



Breaking Down Barriers

TO RENEWABLE ENERGY IN NEW YORK STATE

A series of open conversations about meeting our energy goals.



Hosted by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

Project Overview:

Siting Renewable Energy in New York State

- State and local leadership is necessary for combatting climate change and reducing our carbon emissions.
 - New York State is on track to being a leader in these efforts, with Governor Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard, mandating that by 2030, the state must generate 50% of its energy from renewables.
-
- However, achieving these ambitious goals has shown to be difficult, as siting wind and solar under the state's power generation siting law, Article 10, is lengthy, costly, and contentious. To date, **only one largescale renewable energy project has been approved under Article 10.**
 - NYLCVEF is seeking your support to address this challenge and bring New York closer to achieving its clean energy goals. With your help, we will convene key stakeholders for **a series of five key stakeholder forums across the state** on overcoming the barriers to siting renewable energy.
 - We will commission **a background paper** to lay the groundwork for these conversations. Following the events, NYLCVEF will **produce policy recommendations for each location.**
 - Join us as we move the needle forward on clean energy in **the Capital Region, Hudson Valley, Westchester, the Buffalo-Niagara Region, and on Long Island.**



Organization Background

For 25 years, NYLCVEF has been committed to **educating, engaging, and empowering** New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment. From climate change and renewable energy, to protecting public health and preserving our watersheds, we connect New Yorkers to local and state sustainability issues. Together with our broad and diverse network of partners and supporters, NYLCVEF ensures the environment is a priority, gets voters involved in the environmental decision-making process, and holds our elected officials accountable.

We accomplish our mission through **educational policy forums and publications, nonpartisan electoral work, and civic engagement campaigns**:

- **Policy forums** create a space for informed conversation around a particular local or state sustainability challenge. By convening a range of sectors, including political leaders, industry professionals, and community partners, these events provide much-needed cross-sector dialogue on important issues. Previous forums have covered topics including energy, green infrastructure, water quality, waste, and transportation.
- **Nonpartisan candidate forums** connect voters to candidates for federal, state, and local offices. We seek to elevate the environment as a priority for candidates and voters.
- **Civic engagement campaigns** encourage voters to take concrete action on timely environmental issues, whether by signing a petition, contacting their representatives, or joining a rally.

Past Successes



In 2015, NYLCVEF held a forum on Long Island with over 70 stakeholders to identify solutions to nitrogen pollution and the other water quality impacts from aging septic systems. Following the forum, we identified two main challenges: technology and finances. **In 2016**, we discovered an opportunity via a ballot initiative to extend and expand the Peconic Bay Community Preservation Fund (CPF), which uses a real-estate transfer tax to fund land and water quality projects. Our education and civic engagement work around this issue led to the eventual passage of the CPF. **Now active until 2050**, the CPF also includes an expanded provision for water infrastructure projects, such as improving aging septic systems.

Central to NYLCVEF's strategic vision is to expand a successful program from one location to multiple parts of the state. This allows us to **engage a broader audience**, work with **a range of partners**, and discover how **an issue changes depending on the region**. Since 2016, we have convened **four policy forums on green infrastructure** in Buffalo, Albany, New York City, and in Sullivan County. We will use best practices from these forums for our roundtables on siting renewable energy, including convening diverse speakers from all sectors, working with community partners to incorporate local concerns, and asking targeted questions on what is needed to overcome our major challenges.





Challenge to be Addressed

State & Local Leadership

With the federal government's retreat from the Paris Accord, state and local leaders have stepped up to continue paving a path toward decarbonization. New York State has positioned itself to be a leader in this effort by setting ambitious climate goals and making significant investments in renewable energy. Governor Cuomo's 2016 Clean Energy Standard (CES) requires that by the end of 2030, 50% of New York's energy must come from renewable sources, including solar, wind, and hydropower.

Siting Challenges in New York State

Achieving these goals will require rapid and widespread renewable energy development across the state, and while community and rooftop solar has seen significant growth in recent years, to achieve the mandate of the CES, New York needs larger-scale renewable development. However, major barriers exist to siting wind and solar projects at this scale.

