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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 17, 2011

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The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Erie County Energy Efficiency Web Site

Honorable Members:

Please find attached a memorandum and proposed resolution to authorize the County Executive to enter into a three year contract with Blue Spring Energy, LLC at no cost to establish the web site www.reneweriecounty.org. The web site will promote the adoption of energy conservation, efficiency and renewable measures in the County and demonstrate how Erie County government is taking steps to improve its own energy efficiency.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

11E-5

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Energy Efficiency Web Site
Date: May 16, 2011

SUMMARY

To authorize the County Executive to enter into a three year contract with Blue Spring Energy, LLC at no cost to establish www.reneweriecounty.org to promote the adoption of energy conservation, efficiency and renewable measures in the County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The web site and related newsletter will assist Erie County residents, municipalities and businesses to secure energy efficiency incentives, grants, contractors and educational resources. Erie County residents and businesses that have previously paid taxes and Systems Benefit Charges on their utility bills that are used to provide these incentives will be able to realize a return on their investment. Reneweriecounty.org will contain:

- an updated collection of clean energy related programs Erie County residents, businesses and municipalities are eligible for from federal, state, utility, and third party sources;
- educational content on the benefits of adopting energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy measures;
- regular grant and incentive email newsletter and alerts;
- county green energy project results, such as energy and carbon savings, project descriptions and pictures; and
- answers to questions submitted online by Erie County residents, businesses and municipalities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Blue Spring Energy, LLC helps communities participate in clean energy programs. Blue Spring Energy, LLC assists residents, businesses and municipalities to access clean and renewable energy grants, incentives, credits and information. Blue Spring Energy, LLC has established similar web sites for communities across New York State including Broome, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Rockland, Wayne and Schenectady counties.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County government will not establish a web site to alert Erie County residents, municipalities and businesses to energy efficiency incentives, grants, contractors and educational resources.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval of this resolution, the County Executive will enter into a three year no cost contract with Blue Springs Energy, LLC. The Department of Environment and Planning will work with Blue Spring Energy, LLC, other County departments, the Erie County Environmental Management Council and private sector partners to post and manage web site content.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Energy Efficiency
Web Site

WHEREAS, Erie County and its municipalities, businesses and residents can take advantage of incentives to invest in energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy use, realize cost savings and protect taxpayers and the environment from increased energy costs and pollution burdens; and

WHEREAS, Erie County residents and businesses that have previously paid taxes and Systems Benefit Charges on their utility bills will benefit from use of those incentives; and

WHEREAS, Erie County and its municipalities are well positioned to lead by example, invest in energy efficiency and provide information about energy efficiency and related incentives; and

WHEREAS, Erie County municipalities, residents and businesses can benefit from a web site that provides access to clean and renewable energy grants, incentives, credits and information; and

WHEREAS, Blue Spring Energy, LLC helps communities participate in clean energy programs; and

WHEREAS, Blue Spring Energy, LLC has established similar web sites for communities across New York State including Broome, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Rockland, Wayne and Schenectady counties; and

WHEREAS, Blue Spring Energy, LLC has secured the domain name reneweriecounty.org and will design the web site and maintain and market content on the site for a three period at no cost to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a three year no cost agreement with Blue Spring Energy, LLC to establish and maintain reneweriecounty.org; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the County Comptroller; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; and the County Attorney.