

# Transcript of HVRC's Mid-Hudson Launch of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round – 2021-02-09

## Slide 1: Become a Clean Energy Community

- Good afternoon. Thank you for joining the Hudson Valley Regional Council for the Mid-Hudson launch of the Leadership Round of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program.
- My name is Carla Castillo and I serve as Deputy Executive Director of HVRC and Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Communities Manager. HVRC is one of 10 organizations statewide serving as official representatives to NYSERDA on the CEC Program. HVRC's CEC Coordinator team listed here looks forward to providing technical support to your community.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on HVRC's website and YouTube channel. All attendees have been muted for the entirety of the presentation. Please add your questions to the chat and preface them with the name of your municipality. CEC Coordinator Anilla Cherian will be moderating the questions. We have allocated approximately 30 minutes to respond to chat questions at the end of this presentation. Our website will include the responses to all chat questions as well as the pdf of this presentation. If you should need any assistance with GoTo functionality, please PM Planner Chana Friedenbergl.
- Please pardon any lag in the slides.

## Slide 2: HVRC Regional Initiatives

- Today's presentation is designed to address questions that both previous and new participants of the Clean Energy Communities Program may have.
- Before starting the main event, I'd like to take a few moments to share information about the Hudson Valley Regional Council. HVRC is one of 9 regional councils in the New York State and one of over 600 nationally. HVRC provides technical support to municipalities across our various programmatic areas listed here. Please feel free to reach out to us on any of these areas.
- HVRC prides itself in providing impartial, transparent, and informative support to local governments across our regional work.

## Slide 3: Clean Energy Communities helps municipalities across New York State

- The Leadership Round of the Clean Energy Communities Program is a program of NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The Program is designed to encourage NYS communities to implement clean energy actions, save on energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment. In addition to providing free tools, resources, and technical assistance from CEC Coordinators, the program recognizes and rewards your clean energy leadership. The CEC Program offers flexible grant funding for clean energy projects with no local cost share, and creates pathways to lower utility bills in homes and municipal buildings through a variety of High Impact Actions. The Program also helps your community spur local green jobs with CEC project dollars.
- The CEC Program is designed for local government implementation at the County, City, Town, and Village level.

## Slide 4: Clean Energy Communities Coordinators Are with You Every Step of the Way

- HVRC has attempted to provide comprehensive information in this slide deck on the Leadership Round. High level information on submission requirements will be covered.
- Hyperlinks to important resources – like the Guidance Document, Toolkits and templates, and the submission portal – are also included.

- We do recommend that you contact your HVRC CEC Coordinator to discuss some of the actions with more nuanced requirements and for general guidance. As you can see, Anilla and I are focused on support to municipalities while Chana provides technical support around specific aspects of three high impact actions.
- Please feel free to schedule a meeting with us via our personal Calendlys or contact us via email since HVRC continues to work remotely.

#### **Slide 5: Introducing the Leadership Round**

- Local governments across the State have access to \$17 Million dollars in grant awards through the Leadership Round. Each region has an allocation of \$880 Thousand dollars that is available only to a region's municipalities. Communities can also compete for the additional \$8.18 Million dollars in grant awards on those actions that are available to all of the State's communities.

#### **Slide 6: Grants Available in the Leadership Round**

- The Leadership Round offers many pathways toward grant awards for your community's clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability projects. Through a total of 24 actions, communities now can access three different types of match-free awards: Designation, Point-Based, and Action awards.
- Grant amounts range from a minimum of \$5,000 dollars to \$100,000 dollars for small communities and to \$250,000 dollars for large communities through Designation and Point-Based grants. Communities can earn an additional combined total of \$110,000 dollars in Action Grants for adopting the NYStretch Energy Code or completing Community Campaigns. Communities that receive a grant award of \$20,000 dollars or more may be eligible for an additional match-free \$10,000 dollar Bonus Grant if their grant project is located in a Disadvantaged Community.
- All grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Large communities are those with populations of 40,000 or more residents, based on the 2010 Census. Small and medium communities are those with populations under 40,000 residents.

#### **Slide 7: Designation Grants**

- A designation grant of \$5,000 dollars is available to communities that complete 4 high impact actions to become a designated Clean Energy Community. At least 2 actions must be new and completed after August 1, 2016. This is a one-time grant available to both newly designated communities, and communities that attained designation before January 26, 2021 but did not earn a designation grant. These communities will receive this grant retroactively and will be informed by NYSERDA via email.

