

For Immediate Release
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State Streets on Long Beach Battle It Out in Neighborhood Competition

Participating streets have a chance to win grants from \$2,000 to \$500

LONG BEACH, N.Y., May 15, 2017 - This summer in the West End of Long Beach, neighbors will collaborate to represent their “State Street” in a competition that hopes to strengthen the energy independence of the community.

The State Street Energy Independence Day Contest will consist of a menu of energy-related activities that homes can choose from to earn points towards the street’s overall score. The first place prize is a \$2,000 grant towards the street’s annual block party. Second place is \$1,000, and third place is \$500. Streets can also opt to use the grant for a community project or donation to a community organization. [Contest rules and details can be found online at tinyurl.com/energyindependentstatestreets.](http://tinyurl.com/energyindependentstatestreets)

The activities range from simply voting for your street online and posting on social media, to signing up for New York State’s free energy audits, and completing an online solar assessment. The contest will run June through July. Winners will be announced on Independence Day.

“Long Beach is the best-positioned community in New York to achieve energy independence and directly improve air and water quality,” said David Schieren CEO of SunPower by EmPower Solar. “Competitions are a fun and effective way to rapidly catalyze clean energy and energy efficiency deployment. Our entire team, including many Long Beach residents, are excited and proud to participate in this effort.”

“This City Council has consistently made sustainability a top priority, and we are constantly looking for ways to protect the environment and promote energy efficiencies,” said City Councilman Anthony Eramo. “As west end residents, my family and I will definitely be participating in this contest.”

Renewable energy potential has increased substantially on Long Island over the last several years. The amount of energy required from local power plants has decreased enough that Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) is putting a hold on approving construction and renovations for new plants. In 2016, solar was the number one new source of energy installed in America, and the city of New York ranked 10th most installed solar nationwide. New York State has seen an 800 percent increase over the last 5 years with Long Island being the leading region in the state with over 38,000 residential solar installations.

“I’ve lived here for over 7 years and it’s a very close-knit community. Neighbors here are very social and have been known to rally together for common causes,” said Pennsylvania Ave Captain Amanda Moore, owner of Wolf and Wing Interior Design, a sponsor of the competition. “My neighbors are excited to complete activities that will reduce their environmental footprint and make our community more resilient.

"Long Island Green Homes is proud to partner with SunPower by EmPower Solar in this unique, innovative competition that will engage residents of the City of Long Beach in performing sustainable actions," says Neal Lewis, Executive Director of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College. "By combining our efforts, we are promoting the concept of whole home solutions, integrating both energy efficiency and renewable energy. Through this effort, we hope to have a significant impact in making the City of Long Beach a more sustainable place to live."

The program, a public-private sponsorship is co-hosted by Long Island Green Homes, SunPower by EmPower Solar, All Our Energy, Wolf and Wing Interior Design, and the City of Long Beach.

"We're very excited to help West End residents unite and take action to declare their energy independence," said George Povall of All Our Energy. "May the best block win!"

Organizers plan to roll similar contests out for other communities in the future depending on the participation of the initial program.

About SunPower by EmPower Solar

SunPower by EmPower Solar provides customized residential and commercial solar energy solutions using the industry's highest efficiency solar panels and best combination of power and product warranty. With over 1,500 solar and battery systems installed since 2003, EmPower has received several awards for excellent customer service and workmanship.

About Long Island Green Homes

The Long Island Green Homes Initiative is a non-profit collaborative partnership of Long Island Towns, community-based organizations and Molloy College funded primarily with a community outreach grant awarded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in order to help Long Islanders improve their homes and use energy more wisely in their everyday lives.

About All Our Energy

All Our Energy's mission is to energize, organize, and mobilize the public to act on climate, renewable energy, and local environmental issues.

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