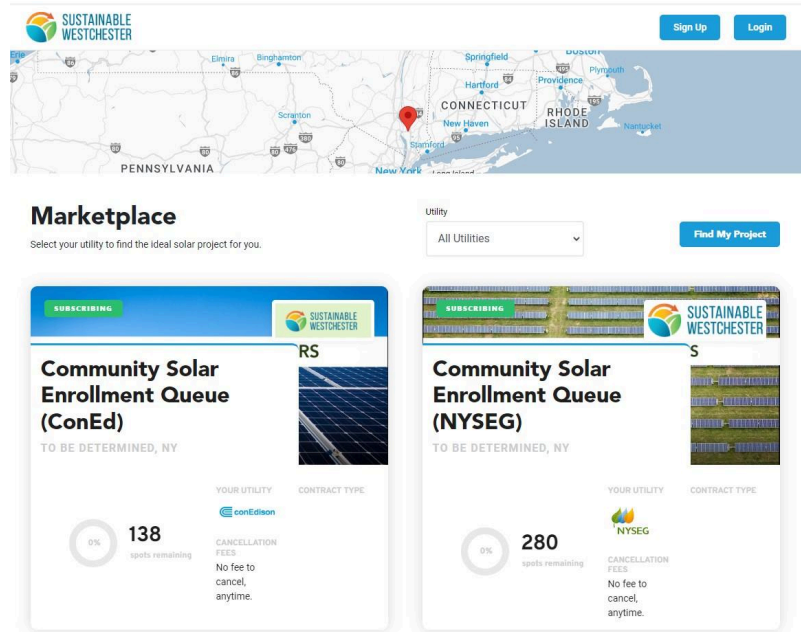


# Value-added Services

## Community Solar

Since the launch of Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar program in 2018, almost 3,000 residents and local organizations, and 14 municipalities have joined as subscribers in 30+ community solar projects. In 2023 Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar outreach and public education efforts focussed on enrolling low- to moderate-income households (LMI) in Disadvantaged Communities for guaranteed savings. This work drew from the skills and emphasis on customer services and bilingual communication endemic to the Westchester Power operations. The LMI outreach involves in-person presentations and enrollment sessions and bilingual social media (See Youtube screenshot below.)

When fully operational, these Community Solar projects should produce c. \$900,000 total annual savings for subscribers. In addition, such community solar campaigns have also earned \$100,000 in grants for 14 local municipalities through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program.



¿Cómo Puedo Ahorrar en mi Factura de Electricidad con Community Solar?

Sustainable Westchester Media  
123 subscribers

Subscribed

0

Share

Download

Clip

Save

All From Sustainable Westcheste... For you

Update from Ukraine | Duration

## Demand Response

In 2020, Sustainable Westchester launched its demand response program, GridRewards, for residential accounts in ConEd territory, a first of its kind in the Northeast. This program uses an aggregation technology platform that takes advantage of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and allows individuals to access utility demand response programs through either a smartphone application or via the computer. Sustainable Westchester offers information and marketing campaigns to enroll new customers. At the end of 2023, there were over 4,000 participants. On average, each 2023 GridRewards user in Westchester received a direct cash payment of \$74 from Logical Buildings, with the top participants earning well over \$500. The company delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars in total rewards to a record-high number of participating customers during the summer peak season. During summer 2022, users in the Sustainable Westchester program had a combined load reduction of 4.4MW, avoiding 8.9 tons of CO2 emissions. GridRewards users were prompted to adopt smarter energy use measures during Con Edison's June-September peak energy period. When high energy demand was forecasted, GridRewards offered users opportunities to earn money by reducing energy use at peak times. This can be achieved through simple actions including waiting to perform energy-intensive tasks such as running dishwashers and charging electric vehicles (EVs) until designated off-peak periods..

Municipalities also participated in GridRewards, by enrolling their Village Halls, Recreation Centers, Libraries and Fire Department and by encouraging their residents to get involved. For example, in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, the municipality earned just about \$2,000 in rewards from participation. In addition to financial savings for community members and municipalities, Sustainable Westchester is pleased to offer important services to the grid through our aggregation, minimizing the need for peaker plants and easing grid constraints.



**Get paid to save energy.**

Earn up to 20% of your electric bill in cash with GridRewards.

 **GridRewards**

The advertisement features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the GridRewards app interface. The app screen shows an upcoming event from 5pm to 8pm with a 'Count me in' button, three achievement icons, and energy usage statistics: 'Usage this week' with a line graph, 'Your projected bill' at \$123.45, and 'Yesterday vs. projection' at 6% less. The bottom navigation bar includes Home, Events, Energy, and CO2. The background is a solid purple color.



