

Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee  
Planning & Community Development Agenda  
August 25, 2020

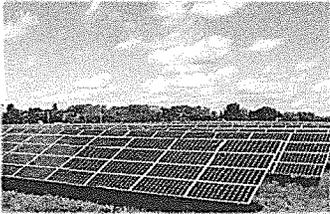
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Supervisors Wild, Hogan, Leggett, Braymer, Diamond, Dickinson, Magowan, McDevitt and Seeber

---

- I. Committee meeting called to order by the Chair
  - II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee Meeting
  - III. Action Agenda/New Business Items:
    1. Request: None  
Rationale:
  - IV. Discussion Items:
    1. Update on Solar Energy in Warren County (Chris Belden)
    2. Update on Census Bureau activities and Warren County Census Outreach (Sara Frankenfeld)
  - V. Referrals/Pending Items: None
  - VI. Privilege of the Floor and public comment (please allow 15 second delay on live stream meetings)
  - VII. Motion to Adjourn
- Attachments:
1. Solar Energy and Land Use
  2. Census 2020 Outreach and Response

## Solar Energy & Land-Use

In the last 10 years, there has been a 2,000% increase in solar projects throughout Warren County. Programs like **Community Solar**, and newly passed legislation, such as, the **Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act** and the **Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act** will lead to an increase of solar facilities in Warren County.



Warren County in 2020

<b>630</b>	Total solar projects
<b>23MW</b>	Total Mega Watt (MW) capacity
<b>Ranked 34 of 62 Counties</b>   Total MW capacity	

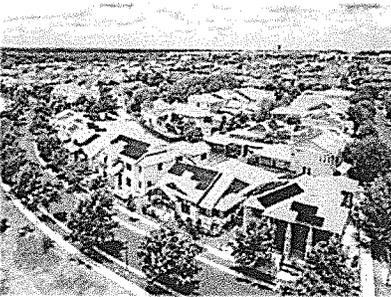
### Importance of Preparing Our Local Codes for Growth in Solar

#### *Promote Economic Development*

- Growing demand for solar is supporting well-paying local job opportunities
- Benefits to low-income households, through savings on their electric bill
- Provide prospective developers with a set of clear, consistent expectations

#### *Preserve Community Character*

- Proactive community planning to mitigate concerns before it's problematic
- Project scale, the average community solar farm requires approximately 25 acres of land.
- Without adequate regulations in place, communities can be burdened with the cost of decommissioning abandoned systems.



#### Local Land-Use Laws

- Chester and Lake George | The only communities to specifically regulate solar
- Queensbury | 6-month moratorium on ground-mount solar
- Suggested Code Review Considerations
  - Setback and height restrictions (ground-mount)
  - Allow different types/size of installations in specific zones
  - Decommissioning
  - Process Streamlining

#### **Community Solar**

Residents invest in a portion of a large-scale (2-5MW) solar project and receive credits for this electricity on their monthly utility bills.

#### **Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act**

Statewide Climate Goals by:

2025	6,000MW solar
2030	70% Renewable Energy
2040	100% Renewable Energy
2050	↓ GHG emissions by 85%

#### **Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act**

Establishes State siting board for solar facilities over 25MW.

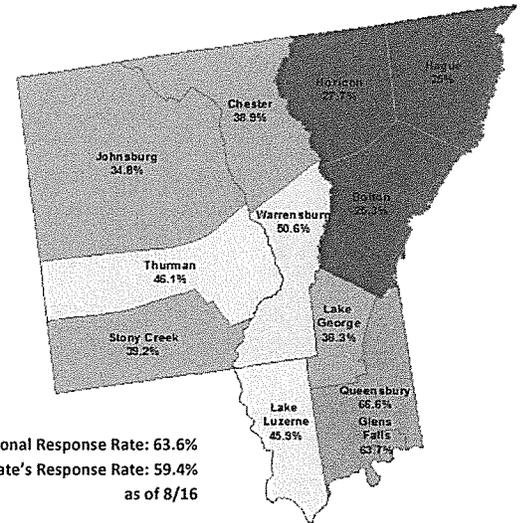
#### **A Typical 2MW Project**

- \$6-8M Investment
- Covers 10 acres of land
- Serves 200-400 homes
- Decommissioning Costs: \$100,000

## Census 2020 Outreach & Response

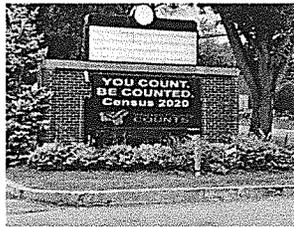
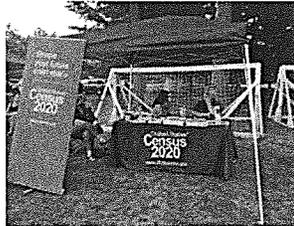
### Current Census Bureau Activities

- Enumerators are out in the field, 8/11 through 9/30, 7 days a week 9am-9pm
- Additional enumerators for Warren County are receiving training this week
- Worried about scams? Call 844-330-2020 to verify legitimacy or report issues.
- Enumerators make up to six attempts to reach each household. They may also attempt to reach residents via phone.
- If in person contact cannot be established, enumerators may talk to neighbors or landlords to obtain information about non-responding residents
- The Census Bureau is performing outreach to low-response areas via email
- Residents can still self-respond through 9/30 online, or via phone or mail



### Current and Upcoming Warren County Outreach Activities

- Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Centers:
  - Million Reasons to Vote 8/15
  - Crandall Library
  - Open Door Food Pantry
- Phone Bank staffed by Tri-County United Way
- Census messages on digital message boards throughout the County
- 100 additional lawn signs
- Newspaper articles, radio spots and ads in area media (Post Star, North Country NPR, Sun Community News, Chronicle)
- Flyers for distribution through senior and student meal deliveries



- Booths for self-response at all Warren County Farmer's Markets and Shirt Factory food corral
- Warren County Counts themed PPE for distribution at farmer's markets and through food pantries
- Banners for all town halls
- Flyers distributed to all Glens Falls Housing Authority projects
- Continued social media advertising featuring testimonials from local community members
- Email outreach to large area employers
- Warren County Counts web banners