#### **Slide 8: Leadership Round Point-Based Grants**

- The Leadership Round Point-Based Grants enable communities to become eligible for grant funding by collecting points for completed High Impact Actions. The more energy an action saves, the more points your community can earn, leading to larger grant amounts that may be available to your community. Point-based grants are available in separate buckets: by points, by community size, and by geography. There are three points thresholds: 3,000, 4,000, and 5,000 points.
- As communities accumulate points, they will be eligible for grant awards according to their community size. These points are cumulative: if your community completes enough high impact actions to reach 5,000 points and awards are still available, a small community can receive a Point-Based award of up to \$100,000 dollars, and a large community can receive an award of up to \$250,000 dollars.
- Points-Based Grants are available to small and medium sized communities at the Mid-Hudson Region level. For large communities, they are available at the state level.

### **Slide 9: Leadership Round Action Grants**

- In addition to Designation Grants and Point-Based Grants, communities can also receive Action Grants by completing one of two high impact actions: the NYStretch Energy Code and Community Campaigns. The grant award amounts and number of grants available again differ by community size. Community Campaigns require a different number of minimum participants for the different community sizes, listed here under Required Number of Participants.
- Local governments can complete up to 4 unique Community Campaigns and be eligible for the award amounts shown on this slide for each unique campaign. A large community that completes 4 different Community Campaigns may be eligible for up to \$60,000 dollars and a small or medium sized community may be eligible for up to \$20,000 dollars.
- These grant awards are available to communities on a statewide basis regardless of community size.

### **Slide 10: High Impact Actions**

- I'll now be moving onto a more detailed review of the 24 High Impact Actions that are available to your community. We hope you will find that at least 4 of these energy-saving activities are attainable for your local government. At minimum, the Actions are all designed to reduce energy usage and costs, and to stimulate your local economy. HVRC CEC Coordinators are available to help you identify which actions are appropriate for your community.

### **Slide 11: Which High Impact Actions are Right for Your Community?**

- The Leadership Rounds offers a broad selection of energy saving actions for your community. High Impact Actions with a set number of points, like 200 for the Unified Solar Permit or 1,200 for NYStretch Energy Code, are single level actions. High Impact Actions with ranges, like Benchmarking or Community Choice Aggregation, include sub-actions that each come with their respective point allocations. In this way, your community can create a pathway toward energy reduction and savings that is right for you. HVRC's Coordinators look forward to helping your community identify its pathway.
- Each completed action and sub-action count as an action toward designation. The following slides will focus on the submission requirements for each of these actions, including details that are important for NYSERDA approval. Submission of documentation for each action is through the CEC HIA Documentation Portal. You can access the Portal through the hyperlink in the second to last arrow. Templates and informational content to help you complete each High Impact Action are in Toolkits. The Toolkit webpage is hyperlinked in the last arrow.
- The slides for each Action include a hyperlink to that specific Action's Toolkit. It is always a good idea to review the Toolkit for available templates. Some templates reduce the time-commitment needed for an action. Some actions require use of the provided template to receive credit for that action.
- You will note that some Actions are punctuated by an asterisk. The asterisk indicates that communities which received an approval from NYSERDA for a specific action prior to the launching of the Leadership Round will receive points retroactively.

### **Slide 12: Unified Solar Permit**

- The Unified Solar Permit action is designed to streamline and expedite the approval process for installing small-scale solar in a community. Implementing the standardized permit application is expected to cut costs as well as save time and resources by decreasing the overall installation time. Adoption of this action has the added benefit of helping support the local solar industry.
- Communities that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings are eligible for this action.

- To obtain credit, submit a copy of the legislation adopting the permit application as well as a copy of the actual permit application to the Portal. The Toolkit for this HIA contains a template for the version that is currently accepted by NYSERDA.
- Please note the asterisk.

### **Slide 13: Energy Code Enforcement Training**

- The Energy Code Enforcement Training action consists of a free training on the current NYS energy code. The hands-on training is designed to walk code compliance officers through best practices in energy code enforcement for both new construction and renovation of commercial and residential buildings. Completing the training module gives communities opportunities for significant energy savings through improved energy code compliance.
- Communities that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings are eligible for this action.
- At least one code official must attend the full-day training, which covers both residential and commercial buildings.
- In-person workshops are currently being planned for 2021 Q4 in three Mid-Hudson region locations. All trainings will be COVID compliant to ensure the safety of all participants.
- Communities receive credit for this Action by submitting a copy of the notification of completion email provided by the trainer, Newport Ventures.
- Points are available only for trainings completed after January 26, 2021.

