

Supervisor [George Hoehmann](#)

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Weekly Column - Rockland County Times

January 25, 2023

Town Of Clarkstown and The Villages of Haverstraw, Nyack, and Upper Nyack Designated Eco-Action Champions for Clean Energy Leadership

This week, we were honored to receive the ECO-Action Champion Award for clean energy leadership. The award recognizes communities and organizations that are actively accelerating the clean energy transition. Our communities proved the power of local climate action by coming together to implement the first community-based renewable electricity program in Rockland County, Rockland Community Power. The program enabled more than 21,000 households to switch to 100% renewable energy in one go, sourced right here in New York State. Joule Community Power, which serves 56 communities across NY State (and acts as program administrator for Rockland Community Power), presented the awards at the Clarkstown Town Hall this week.

By choosing renewable electricity sources through Rockland Community Power our communities were able to help avoid 40,350 MT CO₂e, equivalent to taking 8,700 cars off the road for one year. At the same time, the program saved participants in the awarded communities more than \$6.45 million in electricity supply costs over the last two years by providing a fixed rate that was lower than ORU's variable electricity supply rate. This meant our residents helped reduce our communities' carbon footprint, while also reducing their electricity costs.

Rockland Community Power is made possible through the NY State policy Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which allows municipalities to choose where their communities get their electricity from. A renewable electricity CCA program is considered one of the most powerful climate actions a municipality can take.

At the ceremony, Joule Community Power CEO Jessica Stromback spoke about the leadership shown by our local governments in helping NY State's goal to reach 70% renewable energy by 2030.

“Through the CCA, we saved our residents \$5.3 million dollars, but just as importantly we took a stand and showed leadership in sustainability. We are really trying to do what we can on a local level, and we need to continue to do more. It is our plan to put more solar on our municipal properties than our Town government operations utilize, and by doing so, take Clarkstown government operations completely off the grid.” – Supervisor George Hoehmann

“Sustainability can really be a no-brainer when you can say that it’s good for the residents, it’s good for the community, and it saves money in the residents’ pockets. And I look forward to when the new CCA contract kicks in so that our residents can continue saving money. I like to think that we are forerunners to where the state is going, and through our actions, showing that there is demand for renewable energy means that the private interests are going to fulfill that demand and increase the capacity.” – Village of Haverstraw, Mayor Michael Kohut

“What’s so powerful about this is that we are doing this together as a community. These community wide initiatives are changing the way we live for the better, and we need to call on the state to continue to support these efforts and make them even easier to do so that more CCAs can take place.” – Village of Nyack, Mayor Don Hammond

“It’s great to be part of this community of leaders that has put this together in Rockland County. More than anything else though, it reminds me that our power comes from the ground up. The meetings that Joule did with our residents and the way that the program was presented made it very simple to answer their questions and concerns and to get a very high level of buy-in that would not have been possible without that repeated and clear communication. So, as much as I am pleased to get this award, I am also pleased to be partnering with a company like Joule and with our other local leaders.” – Village of Upper Nyack, Mayor Karen Tarapata

The Rockland Community Power program is set to renew in April of this year in all four communities, with renewable electricity options available. Eligible residents and small businesses will be automatically enrolled in the program but can opt out at any time without penalty. Learn more about the program here:

www.rocklandcommunitypower.com or call the 845-859-9099 option 1 or email info@rocklandcommunitypower.com.

We encourage other local leaders and municipalities to join our efforts and enroll your communities in the Rockland Community Power program. Together we can help our climate and save residents and businesses money.