

COUNTY OF ULSTER  
P.O. BOX 1800  
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402

**Environmental Committee:**

Brian Shapiro, Chairman  
Gary Bischoff  
Dean J. Fabiano  
Richard A. Parete  
Laura Petit  
Kevin Roberts  
Hector Rodriguez



**Environmental Committee  
County Office Building, Legislative Library  
6:00 PM, 6/18/08 - Minutes**

**Call to order:**

6:05, Brian Shapiro, Chair

**Present:**

Brian Shapiro, Chairman; Dean Fabiano; Laura Petit; Kevin Roberts; Hector Rodriguez

**Guests:**

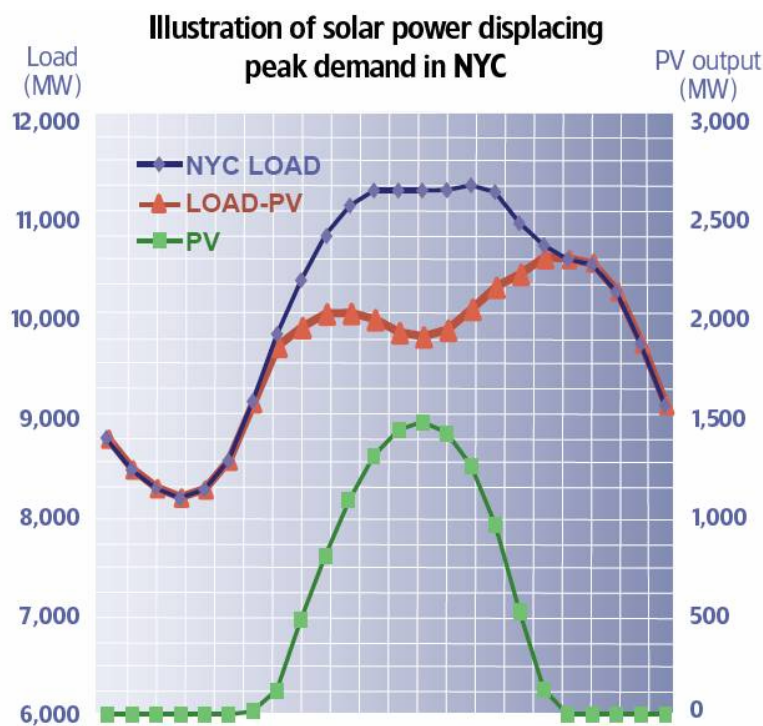
Tracey Bartels; Recycling Oversight Committee (chair); Martin J. Reisinger, Deputy Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment (DoEnv); John Maylie, Chair, UC Environmental Management Council; Miriam Strouse, secretary, DoE; Kara Styles, public; Vic Work, Ulster County Department of Public Works (DPW); Dr. John Harrington, The Solar Energy Consortium, Vice President of R&D; Kim Nelson, Recycling Oversight Committee; Max Edmunds, public; Charles Whittaker, UCRRA; Michelle Rodden, Recycling Oversight Committee, David Gross, Woodstock Environmental Committee; Michael Bemis, UCRRA, Executive Director; Miriam Strouse, Ulster County Department of the Environment (DoEnv)

**Agenda:**

Guest Speaker, Dr. John Harrington, The Solar Energy Consortium  
Department of the Environment  
UCRRA  
Global Warming Advisory Committee  
Plastic Bag legislation  
Environmental Management Council (EMC)

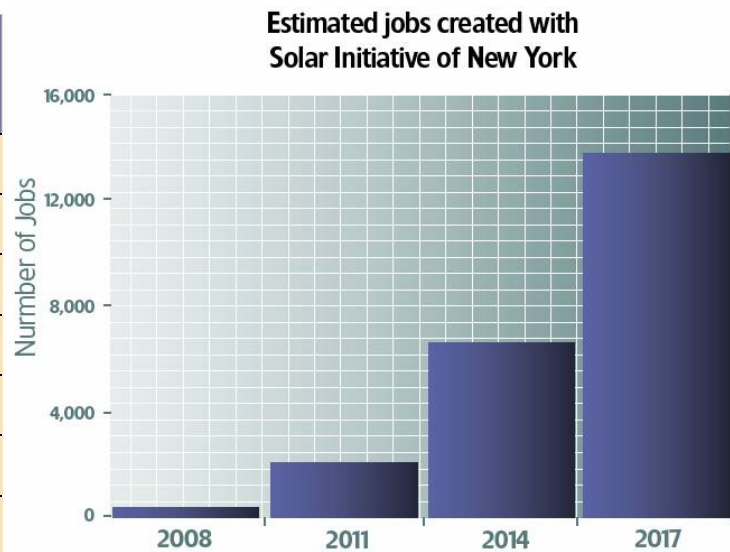
## The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC)