### **Slide 14: Property Assess Clean Energy (PACE) Financing**

- Authorizing the Open C-PACE financing program enables eligible commercial or non-profit properties to secure funds for permanent renewable energy projects and upgrades. The Energy Improvement Corporation manages this financing program. Once adopted, Open C-PACE can become a part of your municipality's economic development strategy.
- Cities and towns in Westchester County are eligible for this Action. Outside of Westchester County, cities and counties are eligible.
- Communities can receive a total of up to 500 points for this action: 200 for authorizing a C-PACE Program and 300 for the closing of a C-PACE-financed project in your community.
- Communities receive credit for the Authorization Action by submitting a screenshot of EIC's List of Participating Municipalities or documentation from a non-EIC PACE program. The completion date on the Authorization Action is when the local government became an EIC member or when the C-PACE program was adopted.
- Communities receive credit for the Project Financed Action by submitting documentation demonstrating closing for the financing. The completion date for this action is the date on which the financing closed. To be eligible for the Project Financed Action, a jurisdiction must complete the Open C-PACE Authorization Action.

### **Slide 15: Clean Energy Upgrades**

- The Clean Energy Upgrades action positions municipalities to save energy and money by replacing outdated equipment with new smart and efficient technology.
- Municipalities must achieve a minimum 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings, facilities, and/or infrastructure. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions may be achieved with energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy sources including solar, CDG (community distributed generation), wind, geothermal, premium-efficiency wood pellets, or anaerobic digesters.
- This Action is available to all communities.
- To receive credit, communities must submit:

- An ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager benchmarking report for municipal buildings owned or occupied by your community that are 1,000SF or larger,
- A Clean Energy Upgrades Calculator, available in the Toolkit, and
- Back-up documentation, such as an ASHRAE Energy Audit or an approved pre-and-post engineering study.
- The completion date for this Action is the date the project achieves substantial completion.
- Please note the asterisk.

#### **Slide 16: Clean Heating and Cooling Demo**

- Demonstrate utility bill savings, increased comfort, and a healthier work environment by implementing a Clean Heating & Cooling Demonstration project at one of your municipal buildings.
- Eligible installations include air- or ground-source heat pumps, or a solar hot water system.
- The demonstration building must be 1,000SF or larger and be open to the public year-round.
- The required submission documentation includes a signed and completed Clean Heating and Cooling Demo Certification form and educational material on your demonstration project. The completion date is the date equipment is installed and must be after January 1, 2020 to earn credit.
- This action is available to all communities.

#### **Slide 17: 100% Renewable Electricity**

- Communities can highlight their leadership role by purchasing 100% renewable energy for electricity needs.
- All communities are eligible for this action.
- To earn credit,
  - Submit a completed 100% Renewable Electricity Certification Form, which is available in the Toolkit.
  - The form will ask you to identify load matched with NY Renewable Energy Certificates retired in NYS Generation Attribute Tracking System.
  - You will hear these referred to as RECs and NYGATS.
  - A second required submission document is a copy of the executed agreement.
- The completion date of this action is the date when renewable energy is delivered and must be after January 1, 2020.
- We recommend reviewing the Step-by-Step Guidance for this Action found in the Toolkit because it provides information on RECs and retirement on NYGATS.
  - At a high level, RECs represent proof that electricity was generated from an eligible renewable energy source.
  - To claim that electricity is “renewable” or “green”, RECs must be purchased and retired in NYGATS.
  - RECs must be Clean Energy Standard (CES) Tier 1 or 2-eligible because these are the only type of RECs that contribute to NYS’s Clean Energy Goals.
  - For power purchase agreements (PPA), the project developer must forgo receiving the environmental value (“E Value”) of the VDER value stack to receive the RECs and retire them in NYGATS.

#### **Slide 18: Climate Smart Communities Certification**

- Through the Climate Smart Communities Certification action, local governments can access a comprehensive framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change. Very often local governments complete this action in partnership with appointed volunteers of environmental committees, such as Conservation Advisory Councils.
- Communities that achieve both Certification levels will receive a total of 800 points.

- To receive credit for this Action, communities must submit separate screenshots for each Certification level achieved.
- This slide provides a hyperlink to the listing of certified communities.
- You also have the option of submitting the email of Certification achievement from the DEC, which communities receive prior to the public announcement of their certification.
- All communities are eligible for this action.
- Please note the asterisk.

