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### **Orange County farm receives first clean energy financing from Energize NY**

TOWN OF GOSHEN – New York State's Energy Improvement Corporation announced its completion of the first commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing in New York State.

Energize NY's first PACE loan was used to fund a 53 kilowatt ground-mounted solar installation located in the fields of 5 Spoke Creamery Farm on the Pulaski Highway in the Town of Goshen.

The Mid-Hudson Valley artisanal cheese making facility is known for its cave-aged raw milk cheeses which are sold nationwide in high-end retailers including Whole Foods.

The solar panels, which were installed by Novel Approaches of Orange County, generated energy savings from day one and will replace 100 percent of 5 Spoke Creamery's annual electricity costs.



Glustoff and Neuhaus by the solar panels

Barbara and Alan Glustoff, owners of 5 Spoke Creamery, moved their operations to Orange County from Pennsylvania, reversing a trend that had seen farming operations decline in Orange County. The solar project financed by Energize NY Finance offers numerous benefits to the Glustoffs' business and the community.

Alan Glustoff said his total commitment to going green simply makes sense because of his lifelong commitment to sustainability.

"But also to make sure that this has a future," Glustoff said. "One of the ways to safeguard the future is by taking the steps today that will lower the costs tomorrow."

Mark Thielking is chairman of the Energy Improvement Corporation, which is owned by local governments, including Orange County. He had high praise for Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus.

"A key element of the Energize New York program is the participation of our member municipalities," Thielking said. Orange County joined the EIC in 2014 and has been the most active and innovative member in leveraging Energize New York."

Calling it a "beautifully sexy project," Neuhaus said he is "very proud" that Orange County is the first county in our state to implement the Energize NY Finance program.

Dutchess County is now considering joining the program. County lawmakers were briefed on its benefits last week.

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