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Orange County offers commercial property owners reduced energy costs

GOSHEN – Orange County has become the first county in the state to offer clean-energy projects to businesses as a means of reducing costs and protecting the environment.

County Planning Commissioner David Church said eligible owners would have renewable energy project financing.

“You work through this organization that Orange County became the first county member of in New York State called the Energy Improvement Corporation and they will pre-screen applicants, help to get your building audited for what would make sense for energy efficiency, then if you are interested as a commercial property owner, they will help arrange for financing,” Church said.

Projects eligible for financing include solar PV arrays, high-energy lighting, upgrades to HVAC systems, air sealing, and insulation to reduce electricity and primary fuel load through an existing New York State Energy Research and Development Authority or utility program.

Ulster County this week began to explore the possibility of joining the Energize NY program in an effort pushed by County Legislator Manna Jo Green.

The program began initially in New York in northern Westchester. Church believes Capital District area counties may also be interested in offering the incentive program.