

**What is the rationale for this solar development?** The bottom line is to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. The Tompkins County Energy Roadmap recommends developing 944 MW of solar PV on 4,720 acres (1.5 percent of the county's land area) as part of the strategy to achieve the 2050 goal of 80 percent carbon emissions reduction.

**What is community solar?** It is a NY program that provides the opportunity for renters, homeowners, and businesses to buy locally generated, clean power at a discount compared to NYSEG prices. Local generation means less energy is lost during distribution.

**Who is involved?**

**NYSEG** controls where grid connections can be made and how much to charge for each connection, meters how much power is generated, and applies credits to subscriber's bills.

**Private Land Owners:** Mr. Scott Pinney and Cornell University have decided to exercise their rights to develop their lands by allowing solar arrays to be built on their property. Dryden's current zoning and state laws allow the proposed arrays.

**Distributed Sun** is the project sponsor. It has a successful and productive record in our region with arrays built in Lansing, Harford, Ledyard, and Geneva. It will construct and manage the arrays, will sell the power generated, and will post a bond to guarantee proper decommissioning when the arrays are no longer useful.

**The Dryden Town Board** has the authority to grant a special-use permit for the project under applicable town laws. The proposed subdivisions of the Pinney and Cornell lands follow New York's Public Service Commission guidelines.

**How much power would the panels generate?** The rated power production is 29 MW total (from all sites combined)—enough power for 7,500 homes.

**Why build in Dryden?** The sites in Dryden are among the few sites in the county close enough to an interconnection point to be approved by NYSEG. Every one of the interconnection sites will be used in the next few years.

**How will the nearby neighbors be affected?** Undoubtedly, solar projects change the landscape. Distributed Sun has been meeting with those affected to address their concerns. As a result, the new proposal has bigger setbacks, different fencing, wildlife corridors, screening with native plant species, grazing rather than mowing, habitat for birds and pollinators, and minimal tree cutting and trimming. Generally, solar panels are quiet neighbors. They don't pollute land or air and convey benefit without increasing traffic or adding burdens to our schools, sewers, or water infrastructure. The lands will retain their agricultural value for the future. In addition to local customers being able to get electricity at a discount, Distributed Sun will be improving the reliability and resiliency of NYSEG's local grid for everyone.

**What Other Benefits Are There?** The Dryden and Ithaca schools, the Town of Dryden, and the county will each collect yearly payments from the developer through negotiated solar tax agreements—an estimated \$8 million over 30 years. There will be new revenue from the Cornell-owned Ellis Tract near Turkey Hill and Dodge Roads, which is currently tax-exempt, and from 2150 Dryden Road—all paid by Distributed Sun. This project will add to Dryden's reputation as a green energy leader and attract like-minded businesses and homebuyers. It aligns Dryden with other towns around the county and state in responding to climate change, increases local energy independence, and reduces the need to burn fossil fuels.