*The City School District of New Rochelle Received a \$23,943 Rebate from Sustainable Westchester and Logical Buildings for Innovative Efforts to Conserve Energy, Demonstrating Climate Leadership*

**Residential Home Energy Efficiency & Clean Heating and Cooling**

Sustainable Westchester’s residential energy efficiency and clean heating and cooling program, EnergySmart Homes Westchester promotes weatherization, electrification via air source and ground source heat pumps and heat pump hot water heaters. Sustainable Westchester is part of the NYSERDA Mid-Hudson Regional Clean Energy Hub, working with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County and other subcontractors, to support clean energy actions and a more inclusive clean energy economy in the region. Through EnergySmart Homes (ESH), Sustainable Westchester assists Westchester County residents and local communities in offering high quality, Clean Heating and Cooling (CH&C) installations from vetted contractors, and energy efficiency solutions to homeowners through a series of local community campaigns. They also provide access to complementary clean energy solutions including GridRewards.

Heating and cooling energy expenditures are responsible for one third of the carbon emissions in Westchester and New York State. The options offered to homeowners in EnergySmart Homes Westchester, provide a proven way for individuals and communities as a whole to improve local sustainability, save on heating and cooling costs, gain positive returns on investment with incentive programs and tax credits, and create a beneficial impact to air quality, family and public health, and the environment. The program offers resources such as a robust website featuring local testimonials, case studies, webinar recordings, video interviews, community volunteers profiles and more. Homeowners are equipped with a list of vetted contractors, informational sheets explaining utility, state and federal rebate and incentive programs, in-depth presentations recordings, technology overview sheets and customized information based on their style of home. Customer support is available via email and phone. SW has been active in helping to translate IRA tax credits to help homeowners know what to expect. See a breakdown by each technology here:

<https://sustainablewestchester.org/energysmarthomes/incentives-financing/>

In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, Sustainable Westchester is part of the NYSERDA Regional Clean Energy Hub. In 2023, the ESH program operated



community campaigns across many municipalities and offered assistance to over 700 residents across Westchester County, hosting 16 webinars and events and attending 92 community events throughout the year and 12 Earth Day Festivals in an effort to increase awareness.





## Clean Energy Communities Support

Sustainable Westchester has continued, with the support of the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) to provide guidance and documentation for municipalities seeking to participate in the Clean Energy Communities program. 23 Westchester Municipalities have obtained credit for Community Choice Aggregation under the program. Over 77 community campaigns and a total of 56 community campaigns have been run and awarded for demand response, clean heating and cooling and community solar – helping to connect electrification and demand management to the clean energy transition that Community Choice Aggregation underpins. Completing these community campaigns also brings additional funding for the municipalities to take on additional clean energy upgrades. In total \$300,000 has been awarded to Westchester municipalities, with another \$135,000 on the way. Sustainable Westchester is proud to have assisted so many municipalities in their Clean Energy Community campaigns, with Westchester being home to the two of the top three communities on the Clean Energy Communities statewide leaderboard.



## Sunshine to EV

This project is demonstrating a first-in-its-kind concept of fast-charging electric vehicles mostly from renewable energy. The Facility includes solar PV arrays - it captures energy from the sun, stores it into a battery and dispenses it at high speed into electric vehicles (EV). Besides ensuring that the EV charging at the facility mostly does not operate on fossil fuels derived energy, its impact on the demand on the grid is reduced by more than 80%. The trends in electric vehicle design calls for super-fast charging stations that are able to deliver large amount of energy in a short time, resulting in high demand on the host utility which the energy storage helps mitigate. Also, while not charging the EVs, the facility injects the excess energy into the grid as a Community Solar which Sustainable Westchester subscribes that generation to Low- and Medium-Income communities in Mount Kisco

The Village of Mount Kisco owns the property located at 40 Green Street and hosts the County police, the Village Court, the headquarters of Sustainable Westchester and of the Mount Kisco Historical Society. The charging facility is located in a publicly accessible parking lot at the site. The charging station is within walking distance from the Village's center, train station and businesses, creating incentives for the ZEV owners to visit the shops and restaurants. Interstate 684 is a few miles away, creating an opportunity to divert some traffic to the Village.

The facility features an 85+ kWDC on the building roof, a 180-kWh electricity storage / charging module hub interconnected to a Con Edison transformer. Two DC Fast Charging dispensers are placed in front of two EV parking spots offering 2 x 100 kW charging plugs. The dispensing units will be equipped with CHAdeMO and CCS ports. The project has been recently permitted to operate by Con Edison.

Sustainable Westchester plans to use the Sunshine to EV (S2EV) demonstration as a blueprint that municipalities and state agencies may use to bring sustainable EV charging in the State. Such facilities can be in municipal and private parking lots or curbside spaces or any publicly accessible areas strategically located near major thoroughfares enabling hop off – hop on for EV drivers looking to top off.



## Plans for Renewal

The contracts for all three of our aggregations (City of Yonkers, Con Edison Territory, and NYSEG Territory) expire in Q4 of this year and Sustainable Westchester is expecting all participating municipalities to engage in another contracting round to continue services without interruption. The open solicitations for these contracts will occur in the Summer.