### **Slide 19: LED Street Lights**

- Throughout the Hudson Valley, communities are converting their streetlights to long-lasting LEDs. Communities can reduce their streetlight energy use by as much as 65% by installing energy-efficient LED lighting, generating cost savings and emission reductions.
- HVRC's CEC Coordinators can connect you with reputable businesses that are available to assist local governments with the conversion process. Many of these businesses now offer maintenance plans as well as financing options that can put your community immediately in the black. These local companies also offer fixtures in warmer color temperatures and with broader wattage selection options. HVRC Coordinators can also provide your community with a cost analysis that outlines the potential future savings from conversion to LEDs.
- Communities can earn up to 900 points for completing the LED Street Lights Actions: 700 points for conversion of Cobra Heads and 200 points for conversion of Decoratives.
- To earn credit for either action, submit a completed and signed LED Street Light calculator found in the Toolkit. Municipalities must demonstrate conversion of at least half of their lights to LEDs regardless of light category. If your community has less than 20 fixtures, a minimum of 10 fixtures must be converted.
- Communities that pay electricity for most of the streetlights within their jurisdiction are eligible for this action
- Communities that received NYSERDA approval for the Cobra Head conversion action prior to the Leadership Round launch will be awarded points retroactively.

### **Slide 20: Benchmarking**

- The Benchmarking Actions offer up to 1,000 points to communities that adopt legislation requiring the tracking of energy use of municipal and/or large private buildings as well as Advanced Reporting on energy use for municipal buildings through the EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Program.
- Benchmarking adoption for Municipal Buildings applies to buildings that are 1,000SF or larger. Adoption for Large Private Buildings applies to commercial and multifamily buildings 25,000SF or larger.
- By tracking energy use, communities and private building owners can identify the buildings with the greatest opportunity for energy and cost savings.
- Templates for the sub-actions are included in the Toolkit, including legislation documents and the Advanced Reporting format.
- CEC Coordinators are available to provide training on the Advanced Reporting sub-action.
- To earn credit for these Actions,
  - Submit a certified copy of an executed local law, ordinance, or resolution with vote tally for the Municipal Buildings action.
  - The Advanced Reporting action requires two submissions:
    - A screenshot of the municipal webpage where the report is posted or how the report can be accessed in those communities without a website.
    - And proof of having shared the Portfolio Manager account with NYSERDA.

- For the Large Private Buildings action, submit a copy of the executed local law or ordinance.
- We encourage you to contact your Coordinator to review the required legislation as well as to understand the steps needed to fulfill the Advanced Reporting sub-action.
- All communities are eligible for the Municipal Buildings and Advanced Reporting sub-actions.
- Large Cities, Towns, and Villages are eligible for the Large Private Buildings sub-action.
- Communities that received NYSEDA approval for adopting Benchmarking legislation for Municipal Buildings prior to the Leadership Round launch will be awarded points retroactively.

### **Slide 21: Clean Fleets**

- General Motors recently announced its plan to exclusively offer electric vehicles by 2035, signaling an important, major transition. The Clean Fleets Action can help your community make this transition even sooner through the deployment of light to heavy duty electric vehicles and/or the installation of EV Charging Stations.
- For example, HVRC Coordinators can provide information on the latest incentives and rebates to help fund your purchase of EVs and/or Charging Stations.
- If your community is awarded a CEC grant greater than \$5,000 dollars, eligible uses for the funds include the purchase of EVs and charging stations.
- As your community joins the transition, it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, while benefitting from more energy and operationally efficient vehicles.
- The Clean Fleets Actions, totaling up to 1,000 points, are available to all communities.
- To earn credit, deploy one or more EVs and/or charging stations.
  - Submit a completed and signed Clean Fleets Certification Form, which is available in the Toolkit.
    - Equipment and vehicles must be active at the time of action submittal.
    - And the completion date is when the equipment became operational.
  - Charging Stations must have two or more Level 2 charging ports, or one or more DC fast charge ports.
    - Municipalities must own or lease the equipment, which can be used for government operations or made available to the public.
  - EV's must be manufactured for use primarily on public streets, roads, and highways, and have a maximum speed capability of at least 55 miles per hour.
  - Heavy Duty EVs must be a Class 7 or 8 plug-in hybrid or battery-electric vehicle.
    - School busses and vehicles used primarily for fixed-route public transit, such as a transit bus or "body-on-chassis" minibus are also eligible electric vehicles.
- 100 Points will be awarded retroactively for actions approved by NYSEDA prior to the Leadership Round launch.
- Additional points can be earned for actions completed after Jan 26, 2021.

