

Cleaner Greener Communities: Transforming Planning and Development Practices in NYS

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ABSTRACT

The Cleaner Greener Communities program (CGC) is an initiative that was launched in 2011 by Governor Cuomo with a \$100 million commitment of proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the purpose of which is to lower greenhouse gas emissions in the Northeast. CGC is a national model for advancing market-transforming sustainability initiatives and projects that accelerate the adoption of sustainable planning and development practices at the local level, are innovative, create multiple community benefits, reduce carbon emissions, leverage public and private resources, and propel NYS toward an environmentally and economically vibrant and resilient future.

This presentation will share lessons learned from the phase I regional sustainability plan development process, and bring together the NYSERDA CGC program manager and project owners from both local government and private developer perspectives to share their experiences in implementing community-based sustainability plans and projects funded in phase II. These experiences will also include group exercises to provide the audience with ideas and approaches to funding their sustainability projects and gaining public approvals.

BIOGRAPHY

The session will utilize panel discussion and exercise formats moderated by Rebecca L. Flora. Prior to joining E&E Rebecca served as the SVP of Education and Research at the U.S. Green Building Council. As the first executive director of the Green Building Alliance, Rebecca was credited with establishing Western Pennsylvania region as an early national leader in green building. Rebecca served as USGBC Board Chair in 2008 and was a founding member of the LEED for Neighborhood Development Core Committee. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College and a USGBC LEED Faculty member.

Jessica F. Waldorf is a Project Manager in the Energy Efficiency Services department at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Ms. Waldorf co-manages Phase II of New York State's Cleaner Greener Communities Program.