



**Town of Somers
Energy and Environment
Committee**

July 2026 Newsletter

History of the Somers Energy and Environment Committee

By Flo Brodley, Energy and Environment Committee Member

In 2008, Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, attended a day long workshop on Environmental Issues at Manhattanville College. Town Councilman, Richard Clinchy and resident, Flo Brodley, attended also and all came away with the idea of adding an environmental panel to the town's offices.

Councilman Clinchy was looking forward to making residents of the town more aware of the issues that face us due to climate change and assisting the Town of Somers to move in the direction of sustainability.

On April 10th, 2008, the Somers Town Board on the motion introduced by Councilman Clinchy, unanimously voted to establish the Energy Advisory Panel. The goal of the panel was to recommend advice on how to conserve energy, maximize resources, implement new technologies, examine alternative fuels and vehicles, conserve energy and suggest ways to reduce our carbon emissions.

At the same time, the Board appointed the panel's first seven members: Flo Brodley, John Gilbert, Dana Boulanger, Chris Zamberto, Scott Persampieri, Jane Harsha and Jim Foley. Years later, new members served: Herb Oringel, Mike Blum, Rick Warren, Jason Crawford, Michael Yee, Gina Arena, Stacie Vourakis, Michael Scorrano, Don Bleasdale and many others.

Since that time, the name of the panel has undergone several changes and in 2026 is known as the Somers Energy and Environment Committee chaired by Don Bleasdale, alongside members Flo Brodley, Long Garrett, Jennifer Baker-Kuskovski, Mike Scorrano and Rick Warren.

One of the Committee's top productions was the Solarize program with 32 residents opting to put solar panels on their homes and Somers being awarded a solar array for the Somers Library.

Other accomplishments have been: yearly participation in the Somers Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate Somers event; creating a plan for installation of sidewalks in the town's center, eventually leading to application of the same by a major business; co-sponsoring energy and environmentally based workshops with the library; advising on the stretch code use for the town; hosting yearly tree plantings on Arbor Day and hosting programs during Earth Week; creating a town newsletter that is email blasted to residents; receiving a grant to hire a professional to do an energy assessment of all town buildings, resulting in LED lighting for all town buildings and lower electric costs; helping to promote the town's Food Scraping Program; creating a Sustainability Action Plan to the Town Board that was incorporated into the last Master Plan Update; becoming one of the first members of NWEAC which morphed into the countywide program Sustainable Westchester and participation in Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar program allowing property owners who don't want to invest in solar panels, or can't because of the layout of their property, to access solar power through solar farms in the state; and creation of the town's first Repair Café, part of an international movement for sustainability.

Ongoing workings include: participation in the Hudson Valley Regional Council's programs offered to property owners that earns money awards for the Town; these funds are used for the purchase and installation of a double EV charging station in the Town House parking lot for Town EVs and plans are in place to purchase two poles with solar light fixtures to be placed in the dark corners of the Town House parking lot. Also in the works are recommendations to the Town for the purchase of an EV, and electric tools for the Parks Department, an advisement to the Town Board to adopt a partial-ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers

and an announcement of the second Repair Cafe for the fall season. The work is never done!

Don't Forget That...

The Town of Somers has a Food Recycling Program at the Somers Highway Department seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[6318e98c329dd23e3e614342_FoodScrapRecycling.pdf](#)

Join the Somers Energy and Environment Committee

Volunteers are needed to make our Town more energy efficient and sustainable in the 21st Century. If you have a particular interest in energy efficiency at home or work, efficient transportation, use of renewable energy technology, recycling and waste management, sustainable food, composting, green building and land use please join us and help us assess as well as communicate these, important quality of life issues for our Town, families and most of all children! The Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact the Committee Secretary Denise Schirmer at dschirmer@somersny.gov for further information.