

March 19, 2021 **DRAFT**

Dear Park Foundation,

Tompkins County municipalities often have to balance numerous interests and goals as we establish policies and initiate programs. We see great potential for achieving energy and sustainability goals while providing unique and forward-thinking opportunities to our constituents via Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). There are CCA components that need to be further explored and studied to achieve maximum benefits. If this proposal is funded, we will work in full collaboration with the Program Manager and Sustainable Tompkins. Municipal officials will commit time (in-kind) and effort to advancing CCA for our constituents. The following Tompkins County municipalities have signed on to this support letter for the Community Choice Application grant proposal: Village of Trumansburg; City of Ithaca and the Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Caroline, Danby, Dryden and Enfield. Further, this effort is supported by Tompkins County Council of Governments.

In 2020, the Tompkins County Council of Government's Energy Committee decided to focus on Community Choice Aggregation. The committee offered numerous educational webinars and discussions throughout the year working with Terry Carroll, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Irene Weiser. In addition to committee members many of the webinars were attended by community members who had previously been involved with CCA explorations. The webinars were recorded and may be found here: <https://southerntiercec.org/webinars-cca>. Additionally, Terry has made CCA presentations to all our municipal boards.

Toward the end of the year, TCCOG's energy committee reached out to municipalities to gauge interest in moving forward. The feedback received highlighted a definite interest with a focus on renewable energy and energy cost savings. The stated goal is to move forward in a way that aggregates benefits and alleviates the pressure of each municipality to work out details on their own. Further, there is a desire to outline a path that starts with CCA 2.0 and moves toward CCA 3.0 which would mean keeping revenue locally to invest in energy-related programs that advance the municipalities' equity- and environmental goals,

such as subsidies for clean heating technology for lower-income households. There are also possibilities for development and local control of renewable energy sources, and the possibility to incorporate local priorities of job creation and workforce development into projects, such as new community solar projects.

This funding would solidify a consortium of local municipalities and provide a mechanism to investigate and take concrete steps towards adopting CCA in the Tompkins County area. The combination of supportive state legislation, experiences elsewhere in the state, and the emergence of a motivated group of local municipalities will lead us towards adopting renewable energy in a way that not only sees savings but will also have financial benefits accrue to our communities and residents. It aligns with mutual sustainability goals as well as with the City and Town of Ithaca's Green New Deal initiatives.

Please contact Rod Howe, Chair, TCCOG energy committee chair, if you have any questions (rhowe@town.ithaca.ny.us, 607-273-1721, ext. 125).

Sincerely,

Town of Ithaca
Town of Caroline
Town of Danby
Town of Dryden
Town of Newfield
Town of Enfield
Village of Trumansburg
City of Ithaca