

Williamsville to track energy use in municipal buildings

Energy use at municipal buildings in Williamsville will be tracked as part of a statewide project to promote energy conservation.

The village is pursuing the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's Clean Energy Communities program (<https://www.nysesda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities>). The program provides tools, resources, and technical assistance and recognizes and rewards leadership for the completion of clean energy projects.

The Village Board at a special meeting Saturday approved (<http://nebula.wsimg.com/916a7e9f3aca16254e0924677ef14f53?AccessKeyId=EB836F96604CFAA85CBF&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>) using an online tool called Portfolio Manager to "benchmark" energy consumption in buildings and post results on the village website (<http://www.walkablewilliamsville.com/>). The University at Buffalo's Regional Institute (<http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu/>) will assist in collecting the data and entering it without charge to the village.

Village officials hope to use the results to lower energy use and costs in municipal buildings.

The board also agreed to have the village's Building Department use the standardized "Unified Solar Permit" application, which is designed to streamline the approval process for installing solar in the community.

Williamsville is trying to become the first community in the state to complete all the NYSERDA program's initiatives, said Mayor Brian Kulpa.