



OTSEGO 2000 POSITION ON SOLAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Adopted February 24, 2018

Otsego 2000 is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the historic, environmental, cultural, and agricultural resources of Otsego County and the greater Otsego Lake region. We support and offer informed advocacy, intelligent planning, public education, and sustainable economic alternatives, all in service of the long-term economic wellbeing and the quality of life of our residents.

Climate change, driven in large part by fossil fuel use, is a significant threat to our region and way of life. We call for and support energy conservation and efficiency to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and the necessity for expanded fossil fuel infrastructure and delivery systems. In addition, we call for and support smart development of renewable energy sources to meet the goals adopted by New York State for greenhouse gas reductions.

We strongly support solar energy development compatible with our agricultural resources and environment, including community solar facilities for local benefit. We encourage commercial, residential, and agricultural property owners to shift to rooftop or freestanding solar arrays to reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use. We encourage eligible property owners to take advantage of financial incentives such as those offered by the New York State Energy Research Authority (NYSERDA) and applicable historic preservation tax credits in connection with such installations.

To this end, we support development of solar installations that:

- Prioritize previously disturbed or degraded areas, such as landfills, brownfields, impervious surfaces.
- Protect agricultural lands and offer co-location of agriculture with solar power installations.
- Protect our historic, cultural, and scenic resources.
- Maintain conserved lands, whether for ecological or agricultural purposes.

We also support residential, commercial and community development of geothermal, wind and other renewable energy sources, guided by similar considerations.