

Presenter Bios

PACE Webinar, part of the Clean Energy Communities Institute by Hudson Valley Regional Council
November 16, 2021 at 1pm



Eleanor Peck, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Hudson Valley Regional Council

Eleanor Peck joined HVRC in May 2021. Ms. Peck will be working on the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program, providing support as a Clean Energy Communities Coordinator to communities working to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of cost-saving clean energy projects. Previously, Ms. Peck was the Climate Smart Coordinator in the City of Beacon, helping the City achieve NYS Climate Smart Communities Program Silver Certification. She has also worked for the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook fundraising for the Institute's ecological science as well as the Wildlife Conservation Society fundraising for the Bronx Zoo and conservation projects around the globe. Ms. Peck received her Master's degree in International Affairs from the New School for Social Research in New York City and her Bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago. She continues to volunteer in the City of Beacon.



Sarah Smiley, Director of Municipal Membership and Transaction Manager, EIC

Sarah Smiley is Director of Municipal Membership and Transaction Manager for Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), a non-profit local development corporation which administers Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing on behalf of its member municipalities across New York State.

Sarah joined EIC in 2017 and manages the rollout of Open C-PACE, EIC's new open market commercial PACE program. Sarah works with local governments and community stakeholders to activate this innovative finance tool that can transform buildings through energy retrofits and renewable energy and that encourages sustainable development. In October of 2020, Sarah took on the role of Transactions Manager, working with Open C-PACE capital providers and member municipalities to facilitate the finance application and closing process.



Alan J. Sorensen, Commissioner of Planning, Orange County

Mr. Sorensen is a certified planner with over 30 years of professional planning experience. He is presently Commissioner of Planning for Orange County, NY, former Assistant Commissioner of Policy for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the former Commissioner of Planning and Community Development for Sullivan County, New York. From 2004-2020, Mr. Sorensen successfully established and operated Planit Main Street, Inc., a full-service planning firm that served communities throughout the Catskills and Mid-Hudson Regions of New York State. Through his work with Planit Main Street, Inc., he wrote comprehensive plans and implemented a multitude of successful projects including the development of rail trails, downtown revitalization and community development. During his career, he has also played an instrumental role in the creation of numerous innovative programs including the *New York Main Street* program and the Main Street Redevelopment Center in Sullivan County. In 2003, he received the statewide *New York State Historic Preservation Award* from the State Historic Preservation Office. In 2000, he was recognized by Cornell University as the statewide "*Friend of Extension*" for his role in strengthening the economic and social vitality of the Sullivan County. Mr. Sorensen has earned a *Master of City & Regional Planning* from Rutgers University and a *Master of Public Administration* degree – with honors – from Pace University.



David Davenport, Managing Director, NY Green Bank

David Davenport is a Managing Director at NY Green Bank on the Investment & Portfolio Management Team. He is responsible for leading NY Green Bank's disadvantaged community lending activities, including financing high-performance affordable housing and beneficial building electrification that serves historically marginalized New Yorkers. Mr. Davenport has over 30 years' experience in real estate, finance, and government.

Prior to joining NY Green Bank, Mr. Davenport served as Senior Vice President at Urban American Management and Managing Principal of its Urban Greenfit subsidiary, where he successfully led financing and development of energy efficiency & renewable energy projects in over 6,000 units of multifamily affordable housing that have been recognized as best-in-class in performance and financial innovation.

Mr. Davenport previously served as a Vice President and Investment Officer at Citi Community Capital where he led nationwide programs investing in mixed-use real estate and affordable housing with debt and equity instruments utilizing new markets tax credits, low-income housing tax credits, historic tax credits, and other leveraged financing structures.

Mr. Davenport earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia Business School.



Kat Carroll, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Hudson Valley Regional Council

Catherine (Kat) Carroll joined HVRC in May 2021. As a NYSERDA Clean Energy Community Coordinator, she will promote clean energy and energy efficiency measures for communities throughout the region. Ms. Carroll provides technical assistance and outreach to municipalities interested in the cost savings or environmental benefits associated with the Clean Energy Communities high-impact actions. Ms. Carroll has previously worked in municipal planning with the Otsego County Conservation Association and as a policy and analytics intern with commercial solar broker SolarKal. Ms. Carroll completed a Master of Environmental Policy at Bard College Center for Environmental Policy, and received a Bachelor's of Environmental Science from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.