



ACE NY
ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY NEW YORK, INC.

New Rules for Renewables

A more efficient and standardized process to get responsibly designed wind and solar projects from proposal to construction, while still ensuring NY's strong tradition of environmental review with avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of environmental impacts.

Before the application is filed...

- More than 60 days before:
 - Meet with towns and counties (60+days before)
 - Meet with community members (60+ days before)
 - Publish a Notice of Intent to file
- “At the earliest point possible in project planning” consultations with ORES and DEC
 - Wetland delineations
 - Water resources and aquatic ecology
 - Threatened and endangered species
 - Archeological resources

Fees and Notices for Wind and Solar Applications

- A fee to fund the Local Agency Account, which supports intervenors – both municipalities and community groups that are parties (apply for funds 30 days after app filed)
- Plus ORES review fee
- Application filed with DEC, DPS, DOH, Ag, DOT, OPRHP, all towns, attorney general, all libraries
- Notice of the application to newspapers, neighbors within 1 or 5 miles, state legislators

Application Exhibits

1. General
2. Overview and public involvement
3. Locations and surrounding land use (maps)
4. Real property (more maps)
5. Design drawings (setbacks, site plans, safety)
6. Public health, safety, and security
7. Noise and vibration
8. Visual Impacts
9. Cultural Resources
10. Geology, seismology, and soils
11. Terrestrial Ecology
12. NYS Threatened and Endangered Species
13. Water resources and aquatic ecology
14. Wetlands
15. Agricultural Resources
16. Effects on Transportation
17. Consistency with Energy Planning Objectives
18. Socioeconomic Effects
19. Environmental Justice
20. Effects on Communications
21. Electric System Effects and Interconnection
22. Electric and Magnetic Fields
23. Site Restoration and Decommissioning
24. Local Laws and Ordinances
25. Other permits and approvals

Steps in the Process...

- Preapplication Activities (more than 60 d before app)
- Application Submitted
- Application Completeness (60 d after app)
- Draft Permit and Various notices (60 d after completeness)
- Public comment period; period to request party status, public statement hearing (60 days after draft permit)
- "Issues Determination" & possibly adjudicatory hearing, recommended decision (various deadlines)
- Final decision 1 year from application completeness

Municipal Participation

- During pre-application phase, meeting with applicant.
- Municipalities can seek funds from the “local agency account”
- After a Draft Permit is issued, a municipality has 60 days to submit comments including a statement indicating whether the proposed facility is in compliance with all local laws/regulations.
- If it is not, the municipality files for party status. If the ORES determines an issue is “substantive and significant,” it will schedule an adjudicatory hearing. Either way, there will always be a public statement hearing.
- Local agencies are full parties in any adjudicatory hearing

Projects, ORES, and Local Govt.

- Proposed regulations contain design standards for noise and required minimum setbacks for wind turbines and solar panels
- The permittee must provide host community benefits, such as Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) or other host benefit agreement
- Projects abide by local laws, except for those that the ORES has determined to be “unreasonably burdensome.”
- The permittee is required to coordinate on traffic control.
- No eminent domain; willing landowners only.
- Construction limited to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F, 8 – 8 on Sundays
- Full decommissioning and site restoration requirements, including letters of credit.



FRIENDS OF FLINT MINE SOLAR

COXSACKIE ATHENS CITIZENS
FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

I'm Giuseppina
Agovino



Getting involved as a supporter
of large-scale solar



About Friends of Flint Mine Solar ☀️

We are a group of farmers, landowners and town residents in Coxsackie and Athens that believe the Flint Mine Solar Project will have positive effects for our community.

The Friends came together in 2018 when it was apparent that incorrect information, about solar in general, was being spread without reply.

Our aim is to offer information about the Flint Mine Project in particular but also solar in general.



Why Building this Project is so important to the Friends

- The land in Cocksackie and Athens consists of poorly-drained clay and is unsuitable for modern agriculture. It HAS become a drain on landowners' resources.
 - Due to its location in the Hudson Valley and the presence of high voltage power lines, installing utility scale solar will allow the land to be used productively and sustainably again.
- Bringing solar will provide work and economic opportunities locally.
- We need to address Climate Change (75F weather in mid-November, anyone?)

Land is Underutilized!



Importance of Good Siting

- Preserving Prime and economic farmland is critical for New York and many nationwide and local organizations (American Farmland Trust, Saving Greene). *The project avoids all such farm land.*
- The solar panel arrays will be in an industrial corridor with high voltage power lines, 2 state prisons and a county jail bounded by railroad tracks and state and federal highways. *The project will improve the neighborhood!*

Importance of Good Development

- Landowners were approached by up to ~ten solar developers. *Important to choose a developer who recognizes the value of the land and the landowners' values. It's also vital to work beside them to insure local input is taken seriously. It will take all of us to build these projects.*
- The Developer in our project quickly recognized the important issues and redesigned the project (multiple times) to protect resources (raptor habitat, vistas, archeological resources, soil and rare plants). *Developer engaged early on with local and state stakeholders.*

Economic Benefits for Individuals & Community

- The project will bring much-needed revenue to the towns, school district and county, with an expected \$36 million plus in PILOT payments and Special District Taxes over its life.
- Landowners will reap the rewards of decades of stewardship that preserved the area's character and resources. Over \$10 million will be paid within two years and close to \$20 million over project life.
- \$100++ million investment in solar modules, electrical equipment and engineering, surveying and other materials and services during construction will bring an immediate economic boost.

