



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Clean Energy Board Approves Suffolk County's Membership**

*County Joins Energize NY to Help Commercial Building Owners Access  
Low Cost, Long-Term Financing Program*

**Suffolk County, NY – (August 29, 2016)** – Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) jointly announced that Suffolk County has joined EIC, which enables Suffolk County's local businesses and not-for-profits to participate in EIC's Energize NY Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. EIC's Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept Suffolk County into the program making Suffolk the largest municipality in New York State to join.

The County's membership enables commercial, industrial and non-profit building owners in Suffolk County to access Energize NY's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for energy efficiency and renewal energy projects. Other benefits include job creation for Suffolk County-based contractors in the energy efficiency and solar sectors as they embark on expansion and future projects.

"Suffolk County is committed to clean energy, while also sustaining and improving the local economy," said Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. "Our decision to join EIC further exemplifies our pledge to help building owners reduce energy cost, which enables businesses to stay on Long Island and potentially expand and create more skilled jobs both directly in the energy efficiency and solar sectors, and indirectly in all other sectors of our economy."

Suffolk County is now the fifth county and 28<sup>th</sup> municipality in New York State to offer Energize NY (PACE) finance and commercial services, joining Dutchess, Orange, Tompkins, and Ulster Counties. Energize NY (PACE) Finance offers low cost, long-term capital for energy-related building improvements and allows property owners to repay the financing on their property tax bill.

"We are very excited that Suffolk County, the most populous county in the State outside of New York City, has become a member and will be offering its businesses and not-for-profits the opportunity to finance clean energy projects using our Energize NY low cost, long-term financing," said Mark Thielking, Executive Director of Energize NY. "Access to capital is a significant barrier for many building owners who want to improve the energy performance of their buildings. As a result of the County's leadership in offering Energize NY Finance, Suffolk County and its residents are better positioned to realize the many economic, local development,

environmental and public health benefits of reducing energy waste and increasing renewable energy.”

Energize NY plans on making presentations on the new program to business organizations such as the LIA and HIA, trade groups, clean energy advocates, chambers of commerce, and the local agriculture community. Suffolk County will be coordinating with town economic development agencies and energy offices to bring Energize NY’s presentation to their local businesses, chambers and associations this fall.

“County Executive Bellone was very influential in the formation of Energize NY by sharing his experience from his Green Home PACE program in Babylon. The County Executive presented at one of our local Energy Summits in 2008, when some of the formative elements of Energize NY were being created,” added Thielking.

With support from local elected officials, solar and energy efficiency developers and environmentalist groups, the Suffolk County Legislature passed legislation on November 17, 2015, that would allow Energize NY to offer low-interest loans for energy efficiency and alternative energy improvements. There are currently 30 projects pending or under development awaiting completion of the membership process.

“I am pleased that the board of EIC has approved Suffolk County for membership. The commercial PACE program provides an excellent opportunity for businesses to take advantage of low cost financing for solar energy installations and other renewable energy projects,” said Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. As a former County Legislator, Schneiderman was the lead sponsor on the PACE enabling legislation.

DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, said, “I look forward to the availability of the Commercial PACE program here in Suffolk County to further our goal to reduce energy waste. It is an opportunity for businesses in Suffolk to affordably implement energy efficiency upgrades that will increase property values and ultimately spur economic development.”

“I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program because I believe it will significantly cut greenhouse emissions in New York State,” stated Legislator Al Krupski, who sponsored and co-sponsored legislation which enabled the program to be offered in Suffolk County. “This is a brilliant program because it not only gives businesses access to the capital to finance energy saving or renewable energy projects, but it offers the expertise to help commercial building owners evaluate which projects will work best for them. The money businesses will save if they participate will more than offset the cost of the loan.”

“Investing in energy efficiency is always a smart idea but unfortunately the required upfront money is not always available,” said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island. “Suffolk County together with Energize NY now solves this ‘chicken-and-egg’ problem by offering low-interest loans to businesses and not-for-profit organizations, helping them save money on energy bills without having to come up with the upfront cash.”

“Congratulations to Suffolk County for leading this initiative to provide local businesses the opportunity for significant savings on energy bills, and particularly to County Executive Steve Bellone, who more than a decade ago, was a pioneer in providing a residential version of PACE in Babylon,” Said Neal Lewis, Esq., Executive Director, Sustainability Institute at Molloy College. “The world came together in Paris [last year] to sign a pledge to develop plans and take action to mitigate global warming. As we look to take local action on this global problem,

obvious goals are to get existing businesses to retrofit their facilities to be more energy efficient and to put solar PV on their roofs.”

Theresa Ward, the Acting Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning said that one of the most often heard feedback from CEO’s in Suffolk County is the high cost of energy. “This program will allow a company to reduce its energy bill and invest the savings back into the business,” Ward said.

“Energy initiatives remain a critical component of my administration. The Town of Babylon was among the first in the nation to start a residential PACE program, Long Island Green Homes. As County Executive I have been investing in energy efficiency in our buildings and now Suffolk County saves millions of dollars on its energy bill each year. We are once again leading the way in the effort to improve our most precious resource, the environment,” added County Executive Bellone.

“PSEG Long Island provides extensive rebates to our commercial customers for upgrading to energy efficient equipment and installing rooftop solar,” said Michael Voltz, director of energy efficiency and renewables, PSEG Long Island. “Through our rebates and the financing now available in Suffolk County through the Energize NY PACE program, our commercial customers will save money on their electric bill, realize an immediate positive cash flow and a reduced impact on the environment.”

PSEG Long Island and National Grid have already spotlighted the PACE program at their spring contractor meetings, as well as the U.S. Green Building Council and Islip Town CEO Roundtable.

### **About Energize NY and Energy Improvement Corporation:**

Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) is a New York State non-profit, local development corporation that offers its Energize NY clean energy services (project financing and building owner support) in member municipalities across New York State, saving money, fuel and greenhouse gas emissions.

Energize NY™ works with member communities to help building owners eliminate energy wasted in their buildings by breaking down the barriers to energy saving solutions. Sometimes a lack of knowledge about energy saving solutions is the barrier, other times it may be access to qualified contractors or affordable financing. Energize NY drives demand for clean energy upgrades through community-based outreach about energy saving opportunities and by providing low-cost, long-term PACE financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

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