

# We Are Not Alone

## Communities Across New York State Are Raising the Same Concerns

Across New York State, communities are increasingly speaking out about the rapid expansion of large-scale energy infrastructure. Industrial wind turbines, utility-scale solar facilities, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and the transmission lines required to connect these projects are being proposed in towns and cities alike. From densely populated urban neighborhoods to rural farming communities, residents are discovering that while the projects differ in scale and location, the impacts and concerns are strikingly similar.

What is happening in our community is not unique. It is part of a statewide pattern.

## Industrial Energy Projects Are Affecting Communities Statewide

Large energy projects bring permanent changes to the places where people live. Industrial wind turbines can exceed 600 feet in height and require extensive construction, access roads, and concrete foundations. Utility-scale solar projects often cover hundreds of acres of farmland or open space, removing land from agricultural use and altering drainage, ecosystems, and rural character. Battery Energy Storage Systems introduce new safety concerns, particularly related to fire risk, emergency response capacity, and proximity to homes, schools, and businesses.

These projects are frequently paired with new or expanded power lines and substations. Transmission infrastructure requires wide cleared corridors, long-term easements, and ongoing maintenance. While transmission lines are often discussed less publicly than generation projects, they can have equally significant and permanent impacts on landscapes, property values, and local planning.

## The Impact Has Been Divisive and Often Negative

Across New York, communities report increased division among neighbors, strained relationships between residents and local officials, and growing distrust of the permitting process. Volunteer fire departments and emergency responders are asked to prepare for new risks without adequate funding or training. Farmers and landowners face uncertainty about long-term land use, while municipalities struggle with projects that do not align with local zoning or comprehensive plans.

Many residents are not opposed to renewable energy in principle. Instead, they object to the scale, siting, and speed of development, especially when it occurs without meaningful local input or adequate safeguards. Communities are asking reasonable questions about safety, environmental impacts, property values, and long-term responsibility once construction is complete.

## This Is a Bipartisan Issue Across New York State

Opposition to poorly sited or oversized energy projects does not fall along party lines. In New York City neighborhoods, residents have raised concerns about BESS facilities near homes and schools. In suburban and rural areas, communities across the political spectrum have pushed back against wind turbines, solar fields, and transmission corridors.

From traditionally blue urban districts to deeply red rural counties, the message is consistent. People want a voice in decisions that affect their health, safety, property, and quality of life. This is not about ideology. It is about fairness, transparency, and respect for local communities.

## Local Voices Have Been Weakened

A recurring concern across the state is the erosion of local control. New York's centralized siting framework allows state agencies to override local zoning laws for large-scale energy projects. While public comment periods exist, many residents feel the process is procedural rather than participatory, with outcomes largely decided before communities are heard.

Towns and counties that will live with these projects for decades often have limited authority to shape them. This has left many communities feeling disenfranchised, regardless of political affiliation.

## A Shared Struggle and a Shared Responsibility

The challenges we face are shared by communities across New York State. Whether the project is wind, solar, battery storage, or transmission infrastructure, residents are asking the same fundamental questions. Who decides where these projects go. Who bears the risks. And why do local voices matter so little in the process.

We are not alone in raising these concerns. By standing together across regions and political lines, communities can continue to advocate for responsible energy planning that values safety, transparency, and local self determination.

## News from Tully Free Library

We have some fun craft programs for youth at the end of March! Students in grades five through eight can join us on Monday, March 30 at noon for our kite making workshop, and teens in grades six through twelve can decorate light switch covers on Tuesday, March 31 at noon. Please register in advance so we have enough supplies for everyone.

The library will be closed on Wednesday, April 1st for a Staff Development Day. If you need to return materials that day, please use our book drop. Online resources are always open as well.

The Upstate Mobile Mammography Van returns to the library parking lot on Thursday, April 2nd, from 10 AM to 4 PM. You can call Upstate directly at 315-464-588 for an appointment.

Our Seed Library is open! We have a limited quantity of vegetable, fruit, flower and herb seeds. Households can take up to three packets of seeds this season. If you are someone who collects seeds, we would love to have you support our seed library with your leftovers!

Our New Books section is getting packed! Come check out what we have in adult fiction and non-fiction! We look forward to seeing you at the library!

## Chicken BBQ

To Support

**The Tully Hose Company**

**April 28th**

11am till GONE!

**\$11—Half**

**\$15—for Dinner**