

Vision Long Island

SMART GROWTH NEWS

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Eight Long Island Towns collaborate to request energy Stimulus funds



In an encouraging show of solidarity, eight Long Island Towns have collaborated to announce that they will be requesting stimulus funds from the US Department of Energy. The towns include Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip, Smithtown, Southampton, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay. According to a press release, the Community Development Corp. of LI is acting as the lead applicant and grant administrator, LIPA will provide some of the efficiency work, and the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College will act as a key strategic partner.

The towns will request funds from \$454 million that is available for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and the "Retrofit Ramp-up" grant. The amount requested is to be determined, but the Department of Energy will provide 8-20 grants of \$5 million to \$75 million, totaling \$390 million. According to Thursday's Newsday, "Such programs allow homeowners to retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient, paying off the cost over time through their property tax bill." An example, which the towns will likely emulate, is Babylon's Long Island Green Homes program; Brookhaven recently implemented a similar program. The collaboration comes from a recommendation by the Department of Energy to encourage large-scale projects and innovative partnerships.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer said, "This is an historic opportunity for Long Island. The Green Homes initiative was born right here on Long Island and there's no better place for this type of investment."