

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bedford, N.Y. (June 15, 2010)

Town of Bedford / Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium / Bedford Energy Advisory Panel / Bedford 2020 Coalition

On June 14, 2010 the Town of Bedford along with its partner, the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC), was awarded \$1.26mm from the U.S. Department of Energy to implement the Town of Bedford's comprehensive Climate Action Plan and specifically launch its pilot program to create unique finance and marketing tools to promote residential energy efficiency through Home Performance with Energy Star energy audits, building retrofits and PACE Benefit Financing. The Town was thrilled when, on April 21 of this year, it received its first grant with partner New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) and NWEAC to begin work developing best practices relating to scaling up the demand for building retrofits throughout Bedford and NWEAC towns and to create the model that will transfer to small and medium communities throughout New York State.

"Bedford is honored to be chosen by the federal government as a community leading a nationwide effort to create home energy efficiency solutions. We could reduce community energy use 15% if every homeowner signed up for a Home Performance energy retrofit. Imagine the impact on our nation if Bedford's pilot was initiated in every town across the country," said Lee Roberts, Supervisor of the Town of Bedford.

"Bedford is proud to be one of the 20 small communities at the heart of an energy efficiency movement taking root right at the local level. This grant from the U.S. Department of Energy is crucial funding for a program that will affect not only the Town of Bedford and NWEAC, but Westchester County, New York State, and potentially the nation," stated Mary Beth Kass, Chair of the Bedford Energy Advisory Panel.

Herb Oringel, Chair of NWEAC added, "The Municipalities of NWEAC are delighted to be associated with the Town of Bedford's Energy Efficiency initiative. We are especially pleased that the DOE has recognized the collaboration of NWEAC led by the impressive efforts of the Town of Bedford."

With this funding, the targeted efforts of the Town of Bedford in partnership with the Bedford 2020 Coalition, a not-for-profit volunteer organization that is tasked with implementing the Town's Climate Action Plan, will be far more effective and far-reaching. The Program will now have the resources to engage sophisticated marketing experts to develop an effective and

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measurable communication strategy as well as a comprehensive web tool to facilitate scaling demand for retrofits of existing buildings. Both of these elements will enable us to create a low cost model for communities throughout NWEAC and New York State and hopefully the country. Bedford 2020 will ramp up its outreach program to encourage residents to choose home retrofits with PACE Benefit Financing as a key focus.

Ellen Conrad, Co-Chair of the Bedford 2020 Coalition, said “B2020 is uniquely situated to connect the Town’s climate action goals with the community’s desire to act locally. We are all experiencing the frustration of news from the Gulf of Mexico. This grant and the Town of Bedford/NWEAC Energy Retrofit Program have the potential to change the way our nation consumes oil. We are very excited to be working with the Town on this project.”

“This grant will assist us to reduce these emissions in a cost effective manner by leveraging innovative PACE Benefit financing. Along with reducing energy costs for building owners, we will improve our air quality, create new jobs and reduce imports of fossil fuels. Our Program has tremendous potential to have a major impact on reducing energy usage locally and throughout New York State,” said Mark Thielking, Director of Energy Resources, Town of Bedford.

For more information or to find out how you can help,
Contact:

Lee Roberts: 914 666 6530 lroberts@BedfordNY.info

<http://www.bedfordny.info/>

Mary Beth Kass: 917-821-8277 evkass@optonline.net

<http://www.bedfordny.info/html/green.htm> □

Mark Thielking: 914 960 9838 bedfordnyenergy@gmail.com

<http://www.bedfordny.info/html/green.htm> □

Ellen Conrad: 914 234 3861 ellenconrad@hotmail.com

www.bedford2020.org

Herb Oringel: 914-277-5370 herb@oringel.com

www.nweac.org