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**North Country Municipalities Invited to Apply for Clean Energy Funding**

*ANCA designated regional coordinator for NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program*

**Saranac Lake, N.Y.** — North Country municipalities are invited to participate in a grant program designed to help them save energy and reduce costs by implementing clean energy projects. The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will be coordinating the newly launched round of the [Clean Energy Communities](#) (CEC) program throughout the North Country region.

Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) [announced the launch of the new CEC Leadership Round](#) on January 26 as part of the State's broader climate and clean energy agenda. ANCA's Energy Circuit Riders will be providing free technical assistance and consulting services to North Country governments interested in participating.

"There is a solid foundation built on ANCA's involvement in round one of the Clean Energy Communities program, and the next round allows us to be nimble and responsive to more North Country communities interested in participating. It's a win-win," said Jerrod Bley, director of ANCA's Clean Energy Program, which has been offering free technical assistance to municipalities for six years. "We are eager to help our hard-working local leaders take advantage of everything that the Leadership Round has to offer."

ANCA is part of a regional group of outreach coordinators selected by NYSERDA and headed by the Albany-based Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) to implement the Leadership Round in the North Country. This round will help more cities, counties, towns and villages join more than 300 local governments statewide that have already been designated as Clean Energy Communities. All eligible communities can participate in the new round without local cost share and regardless of previous participation in the program.

Kelly Tyler, Director of Communities and Local Government at NYSERDA said, "As a valued partner stewarding our environment and reducing carbon emissions to meet New York State's climate and clean energy goals under Governor Cuomo's leadership, ANCA is a leading resource for our northern communities. As our Clean Energy Communities program partner, they will help provide more

municipalities with information on a wider range of actions that can be embraced to save energy and lower costs while creating healthier communities to live and work in.”

To earn CEC designation, each community must complete four high-impact actions intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save taxpayer dollars and improve quality of life for communities. Additional funding is included for disadvantaged communities through the Leadership Round in support of New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goal of increasing access to clean energy and sustainable infrastructure to all end-users.

Round one of the CEC program, which wrapped up in 2020, resulted in 20 designated communities in the North Country implementing 108 high-impact clean energy actions. Over \$1.7 million in grant funds were awarded to support clean energy projects throughout the region.

“Lewis County is excited to build upon its prior CEC designation and advance development that balances community, economic and environmental sustainability,” said Larry Dolhof, Lewis County Board Chairman. During the first round of the CEC program, Lewis County used grant funds for LED lighting upgrades and an electric vehicle for the county’s fleet. “For round two of the program, we are committed to a county-wide approach that supports our villages and towns achieving designation, energy savings and emissions reductions.”

ANCA Energy Circuit Riders Nancy Bernstein and Jennifer Perry will be joined by a new team member to serve as CEC Coordinators in the North Country region. The coordinators are currently informing municipalities about the program and are ready to assist eligible communities in completing high-impact actions, becoming designated CEC communities and accessing grant funds for clean energy projects.

ANCA will work in partnership with organizations across New York to implement the statewide program, including CDRPC, the Hudson Valley Regional Council, and the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, as well as two subcontractors who will provide valuable technical assistance.

“We’re glad to have the support of this larger team of partners,” said Bley. “This collaboration will help us connect communities with the resources and expertise they need to efficiently complete their clean energy projects, making this Leadership Round even more successful than the first.”

“We’re happy to have ANCA on board again for this round of the program,” said Todd Fabozzi, CDRPC’s director of sustainability. “Their clean energy team has established strong relationships with North Country municipalities over the years, and they have the programmatic knowledge and community networks to help CEC succeed in this rural region.”

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA’s community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted

interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

[CDRPC](#) provides objective analysis of data, trends, opportunities and challenges relevant to the Region's economic development and planning communities. CDRPC serves the best interests of the public and private sectors by promoting intergovernmental cooperation; communicating, collaborating, and facilitating regional initiatives; and sharing information and fostering dialog on solutions to regional problems.

[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.

**Attached: one (1) PDF document and one (1) image**

*Photo courtesy of the Town of Plattsburgh: The Town of Plattsburgh used a portion of its \$100K Clean Energy Communities award to add a plug-in hybrid car to its municipal fleet in 2018. The town became a designated Clean Energy Community in July 2017.*

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