



County of Orange
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 11, 2014

Contact: Dain Pascoello
845.291.2700, 845.545.5225 c

Neuhaus Announces Program to Help Orange County Commercial Property Owners Reduce Energy Costs

First County in State to Launch Energize NY

Goshen, NY – The launch of Energize NY in Orange County was announced by County Executive Steve Neuhaus at the OC Chamber of Commerce breakfast in Middletown recently. In his July 10 remarks, Neuhaus explained that the launch of Energize NY in Orange County, the first county in New York State to adopt the program, would help commercial property owners directly address rising operating costs by providing critical support, tools, and long-term financing to implement clean-energy upgrades for their buildings. Watch the launch announcement of Energize NY in Orange County [here](#).

Energize NY services are immediately available to Orange County commercial property owners looking to invest in clean-energy projects that will reduce their energy costs. Projects eligible for financing include solar PV (electric) arrays, high-efficiency lighting, upgrades to HVAC systems, air sealing, and insulation to reduce electricity and primary fuel load through an existing New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) or utility program.

Orange County gained access to Energize NY and its resources by becoming a member of the Energy Improvement Corporation, a New York State Local Development Corporation (LDC) formed to take advantage of a 2010 state law that enabled long-term, low-cost energy efficiency and renewable energy project finance through an innovative mechanism called Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).

“Becoming a member of the EIC and gaining access to no-cost support for commercial property owners puts the county in a great position to help individual property owners as well as the greater business community,” said Neuhaus. “Whenever we can help make businesses more economically and environmentally sustainable, while enhancing their ability to increase profitability, it’s a win-win for everyone.”

The EIC recently signed a letter of intent with the Bank of America (BoA) to provide \$75,000,000 in ready capital to finance hundreds of projects in Orange County and across New York State. Mark Thielking, Executive Director of the Energy Improvement Corporation said, “The large response to our RFP for capital providers and the subsequent commitment from Bank of America Merrill Lynch validates the Energize NY PACE financing model. With our tools and staff support we can help property owners overcome the known barriers to starting and completing clean-energy projects so they can reduce their building’s operating costs.”

Access to private-sector capital has the support of the NY Green Bank, a state-sponsored investment fund dedicated to overcoming obstacles in clean-energy financing markets. “EIC’s Energize NY PACE program is transformational in that it will greatly broaden the availability of capital for energy savings and clean-energy-generation projects for commercial buildings across New York,” said Alfred Griffin, President, NY Green Bank. “The PACE financing structure enhances the credit profile of many projects, such that building owners can gain access to funding that will improve the efficiency of their buildings by reducing energy costs.”

Orange County property owners interested in upgrading commercial buildings such as office, retail, multifamily, healthcare, hospitality or agricultural complexes can contact the Orange County Department of Planning for more information or visit the Energize NY website at: Commercial.EnergizeNY.org/OrangeCounty.

The Orange County Department of Planning will be fielding calls and emails about the program launch. To learn more, contact the Planning Department’s Kate Schmidt at kschmidt@orangecountygov.com or dial [845-615-3858](tel:845-615-3858).

###