Eagle is located in the Allegany foothills south of Buffalo. As Wyoming County is the largest dairy-producing county in New York, the population of cows in Eagle is larger than the human population of approximately 1,200. With dairy farmers sometimes struggling to stay in business, the supplemental income from leasing their fields for wind turbines has helped farmers to stay on their land, keeping family traditions intact while providing local dairy products for Western New York.

**PROGRAM**
The Noble Bliss Windpark consists of 67 1.5 MW turbines at a cost to the developer of $210 million. The project was awarded a NYSERDA contract, financing from General Electric Energy Financial Services was obtained, and construction began in June of 2007. The project was completed and operational in May 2008. Noble estimated at the time that the project would bring around $121 million in new revenue to the Western NY economy over the next 20 years. Local and regional New York residents were hired during the development and construction phases, which provided hundreds of jobs, as well as several long-term jobs during operation. Noble Bliss Windpark’s generation meets the electricity needs of approximately 33,500 homes and PILOT payments have resulted in reducing town taxes to ZERO and have been used to provide no-fee garbage collection, new snow plows, highway equipment and road improvements.

**PROCESS**-
The town had been looking for economic development ideas in the early 2000s and it received proposals for a large landfill project at the same time as the wind project. Supervisor Brett Hastings believes they made the right choice, supporting clean, renewable energy rather than the odors and constant, noisy truck traffic a landfill would bring. He estimates that, based on third party surveys conducted, over 90% of people in the town were in favor of the wind project when it was proposed, but a small number of vocal opponents got a disproportionate share of attention. Those in favor welcomed the supplemental income to the town, school districts, and landowners; opponents
were concerned about noise, health effects, and harm to wildlife. The Supervisor said that most residents now have positive views about the wind turbines and the “myths have been busted,” with no problems to health, wildlife or noise—he added that trucks on a local highway make far more noise than the turbine 1100 feet from his home.

TAKEAWAYS

One important alert for communities considering wind projects nearby: be prepared for fossil fuel industry-funded opponents to spread misinformation about negative aspects of wind farms. The Town of Eagle’s experience has clearly shown that this is not true; as Hastings observes, most residents are happy with living near these turbines, when they are correctly sited. Large-scale scientific studies confirm that there are no significant effects on health, wildlife, or property values in communities with wind projects.¹⁴

A solution to this problem might be to prepare residents ahead of time for the arguments opponents will present, and have plenty of evidence on hand from communities like Eagle that have been living with turbines peacefully for a decade.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact the Town of Eagle at 3378 School St, Bliss, NY 14024.

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES
Amherst, East Hampton, Red Hook  Under NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities program, communities that complete four out of the 10 High Impact Actions and meet all other eligibility requirements are designated by New York State as a Clean Energy Community and are eligible to apply for grants to fund additional clean energy projects. Those ten actions are:

- **Benchmarking** - Adopt a policy to report the energy use of buildings
- **Clean Energy Upgrades** - Achieve 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from buildings
- **LED Street Lights** - Convert street lights to energy efficient LED technology
- **Clean Fleets** - Install electric vehicle charging stations or deploy alternative fuel vehicles
- **Solarize** - Undertake a local solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops
- **Unified Solar Permit** - Streamline the approvals process for solar
- **Energy Code Enforcement Training** - Train compliance officers in energy code best practices
- **Climate Smart Communities Certification** - Get certified by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Community Choice Aggregation** - Put energy supply choices in your community’s hands
- **Energize New York Finance** - Offer energy upgrade financing to businesses and non-profits

CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD/RPS
Eagle, East Hampton  The Clean Energy Standard requires that 50% of New York’s electricity come from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind by 2030. New renewable projects provide enormous benefits to local communities, including reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, economic investment and PILOT payments, and new, high quality jobs in the clean energy sector.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION
Ossining  Community Choice Aggregation allows local governments to work together through a shared purchasing model to procure energy supply service and distributed energy resources for eligible customers within the jurisdictional boundaries of participating municipalities. Eligible customers will have the opportunity to have more control to lower their overall energy costs, to spur clean energy innovation and investment, to improve customer choice and value, and to protect the environment, thereby fulfilling an important public purpose.

GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP REBATE
Lockport  NYSERDA’s Ground Source Heat Pump Rebate provides funding for the installation of ground source heat pump systems for residences, businesses and institutions. Benefits include lower and less volatile energy bills, greater resiliency and reliability, and health benefits from this emissions-free technology.

MUNICIPAL ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE PROGRAM
Amherst, DeWitt, Red Hook, Schenectady  The Municipal ZEV Infrastructure Rebate Program provides rebates to cities, towns, villages, and counties (including New York City boroughs) to install publicly available charging stations. Installation of these charging stations will help electrify New York’s transportation sector and meet its climate goals, putting local communities on the road to energy independence while helping to reduce emissions harmful to the environment.

NY-SUN
Avon, Clarkstown, Delaware, DeWitt, Grand Island, Red Hook, Schenectady  NY-Sun provides multiple resources for local governments to install solar energy, including financing, incentives, and training/education to identify opportunities and mitigate barriers, providing the tools necessary to build clean, affordable solar programs to power their communities.

REFORMING THE ENERGY VISION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
Schenectady  New York State is seeking demonstration projects to show how new products and services can capture latent value on the grid, and how new business models can monetize and distribute that value across third parties, utilities and customers. While New York’s investor-owned utilities have been directed to partner with third parties to develop a first round of REV demonstration projects, the utilities will continue to undertake demonstration projects until these kinds of products and services are fully integrated into core system operations.