

# How a Small Town Can Take Full Advantage of Solar Initiatives

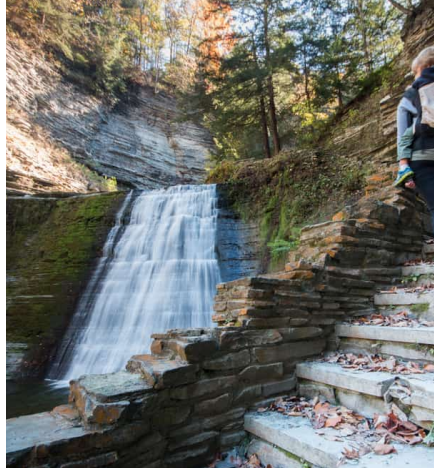
An Overview of the Morris Ridge Community Benefits

FUSES April 2021



*USES is a grassroots community of advocates including families, landowners, farmers, students, local businesses, skilled trades, and environmentalists who want to support, grow and educate on the value of harvesting sunshine to produce emissions-free electricity.*

# Mount Morris – NY Solar Energy Trailblazers



Stony Brook State Park



Main Street, Mount Morris



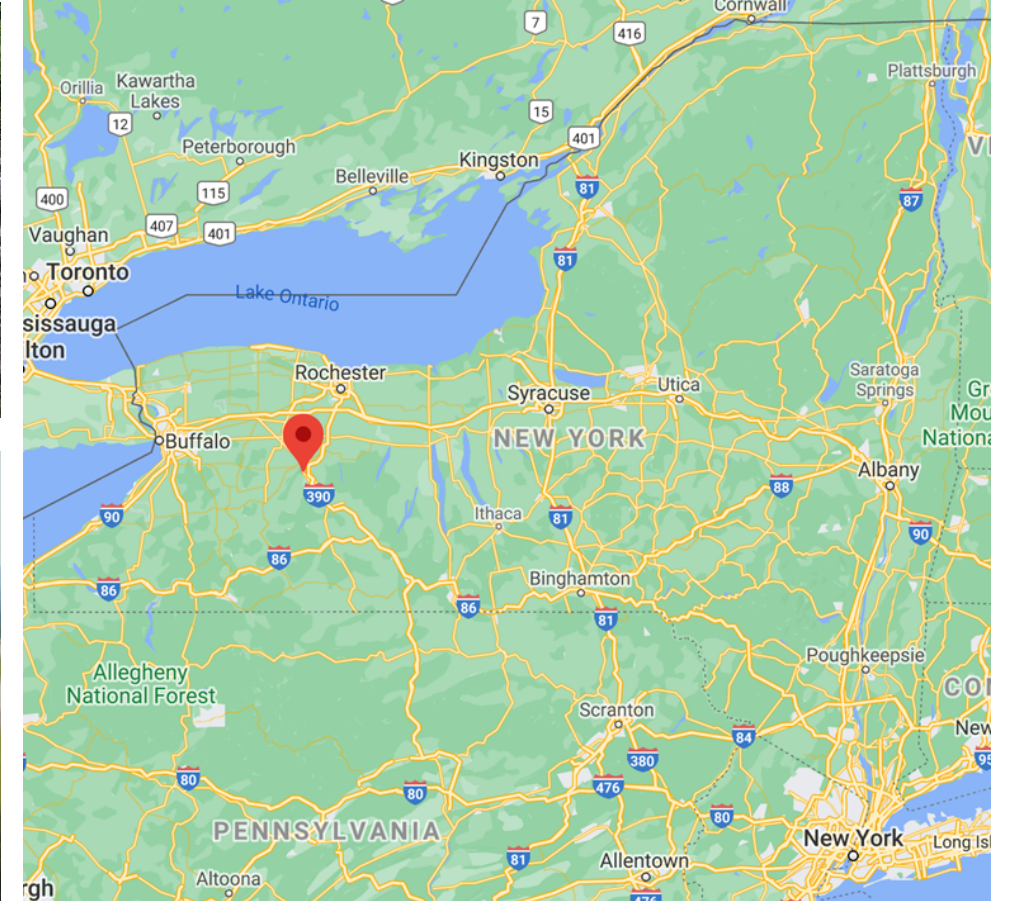
Main Street, Mount Morris



Stony Brook State Park



American Rock Salt facility outside of Mount Morris

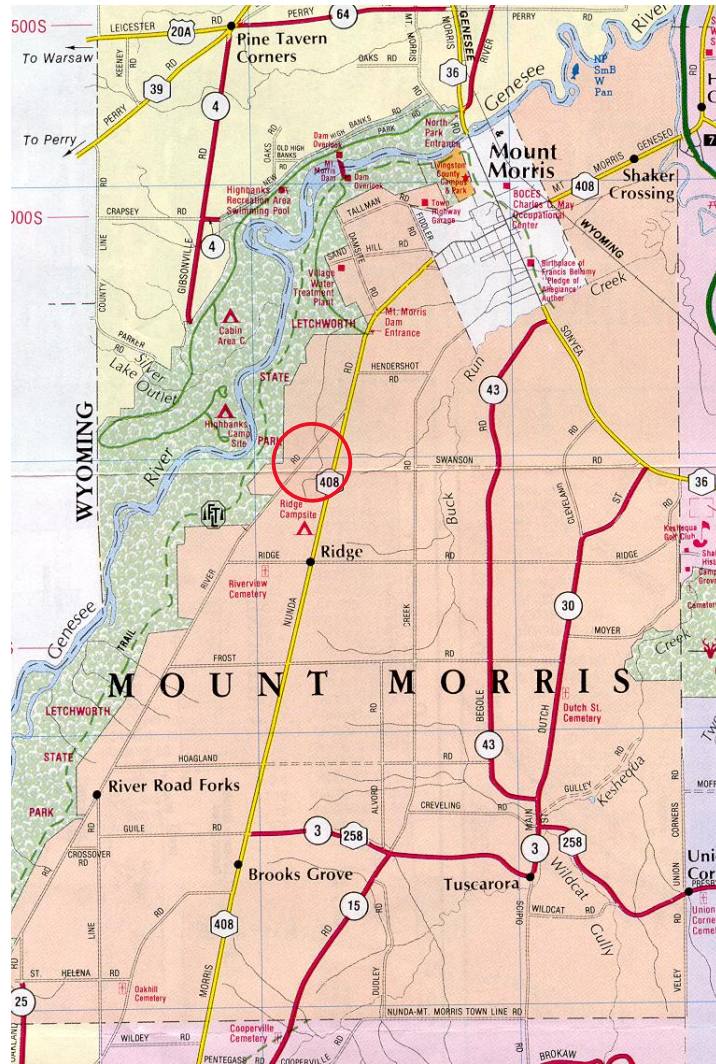


Mount Morris in map of New York

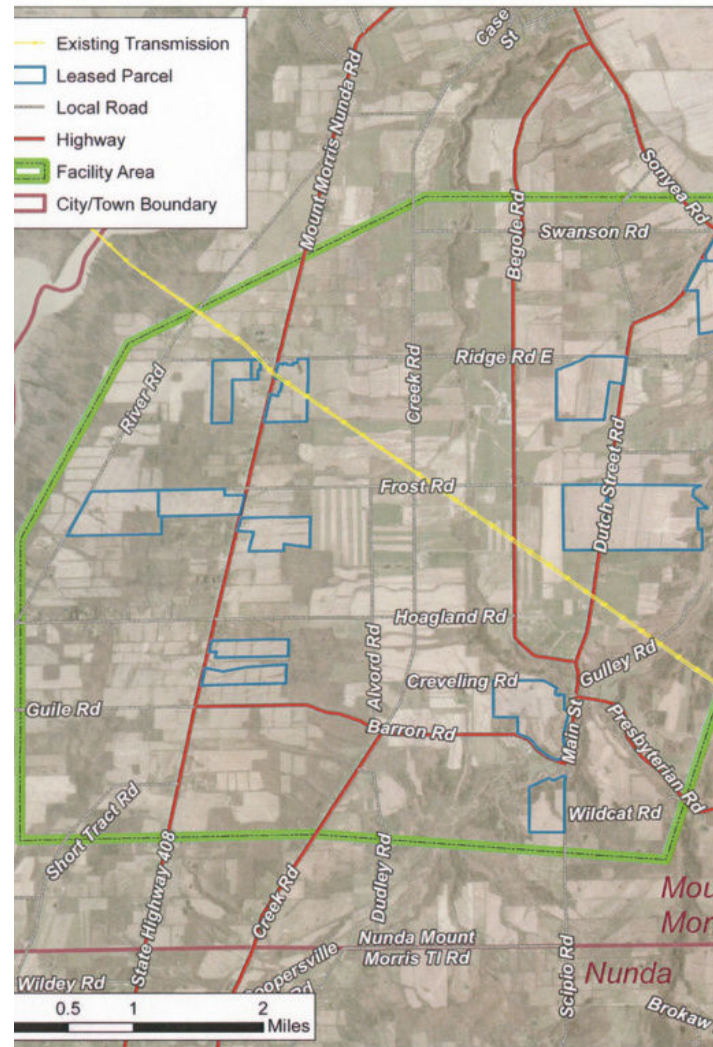


# Morris Ridge Solar

- EDF Renewables
- Morris Ridge Solar will produce 177 megawatts of solar production and is proposing 83 megawatts of storage



