



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE GRANTS SUPPORT BEACON'S ONGOING CLEAN-ENERGY TRANSITION

Beacon, NY—As Earth Day 2025 approaches, the City of Beacon has continued its initiatives to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from City operations, including securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in Clean Energy Communities grant funding through New York State to purchase new electric vehicles, install new EV charging stations, and conduct energy performance audits to identify energy saving improvements for a number of City-owned facilities. The City is currently a Certified Climate Smart Community with silver status, the highest available rating at this time.

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou noted that the City continues to strive towards being a local and statewide leader in climate-oriented policymaking and sustainability. Kyriacou noted, “At a time when federal leadership in addressing the global climate crisis is being dismantled, it is more critical than ever for local governments to redouble our efforts to transition towards a clean-energy future.”

Over the past year, the City has received grant awards through the New York State Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program totaling more than \$890,000. These funds are being used to conduct building energy performance studies at three City-owned facilities and then fund energy efficiency improvements such as conversions to electric heating and cooling. The facilities are: the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s administrative building, the Veterans Memorial Building, and the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BVAC) facility. Additionally, CEC grants funds are being used to fund the purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) for multiple City departments, including the Police, Administration, Recreation, and Building Departments. Lastly, grant funding will be used to install new EV charging stations at City Hall and the Recreation Center to support Beacon’s transition to EVs.

The City is also preparing to bid a new solar photovoltaic project on the City’s Highway Garage, which will further build upon the City’s local renewable energy generation. Currently, the City produces approximately 70 percent of the electricity used by the City government from the solar energy facility on the former landfill on Dennings Avenue. The Highway Garage solar project, funded partially through State-directed funding through Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, will add another 223,000 kWh per year in locally generated solar power for City operations. In addition, the City is participating in the EPA-funded Mid-Hudson Municipal Landfill Emissions Mitigation Project, which involves biofilter installation to reduce methane emissions from 14 regional landfills, including Beacon’s.

The City’s Climate Smart Coordinator Faye Leone has facilitated and overseen the recent grants, assisting Beacon in implementing its aggressive climate goals. Leone highlighted, “With each grant and every public project that the City undertakes, we gradually reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are trying to do this in a way that shows how the low-carbon transition protects our environment and public health, while reducing operating costs long-term.” Leone cited the example of the Central Fire Station project that was completed in November 2024, which is all-electric, super-insulated, and heated and cooled with a geothermal system. “The Firehouse project sets a new bar for City buildings: zero- or low-emissions, cost-efficient, and healthy and comfortable for those who work there.”

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