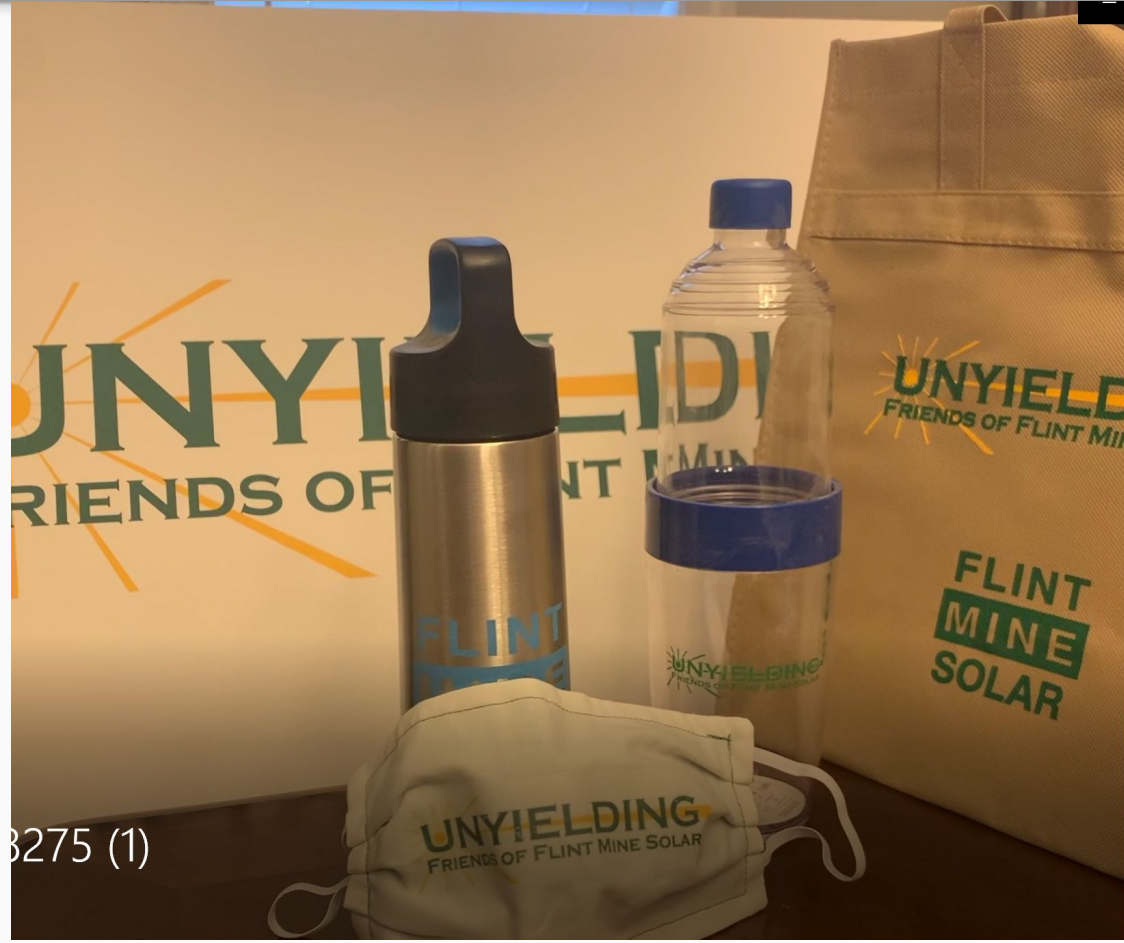


Environmental Benefits

- ❖ The project will conserve hundreds of acres of grassland habitat for threatened and endangered local species, well in excess of the number required by the regulations.

What the Friends Have Done – Bring Issues to the Fore

- ✓ Set up Facebook page and website.
- ✓ Hosted booths at
 - ☐ Coxsackie River Fest
 - ☐ Athens Street Fest
 - ☐ Coxsackie Earth Day
 - ☐ Black Horse Children's Party
- ✓ Attended all Coxsackie Town Board Meetings.
- ✓ Met with multiple state, agency, county personnel and elected representatives.
- ✓ Held regular Friends meetings.



What the Friends Have Done – Athens Street Fest Booth



Why Streamlined Siting Regulations are Required for Renewables

- The Friends are very excited to see the state moving forward with 94-C
 - 94-C makes it more difficult for opponents to block or delay projects for reasons that are not significant.
 - 94-C looks at local laws in the context of the facilities environmental benefits and the renewable energy targets.
- Current regulations prolong the development cycle, especially the scoping and stipulations process.
 - Article 10 process has taken 5+ years per project, but we only have ten years to meet the 70% goals. We encourage all of you to please support 94-C and get involved with your local projects. If not here, where? and if not now, When?