Dr. John Harrington, TSEC's Vice President of Research and Development (R&D), spoke about its mission and current projects. Based in Ulster County, this 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit was formed in June 2007 to meet the New York and national demand for energy independence and sustainability. Its mission, from <http://thesolarec.org/>, is to “**double the efficiency of photovoltaic systems, to halve the installed cost of solar energy systems, to simplify the installation of solar energy systems, and to develop unique photovoltaic forms for use in urban environments.**” Currently, the US leads Japan and Germany in PV R&D. However, Japan leads in PV manufacturing and Germany leads in PV installation. TSEC seeks to build a New York solar industry with fully developed R&D, manufacturing, sales, service, and installation capacities. Mayor Bloomberg (NYC) has estimated that by 2030, NYC will be sourcing an additional 25% of its power from renewables. Anticipating this dynamic emerging market, TSEC is promoting diverse solar technologies, including conventional photovoltaics (PV), building integrated PV, passive solar, and thermal solar (water heating). Enhancing its mission, TSEC used the \$200,000 seed money provided by Ulster County to leverage \$1,500,000 in federal funding. Dr. Harrington's powerpoint included a graph of the *Solar PV Industry Outlook* that indicated that, as electricity from solar PV becomes cheaper, and demand for conventionally sourced electricity exceeds its supply, demand for PV will grow rapidly. At present, conventional PV costs almost \$4/watt. However, emerging thin films technologies, such as those under development in the Hudson Valley, are expected to produce power for \$1.50-\$2.00 per watt. The *Holy Grail benchmark* [his term] for a mature PV technology is \$1/watt PV power generation. In addition, PV is an appropriate energy source in a warming world because peak production hours match peak demand hours. (see below)

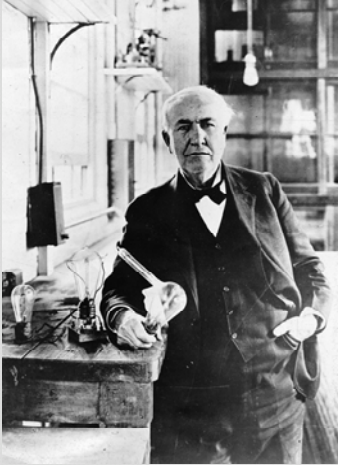


In addition, increased reliance on PV would create thousands of new jobs. (See below)

Opportunity for job creation based on the roadmap		
	2012	2017
Manufacturing	1,100	4,300
Engineering	200	700
Installers	750	2,900
Equipment	550	2,200
Sales/ Administrative	350	1,500
R&D	350	1,500
Total Jobs	3,300	13,100




Dr.Harrington's presentation concluded with this slide, *too good to miss!*



"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait till oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

**-Thomas Edison**



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Brian Shapiro thanked Dr. Harrington for updating the Committee on TSEC's work, and asked TSEC to consider partnering with the County on any future [UC] Energy Expo.

(FYI-Dr. Harrington's earlier academic career included work at with SUNY-New Paltz.)

*Images courtesy of Dr. Harrington, with permission*

### **Department of the Environment:**

Marty Reisinger received permission from the Committee to explore placing PV panels at the new salt shed being planned for the County Fairgrounds Highway Garage.

***"Ulster County Makes It Happen"***  
**Ulster County Web Site: [www.co.ulster.ny.us](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us)**

## **UCRRA:**

Timothy McGraff, UCCRA comptroller, discussed the challenge of the rising cost of the diesel fuel used to haul the County's waste 275 miles to Seneca. Michael Bemis explained UCCRA's budget calendar, noting that 2009's numbers must be presented in August, despite the uncertainty of revenue and expenses. For instance, intake of paper, cardboard, and appliances has dropped in this recession. Recently, garbage tonnage has dropped 17%, while total tonnage has risen 3%.

David Gross commented on the need to internalize the externality of waste disposal, or, in other words, to create "cradle to grave" accountability to prevent disposal problems at the end of an item's useful life. [more at: <http://www.allbusiness.com/government/business-regulations/456452-1.html> - Packaging taxes and recycling: the German Green Dot program]

Tracey Bartels introduced Michelle Rodden and Kim Nelson, members of the Recycling Oversight Committee. Also, Martin J. Reisinger will be representing the Department of the Environment at Recycling Oversight Committee meetings. There are Committee vacancies for representatives for the waste haulers and for multi-dweller residences (apartment houses). The Committee may consider a youth representative to fill an at-large vacancy.

Ms. Bartels also mentioned that UCCRA may hire an officer to begin ticketing violators of Ulster County's recycling laws.

## **Global Warming Advisory Committee (GWAC):**

Vic Work and Martin J. Reisinger briefly discussed vehicle idling legislation. This topic will be placed on the July agenda.

## **Plastic Bag Legislation:**

Dave Holden would like Ulster County to consider banning or phasing out plastic bags, at least for point-of-sale retail packaging. He cited statistics that the average US resident uses 288 bags per year.

## **EMC:**

John Maylie, EMC chairman, responded to Richard Parete concerns from a recent meeting re EMC membership. John emphasized that the current imbalance between the numbers of at-large and town representatives on the EMC should be framed in the context that the EMC has solely advisory powers. [John has been working throughout his tenure to increase the number of towns with CAC's, and to increase CAC representation to the EMC. - ms]

## **Adjourn:** 8:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Miriam Strouse, mstr@co.ulster.ny.us

