

# Repurposing brownfields & unused spaces for good

How DSD helped Schenectady County transform seven sites, include three retired landfills, into a new solar portfolio — cutting energy costs for its municipalities and residents.

**25 MW**

of clean solar energy

**20,000 kWh**

of energy storage

**100%**

of power offset by renewables

## The Challenge

In 2019, New York State established itself as a national leader in climate action and clean energy development with the passing of the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**. That vision was put into action when the people of Schenectady County decided to take acres of unused land give it new life — by transforming it into solar energy installations.

By repurposing seven sites, including three long-standing brownfields, the County would create a new source of cleaner, less-expensive energy for its municipalities and residents. This initiative would also support the State's ambitious goal of obtaining 70 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2030. But getting the job done would require some creative thinking ... and a partner that could see it through.

## New York Takes on Climate Change

**NEW YORK'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP and COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT**



"New York State is committed to the most aggressive clean energy and climate agenda in the country," says the New York Climate Action Council. The state set out to be a benchmark for the nation. And Schenectady County, which is home to DSD's headquarters at Mohawk Harbor, has proven to be a climate leader within this climate-leading state — and, by extension, a model for the country.

## ... And Leads the Nation

In March 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that **New York State has become the country's largest community solar market** — reaching more than 1 GW of installed and operational community solar (enough to serve more than 200K homes).



# The Outcome

DSD was awarded the project after impressing the County with its in-house capabilities and strategic ingenuity. For example, three of the sites were hard-to-access landfills that presented substantial developmental challenges. And, one of the sites was a tax-foreclosed property that held an abandoned hotel. But the DSD Team found creative ways to make it.

Today, the installations generate a total of 28,254,869 kWh of solar energy per year. They also include two of the largest energy storage systems (ESS) in the state, providing 20,000 kWh of combined solar storage. The portfolio enables the municipalities and cities of Schenectady County to save 20-30% on their energy costs while offsetting 100% of their power with renewable energy. And, county residents who subscribed to the community solar project now receive energy at a 10% discount.



**20,024 MT**  
CO<sub>2</sub> offset



**\$800K**  
annual savings  
for the county



**311,094**  
new trees planted  
(carbon equivalent)



**20-30%**  
tax credits for  
municipalities &  
residents



**“This brownfield-to-greenfield transformation shows what can happen when you take on ambitious goals, then put the right people around you to help achieve them.”**

**Christopher Gardner**

County Attorney  
Schenectady County



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