Map of Mount Morris, Morris Ride site circled in red



Closeup of site of facility, outlined in green



# Morris Ridge Solar Direct Payment Benefits

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- Direct payments of \$10 million over the first 20 years to town of Mount Morris, Livingston County, and host community school districts
  - Mount Morris CSD annual budget is \$15 million
  - Town would generate only 10% of this amount from a farm of the same size



Main street, Mount Morris



# Morris Ridge Solar Direct Payment Benefits

- \$4,000 to Veteran of Foreign War Hall renovations
- \$3,000 to Catholic Charities Livingston County (Mount Morris Food Pantry)
- \$2,000 to Mount Morris Central School “backpack” food distribution program
- \$2,000 to Mount Morris Rotary Club
- \$1,500 to Letchworth Gateway Villages Initiative



Letchwork Gateway Villages Initiative Logo

Memorial at Mount Morris Veterans Park



# Morris Ridge Solar Direct Payment Benefits

- Annual \$20,000 Host Community Fund offering funding and grant awards to organizations and projects that may have a hard time acquiring traditional funding
  - Beginning in 2022 and renewing annually for the life of the project (~20 years)
  - Local board of representatives and EDF Renewables to determine recipients
- \$2,000 scholarships each to Mount Morris Central School District and Keshequa Central School District, supporting student(s) with an interest in pursuing trades or renewable energy
  - Spring 2021
- Initiating discussions to promote career development activities focused on integrating NY residents into the workforce for developing, designing, procuring, building, operating and maintaining renewable energy projects



Mount Morris Central School



Keshequa Central School



# Morris Ridge Solar Employment Benefits



- Will provide more than 200 jobs at the peak of construction, which is expected to last up to 2 years from 2022-2023
  - Provide experience and opportunities for trade laborers
  - Currently, there are 1,250 jobs within the township – adding this project will increase jobs by 16% **during construction**
- Expected to provide 3 permanent full time jobs once operational
- Indirect benefits:
  - Primary industry within Mount Morris are construction and material supply, which will also be positively impacted by this project
  - Genesee Valley BOCES class provides opportunities for students to be involved in project
    - Offers classes in electro-mechanical, construction, and metal trades, in addition to conservation

## Morris Ridge Solar Agrivoltaic Benefits

- Pollinator-friendly wildflower fields or berry bushes underneath and around the panels benefits local bee keepers and farmers
  - Local breweries can make fruity summer beer or honey lagers!
- Sheep and chickens can graze
  - Meat, milk, and eggs can be sold to local grocery stores (Wegman's)
  - Opportunity for farm-to-table for lamb meat
  - Department of Agriculture and Markets created solar guidelines so that the land can be returned to farming after decommissioning



Beekeepers on solar field site



Sheep grazing under solar panels



# Agrivoltaic Study

- EDF Renewables is supporting the Town of Mount Morris with the completion of:
  - An economic study of the feasibility of grazing vegetation with sheep and foraging with bees
  - The local market uptake potential and value for sheep products and bee products
  - The potential quantity of lamb and honey production available from site during operation



# Morris Ridge Solar

## Other Benefits

- Charging stations on Main Street
  - Only 3 in Livingston County
  - Outside of community-host agreement, available here:
    - <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/ChargeNY/Charge-Electric/Charging-Station-Programs/Charge-Ready-NY>
- EDF Renewables funding municipal water study
- Utility savings are being used to extend public water supply



Mount Morris Dam



Charging station



# Discussion

*The benefits identified in this presentation are unique to Mount Morris, not every project will have the same needs or resources available. It is important to have discussions to see what is feasible and most impactful for communities on a case-by-case basis.*

- Toolkit available
- Has your developer had any discussions with your community or your group about host benefits?
- Has your community identified potential benefits that would be important?
- Do you have any other ideas that you may want to share with your developer and community officials?

See you next  
month!

