



EC LEG FEB 10 '23 AM 11:33

# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 10, 2023

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Authorization to Accept Electric Utility Bill Credits from Community Solar Provider**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to accept electric utility bill credits from a community solar provider.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Deputy Commissioner Tracy Cichocki at the Department of Public Works – Buildings and Grounds Division. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Poloncarz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/rb  
Enclosure

cc: Deputy Commissioner of Buildings & Grounds, Tracy Cichocki

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Public Works  
**Re:** Authorization to Accept Electric Utility Bill Credits from Community Solar Provider  
**Date:** February 10, 2023

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## **SUMMARY**

Erie County has been offered a one-time, no-obligation offer for the equivalent of \$15,000 in utility bill credits. The community solar provider, PowerMarket, is undersubscribed in one of their community solar developments and has generated extra credits. Erie County is in the unique position, due to its large utility spend, that allows us to utilize the credits in a reasonable amount of time.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

All funding for would be from external sources. No County tax dollars are necessary to support this request.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

PowerMarket is a community solar provider that subscribes commercial and residential electric utility accounts to a solar project. PowerMarket gets a commission for the power that gets distributed to the community solar subscribers. Occasionally, a project will be brought online that doesn't have all of the power subscribed. When an undersubscribed solar project is running, power is still being generated as are the billing credits that go along with that power. These credits accumulate and can be applied to any bill in that utility territory. PowerMarket has an excess of credits on their National Grid accounts.

PowerMarket is offering these credits for free, with no contract and no obligations, primarily because Erie County uses a lot of electricity and would be able to utilize the credits quickly thereby allowing PowerMarket to realize their commission.

Approval is being requested to work with the vendor to transfer these credits to select National Grid utility accounts in the County. It would be a way to offset approximately \$15,000 in electric bill costs.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Not authorizing the acceptance of the bill credits would prevent the County from saving approximately \$15,000.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Department of Public Works will work with PowerMarket to transfer credits to the County's utility accounts.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Re: Authorization to Accept Electric Utility Bill Credits from Community Solar Provider

WHEREAS, community solar providers generate profits through the distribution of billing credits to commercial and residential electric customers; and

WHEREAS, from time to time providers generate surplus credits that can't be absorbed by the existing customer base; and

WHEREAS, Project Economics, d/b/a PowerMarket, a New York company that provides services to the community solar industry, has generously offered to apply surplus credits from community distributed generation (CDG) projects it manages to the National Grid accounts of the Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Buildings and Grounds ("the Department"), in order to reduce the Department's utility expenses by approximately \$15,000 over the next approximately five months; and

WHEREAS, these credits are being offered at no cost or obligation to Erie County and will provide savings to the County's budget line for utilities; and

WHEREAS, this is a one-time transfer of credits based on a surplus generated by the vendor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Erie County Department of Public Works to accept the credits for the purpose of reducing its utility expenses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward two (2) certified copies of this Resolution to the Department of Public Works, and one (1) copy to each of the County Executive's Office and the Division of Budget and Management.