### **Slide 22: Community Choice Aggregation**

- By adopting legislation authorizing your community's participation in Community Choice Aggregation, you can bring lower priced renewable energy to your constituents. CCAs aggregate electricity consumers into a larger pool, which enable CCA administrators to negotiate lower rates on your behalf. To date, Westchester Power, Joule Assets, Good Energy, and MEGA have been helping communities reduce carbon emissions in their CCA Administrator roles.
- Cities, Towns, and Villages are eligible for the CCA Actions.
- Communities can earn up to 2,000 Points by authorizing two types of opt-out programs: A 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix and Opt-Out CDG program.
- The submission materials required to earn credit are listed on this slide.

- For the 100% Renewable Default Supply Mix sub-action, the product mix must be default 100% renewable clean energy.
  - The electric service agreement should indicate that the Energy Service Company will retire RECs on behalf of the Municipality in a NYGATS Account.
  - The electrical energy associated with the RECs must be consumed at retail in New York State.
  - The completion date for this sub-action is the date on which the electric service agreement or addendum was fully executed.
  - Communities that received approval from NYSERDA for the Action prior to July 1, 2019 must resubmit under the updated guidelines to earn points for this action.
- For the Opt-Out CDG sub-action, a completed Opt-Out CDG Certification Form must be submitted, which is found in the Toolkit.
  - The Form should attest that no less than 600 accounts or 50 percent, whichever is greater, of residential and small commercial electricity accounts within your community have been enrolled into active CDG projects on an opt-out basis.
  - The completion date is the enrollment date for the Opt-Out CDG program.

### **Slide 23: NYStretch Energy Code**

- Just like Start Trek the Next Generation, the NYStretch Energy Code is the next generation code that goes beyond the base energy code. NYSERDA developed NYStretch as a statewide model code to help communities meet their energy and climate goals by accelerating the savings obtained through their local building energy codes. NYStretch can provide savings of roughly 11% over the 2020 New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code [(2020 ECCC-NYS)]. By adopting NYStretch today, your community can take advantage of these savings now and potentially gain access to the Action Grant associated with this Action.
- As discussed earlier, large community may be awarded \$50,000 dollars for adoption of NYStretch and small and medium sized communities \$5,000 dollars on submission of the required documentation.
- Jurisdictions that enforce the Uniform Code for private buildings are eligible for this action.
- To earn credit for NYStretch,
  - Submit a certified copy of the executed local law or ordinance adopting NYStretch on a jurisdiction-wide basis.
  - The completion date is when the code takes effect, which must be no later than December 31, 2021 to be eligible for the Action Grant.
  - The code may be customized to fit local needs and priorities, but the adopted code must be at least as stringent as the NYStretch Energy Code.
- CEC Coordinators are available to facilitate meetings with NYStretch Circuit Riders, who can present the benefits of NYStretch in detail as well as outline the differences between the current code and NYStretch.

### **Slide 24: Community Campaigns**

- We have arrived at the last action, Community Campaigns, which is an action with an associated Action Grant like NYStretch.
- Before continuing with this Action, I would like to acknowledge the work of a colleague we recently lost, John Wackman. While most will remember him for his recent amazing work with Repair Cafes, John had previously devoted his boundless energy to running Solarize Campaigns while with Sustainable Hudson Valley. He passionately believed in the power of aggregating one's neighbors to make a larger impact than we could have on our own. HVRC will miss the energy, knowledge,



and camaraderie that John brought to all of his endeavors. If you choose to move forward with a Campaign, I believe he would encourage you to bring joy and positivity to the effort.

