



MOHAWK VALLEY

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2014

NEWSLETTER

03.07.14

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

Governor Cuomo recently announced 33 megawatts of photovoltaic systems will be built under the NY SUN Initiative, with nearly one-third of those megawatts produced right here in the Mohawk Valley.



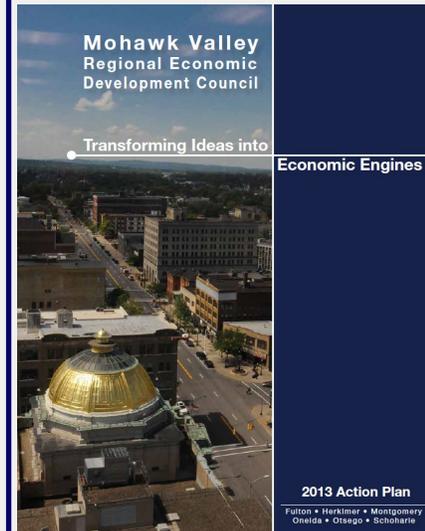
In all, three large scale “solar farms” will be added in our region this year, thanks to NY SUN and the 2013 MVREDC Awards. Of these, two were priorities identified in the 2013 Action Plan , totaling more than 10 megawatts of combined PV production—or enough energy to meet the electricity demands of 10,000 homes. Technically speaking, that’s a lot of juice. The Mohawk Valley Sustainability Plan calls for increased renewable local energy generation and redevelopment of brownfield and vacant properties. These projects accomplish both—and so much more.

Brownfields to Brightfields is a City of Rome project, that will place a 2.8 megawatt solar farm on the Tannery Road landfill. The NY-SUN Initiative allows Rome to remotely meter energy produced at the brownfield site, while crediting the usage at high-demand facilities such as its wastewater treatment plant and City Hall. The clean energy created will fulfill up to 35% of the City’s electricity demands, while saving the city more than \$100,000 each year. Constructing the facility on the capped landfill site is a win-win scenario for the economy and the environment.

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SUN SHINES ON ONEONTA SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

On March 1st, Oneonta hosted the region’s first major Sustainability Summit at SUNY Oneonta. On a crisp and sunny day, more than 120 individuals from across the region met to formulate a vision for the community and the region, and to tackle issues in transportation, energy, land use, waste management, agriculture, forestry, and economics. By all accounts, the endeavor was a smashing success, and lasting partnerships were forged with the common goal of a sustainable future for Oneonta and the Mohawk Valley.



Read the [2013 Action Plan](#)

MVREDC CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 12th
Leadership Mohawk Valley Follow the Leader Awards
Radisson Hotel, Utica

Friday, April 4th
MVREDC MEETING
HERKIMER COLLEGE
10am to 12pm

MVREDC Co-Chairs

Larry T. Gilroy, III
Dr. Robert Geer

Executive Director

Kenneth Tompkins

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[Visit us on the web!](#)



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2014 NEWSLETTER

03.07.2014

“FRESHCONNECT” Empowers People, Farms, Communities

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on Tuesday announced on March 4th the release of a \$130,000 Request for Proposal for the “FreshConnect” Farmers’ Market program, which assists New York’s farmers by promoting the sale of locally-grown food products.

The program, in its fourth year, focuses on bringing fresh farm products to nutritionally-underserved communities and improving nutrition education.

Acting Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard Ball said, “FreshConnect Farmers’ Markets are just one more way that Governor Cuomo continues to open new markets for New York’s agricultural producers. Our producers are blessed to be farming in close proximity to large urban markets with consumers who are hungry for fresh goods. These markets are true economic drivers for farmers that also provide some of the best agricultural products in the entire world.”



Continued from page 1: It’s Always Sunny In the Mohawk Valley

Meanwhile, at the former Rome Cable site, a similar-sized solar project will result in a power purchase agreement (PPA) to ensure a stable, clean energy source for Rome Strip Steel—one of the areas top manufacturing exporters. Reliable energy and price certainty helps manufacturers like RSS to stay, compete, and grow in the Mohawk Valley. Symbiotically, redevelopment of the site creates new value in neighborhoods adversely affected by vacant, blighted, and underutilized properties.

These projects don’t happen overnight. The truth is, they are complex deals and the result of years of careful planning, incremental successes, and, sometimes, devastating setbacks. Looking long-term, planners and stakeholders in Rome decided years ago to address the crushing blight and lost opportunity presented by brownfields and vacant properties. The result was a series of public-private partnerships supported by the MVREDC that serves as a practical—and profitable—Smart Growth model for small cities, towns, business parks, farms, and industries in the Valley.

The advent of the Regional Councils, the CFA process, and the industry-leading NY-SUN Initiative has empowered Mohawk Valley communities to implement their plans. The MVREDC continues to seek and nurture priority projects that align with regional strategies. By encouraging Smart Growth, these strategies move us toward a more sustainable economy and a better quality of life for ourselves and our posterity.



- Ladan Alomar**
Executive Director, Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc
- Juanita Bass**
Owner, Juanita’s Soul Classics Inc.
- Vincent Bono**
Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature
- Kathleen Clark**
Chairman, Board of Representatives, Otsego County
- Steve DiMeo**
President, Mohawk Valley EDGE
- Frank DeRiso**
President, United Food & Commercial Workers International
- Marianne W. Gaige**
President & CEO, Cathedral Corporation
- Charles Green**
President & CEO, Assured Information Security, Inc.
- Joseph Griffo**
State Senate, 47th District
- Wally Hart**
Director for Business & Community Development
Lexington Center
- Dr. Todd Hutton**
President, Utica College
- William L. Keller III**
President & CEO, Keymark Corp.
- Mark Kilmer**
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- Scott White**
President, Bank of Cooperstown



For more on NY-SUN Initiative, visit or click: <http://ny-sun.ny.gov/> and for more information on the MVREDC, please visit or click: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>.