- **Regulatory:** The state's siting law, Article 10, which was revised in 2011 to simplify siting larger energy generating facilities (25+ megawatts), has shown to be costly, lengthy, and contentious. In fact, only one project has been approved under Article 10 to date.
- **Local Opposition:** Communities across the state have raised serious concerns over the impact of large renewable projects on other environmental priorities, including open space preservation, farmland protection, and habitat conservation. In a state with Constitutional Home Rule, local communities have significant power over whether projects can move forward.



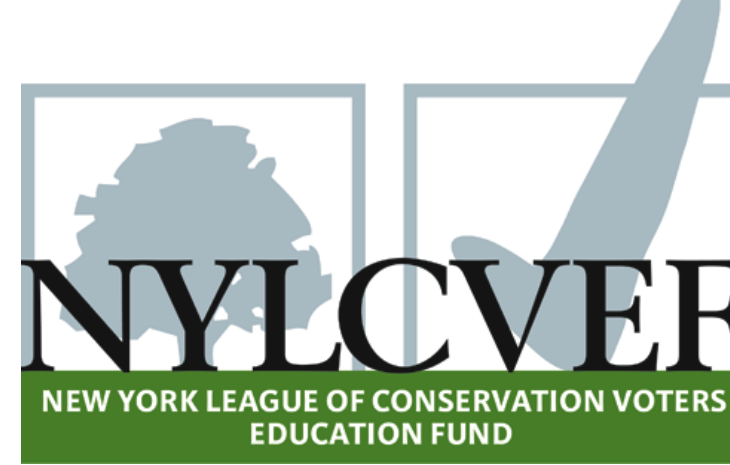
Proposed Project

While community concerns should be taken seriously, especially since solar and wind farms require significant acreage, we must move forward with renewable development now in order for New York State to achieve its energy goals. We must also be realistic and set achievable goals that can be tracked.

The goal of this series of roundtables is to generate **an honest dialogue** among **key players** about what is needed to achieve the CES, including overcoming the siting challenges under Article 10 and developing strategies for balancing concerns over land use with the benefits of adopting renewable energy.

We will seek to **create a common understanding** about what policies and programs are needed to accelerate New York's development of renewable energy. Environmental groups from around the state, including ACE-NY, The Nature Conservancy, and Scenic Hudson, all agree that these barriers exist, but we need to act now if we are to find a solution.

With your support, in the fall and winter of 2018, we will convene representatives from all sectors, including **state agencies, industry professionals, academics, and community advocates** in a series of five forums in **Westchester, the Capital Region, the Buffalo-Niagara Region, the Hudson Valley, and on Long Island**, with the goal of finding solutions to this challenge. Many are already united in support of clean energy, yet are divided when it comes to how to achieve those goals.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Sponsor - \$25,000 - Support for the full program, including the background paper, all 5 roundtable events, and the follow-up recommendations.

- Benefits include** -
- Press release announcing the sponsorship.
 - Access to our exclusive Eco-Breakfasts for one year.
 - Branded banner during events (banner provided by sponsor).
 - Full page ad in the event program.
 - Recognition as sponsor of paper.
 - Exposure on our website, social media, and all event materials.

Gold Sponsor - \$15,000 - Support for the background paper and two roundtable events.

- Benefits include** -
- Access to our exclusive Eco-Breakfasts for one year.
 - Branded banner during events (banner provided by sponsor).
 - Full page ad in the event program.
 - Recognition as sponsor of paper.
 - Exposure on our website, social media, and all event materials.

Silver Sponsor - \$5,000 - Support for the background paper and one roundtable event.

- Benefits include** -
- Branded banner during events (banner provided by sponsor).
 - Half page ad in the event program.
 - Recognition as sponsor of paper.
 - Exposure on our website, social media, and all event materials.



Sponsorship Opportunities Continued

Program Sponsor - \$2,500 - Support for the background paper and part of a roundtable event.

- Benefits include -**
- Half page ad in the event program.
 - Recognition as sponsor of the paper.
 - Exposure on our website and event materials.

Supporter - \$1,500 - Support for one roundtable in a specific region.

- Benefits include -**
- Quarter page ad in event program.
 - Exposure on our website and event materials.

Friend - \$500 - Partial support for the program.

- Benefits include -**
- Quarter page ad in the event program.
 - Exposure on our website.



Contact Angela Hotaling, Program Director at 212-361-6350 or
ahotaling@nylcv.org
Visit us online at www.nylcvef.org