to determine the potential benefits of peak shaving in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. The two municipalities own their electric departments and receive a fixed amount of hydropower from the New York State Power Authority (NYPA). Once they surpass their fixed allocation from NYPA, their price for power increases substantially due to open market pricing.

The study will determine if it is feasible to use battery storage to avoid those instances where the municipalities cross over from their hydropower allocation to the open market. Researchers hope to identify whether battery storage can be used to keep the villages within their allocation and avoid the added expenses of the open market.

“This is one of the reasons this study is unique,” said ANCA Energy Circuit Rider Nancy Bernstein, who will be facilitating the project. “Often communities with municipal electric utilities don't benefit from renewable technologies such as solar or wind because their electricity costs are already very low. But it's possible they may benefit from energy storage opportunities like this.”

“Tupper Lake has been a leader in the region for clean energy projects including electric vehicle charging stations and LED street lights. We continue to look at more ways to reduce energy consumption and in the end, save money for the people who live here,” said Marc Staves, who served as Superintendent of the Tupper Lake Municipal Electric Department until his retirement on March 27. “We're eager to work with Clarkson and ANCA on this study to see how battery storage can benefit Tupper Lake.”

Last December, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo called for the deployment of 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030. The target will help New York meet the Governor's nation-leading Green New Deal, a clean energy and jobs agenda that puts New York State on a path to a carbon-neutral economy. This project is part of NYSERDA's overall goal to develop and field test innovative energy storage systems that will help New York achieve these targets.

Scott Egbert, Program Manager, Renewable Optimization and Energy Storage, NYSERDA, said, “This is the kind of forward-thinking and innovative project that could help municipalities reduce their carbon footprint while supporting Governor Cuomo's clean energy goals. I look forward to watching all of the project partners move this study forward to find methods of reducing costs for municipalities and their customers.”

“This a great opportunity to see if and how battery storage can help these Adirondack villages,” said Bernstein. “I think it's helpful for North Country communities to know that the region is not being left behind when it comes to cutting edge renewable energy technology.”

Questions about the study may be directed to Thomas Ortmeier at tortmeyer@clarkson.edu or (315) 268-4035.

[ANCA](#) is an independent nonprofit organization growing the New Economy in northern New York. Using an integrated approach to sustainable economic development and prosperity where economic health, community vitality and ecological stewardship are equally important outcomes, ANCA focuses on creating opportunity for people with diverse backgrounds, experience and education levels.

[Clarkson University](#) educates the leaders of the global economy. Clarkson is a nationally recognized research university with signature areas of academic excellence and research directed toward the

world's pressing issues. Through more than 50 rigorous programs of study in engineering, business, arts, education, sciences and the health professions, the entire learning-living community spans boundaries across disciplines, nations and cultures to build powers of observation, challenge the status quo and connect discovery and innovation with enterprise.

[NYSERDA](#), a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975. To learn more about NYSERDA's programs and funding opportunities, visit nyserda.ny.gov or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or [Instagram](#).

Attached:

One (1) PDF document and one (1) photo:

Photo courtesy of the Village of Tupper Lake: Village of Tupper Lake municipal offices

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