- The Community Campaigns action is available to all communities and ranges in points from 200 to 800. Communities can undertake one of each of the available campaigns and earn 200 points for each: Community Solar, Electric Vehicles, Clean Heating & Cooling and Energy Efficiency, and Demand Response.
- Earning credit for the Community Campaigns action requires submission and approval of documentation in a specific order:
  - Prior to launching a Campaign, version 3 of the Scoping Document must be uploaded into the High Impact Action Submission Portal for review and approval by NYSERDA.
  - Campaigns that proceed without NYSERDA approval will not be eligible for the Action Grant.
  - Once an approved Campaign is completed, municipalities must:
    - Demonstrate direct municipal participation in the Campaign,
    - And submit a completed Customer List with a minimum of 25 participants in large communities and 10 participants in small and medium communities.
    - Communities are encouraged to partner in Community Campaigns; each must submit a separate Scoping Document to earn credit.
    - All participants listed in the Customer List must reside within the boundaries of the applying jurisdiction.
    - A template customer list is included in the Community Campaigns Toolkit.
    - HVRC's CEC Coordinators can walk you through the required fields of the Customer List.
    - The completion date for this action is the date the Scoping Document was approved by NYSERDA.
- A few things to keep in mind with some of the Campaigns:
  - The Community Solar campaign is really a CDG campaign, and includes solar, wind, or hydro facilities as eligible CDG projects.
  - The Clean Heating & Cooling and Energy Efficiency Campaign requires that at least 3 participants from small and medium sized communities result from Clean Heating & Cooling installations and at least 6 participants from large communities.
  - Demand Response Campaigns can focus on products and services, like smart thermostat deployments, battery energy storage, and peak saver campaigns.
- Last, but not least, a reminder that, pending grant award availability, a large community completing all Community Campaigns may be eligible to receive up to \$60,000 dollars in Action Grants and small and medium-sized communities may be eligible to receive up to \$20,000 dollars.
- As John Wackman showed us, the success of Community Campaigns is dependent on the partners a municipality brings together: appointment members of environmental committees, committed residents, organizations, and, of course, municipal staff and elected officials.

### **Slide 25: Community Eligibility for High Impact Actions**

- Before moving on to a couple more slides on grant awards and resources, please take note of this table, which shows the full range of High Impact Actions for which different communities are eligible. Where sub-actions are not specifically broken out, the same eligibility applies to all sub-actions

### **Slide 26: Grant Awards Overview**

- This slide provides a very high-level overview of CEC Grant award information. Please note the Guidance Document pages focused on grant awards as well as the grant application hyperlink,

where you will also find the grant project requirements for funded projects in the Sample Agreement and Statement of Work.

- NYSERDA will inform your community of when it has become eligible for grant awards.
- For grants larger than \$5,000 dollars, applicants have 3 months from the date of the NYSERDA email notifying you of your award to submit a completed application.
- Projects must start within 6 months of the project approval notification and be completed within 3 years of contract execution.
- HVRC CEC Coordinators will be available to walk you through the grant application workbook.
- Please be aware that award applicants may submit one of the pre-approved projects listed in the grant application workbook or a custom project. Pre-approved projects include:
  - Conversion to LED streetlights,
  - Installation of solar projects, like solar carports,
  - Purchase of EVs,
  - Installation of EV charging stations, and
  - Building upgrades projects (aka Clean Energy Projects)
- Communities are also free to submit a custom project for consideration. Custom projects are reviewed by a scoring committee and can take a minimum of 6 weeks to review.
- Communities can receive an application submission extension up to two months as long as it is submitted at least two weeks prior to the application deadline.
- Please be mindful of these deadlines as communities can lose their grant awards if deadlines are missed.
- For a \$5,000 designation grant, NYSERDA only will be interested in learning about your intended use.
- HVRC Coordinators will be available to support your community during the grant application process.

#### **Slide 27: Leadership Round Resources**

- This slide contains a list of useful Leadership Round resources. We encourage you to view the videos of NYS local governments that participated in the CEC Program in the first round. The Guidance Document is an important resource as it presents the official Leadership Round information in full.
- For those communities that receive grant awards over \$20,000 dollars, please review the Disadvantaged Communities Lookup Map. Project located in Disadvantaged Communities may be eligible for an additional \$10,000 Bonus Grant.

#### **Slide 28: So far, ...**

- I hope you have found this webinar informative and that it has piqued your interest in participating in the Leadership Round of the NYSERDA CEC Program. After today's webinar, HVRC CEC Coordinators will be available to support your pursuit of High Impact Actions, including identification of an Actions' pathway that is right for your community. Please be sure to reach out to us via email or use the Calendly links included earlier in the slide deck. We look forward to helping you build community-wide resilience and to achieving cost savings through clean energy and energy efficiency projects.
- Anilla will now join us as Moderator. She and Chana have been feverishly organizing all questions posted in the chat. In the time we have left, we hope to respond to all posted questions. Regardless of how far we get, responses to all chat questions will be posted on our website along with a pdf of this presentation and a link to the recording.
- Thank you. Anilla...