

Regional Planning/Zoning Training Held at Schuyler

On Wednesday, June 3rd the Town of Schuyler hosted its 2nd Regional Planning & Zoning Training Program with 120 officials from 25 municipalities throughout Herkimer and Oneida Counties participating. Topics covered during the 4-hour program included renewable energy (Part 1) and municipal strategic planning (Part 2). The Syracuse office of Environmental Research & Design engineers John Hecklau and Jane E. Rice facilitated the program, with Mr. Hecklau conducting a discussion on large (commercial scale) wind projects and the involved SEQR process, and Jane E. Rice facilitating the Strategic Planning discussion. Panel members for Part 1 (Renewable Energy) included Deerfield resident & homeowner, Greg Sacco, who discussed his experience with solar energy panels and a wood gasification boiler he recently installed at his residence, and Dr. Phil Hofmeyer, SUNY Morrisville — Renewable Energy Center, leading a discussion on renewable energy systems such as solar, PV, solar hot water, small wind and geothermal, and the benefits of a community energy plan. Part 2 panelists included Councilman Robert VanDusen and Planning Board Chairman Paul Thomas, who discussed their roles as members of the Town's Strategic Planning Committee in the development of a community strategic plan, which was accomplished in 2007. The event was organized by Councilwoman Bette Szesny, and a heartfelt thank you is extended to the panelists, and to all the volunteers and town officials who helped to make this event a huge success: Schuyler Fire Dept. (traffic direction), Tom Mariano (parking assistance), VFW Post (refreshments), Highway Dept. (set-up); Linda Salamone, Judy Parry, Mary Fusillo, Eleanor Dodge, Barbara Bouliia (Registration); Town Clerk's Office — Tina & Barb (assistance with sign-ups); Peter Cardone (usher); Councilman R. Dean Desrochers (PA System); and last but not least, Supervisor Ken Dodge & Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Anthony Lucenti for lending their very helpful hands at the event!



Top photo: ED&R engineer John Hecklau speaks to the audience on large wind projects; above, left & middle photos: Renewable Energy Panelists Greg Sacco, Dr. Phil Hofmeyer join the renewable energy discussion; above right: ED&R's Jane E. Rice and panelists Paul Thomas and Robert VanDusen (background) discuss municipal strategic planning, eliciting questions and discussion from the audience (left).