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Village of Red Hook, Town of Red Hook, and the Village of Tivoli Receiving the New York Planning Federation’s

Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence

The Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence is given each year to an individual, municipality or agency for outstanding accomplishment in the planning field. It is named in honor of Henry Heissenbuttel, the innovative director of the Dutchess County Planning Department. This year’s award recognizes the Village of Red Hook, Village of Tivoli and Town of Red Hook in Dutchess County, NY for their collaborative effort in developing the Red Hook Community Solar Installation.

This project, completed in December 2019, resulted in a solar array providing clean, renewable energy to town and village municipal buildings and 250 local residents consistent with Climate Smart Community objectives of each municipality as expressed in the Energy and Climate Action Plan adopted by all three municipalities in 2012. The Village of Red Hook provided the land on 9.5 acres on a Village wellfield that could be otherwise developed. The Town of Red Hook provided professional planning services for design approvals, construction management and procurement. All three municipalities provided outreach to the public and education about the project through their municipal boards and community events. The project took advantage of grants from Dutchess County and NYSERDA for feasibility studies, legal aspects and zoning amendments to address solar arrays, and site plan approvals. The project also involved a public – private partnership with Suncommon, a regional solar installer, KSI Investments, which financed the costs of construction, and Central Hudson, which facilitated the utility coordination aspects of the project. This successful project can serve as a regional model for climate sensitive, resilient and renewable energy production and is expected to generate 3,000,000 kwh of clean energy per year at reduced costs to participants.

*NEW YORK PLANNING FEDERATION is a non-profit membership organization established in 1937. Our mission is to promote sound planning and zoning practice throughout New York State. Membership, which currently includes nearly 10,000 individuals, is open to anyone supporting this mission. Membership categories include municipalities, counties, public organizations, private businesses, individuals, and libraries.*