

WVDP employees answer the call onsite and offsite

Employees at the West Valley Demonstration Project continue to ‘answer the call’ 24/7 when emergencies arise onsite and in surrounding communities. Cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley has 16 employees who volunteer at several local fire departments and some of those hold officer-level positions.

“Volunteers help balance the needs for responding to emergency medical needs, especially in rural areas,” CHBWV Emergency Preparedness Manager and volunteer firefighter Kevin Murray said. “In the event of any emergency, you have volunteer professionals who are trained and ready to provide lifesaving interventions.”

Employee volunteer firefighters also assist with in-house, hands-on safety training using their knowledge and expertise from years of community service. If you ask any of them why they do it, the answer is simple: “To protect, serve and give back.” Among these volunteers, there’s a sense of pride knowing that their time is being devoted to something greater than themselves – the safety and well-being of a community.

“We understand the importance and benefit of having trained emergency responders working at West Valley,” Bryan Bower, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy, said. “We

appreciate their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workers and communities.”

Ashford Town Supervisor Charlie Davis commended the commitment of these brave men and women. “The men and women who volunteer their time to help others is an added benefit for our town and surrounding communities. These professional volunteers play a vital role in providing prehospital care quickly in emergency situations.”

In emergency medical situations where minutes saved can mean the difference between life and death, it’s an advantage to have several onsite employees that can be called upon to help.

“This was clearly demonstrated last summer when employees, who are also Emergency Medical Technicians, provided life-saving care to an onsite visitor, Ken Whitham, vice president of CHBWV Safety, Quality, Health and Security said. “If it wasn’t for their knowledge, training and past experience, this medical emergency could have had a different outcome.”

“The site and community are fortunate to have these individuals to help when the need arises,” Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager said. “It provides an extra level of safety and care for anyone in need of emergency or medical assistance.”

Solarize Southtowns hosts launch party

June 27, 2019

Max Borsuk

SPRINGVILLE – The start of a new cost-saving initiative has begun throughout local towns in Erie County for people who are interested in installing solar panels on their home or business. Green Springville hosted its Solarize Southtowns launch party on June 20 to show people the benefits of the Solarize campaign and how they can receive high-quality, low-cost solar installations.



Representatives from Solar by CIR talk to interested residents at the Solarize Southtowns launch party.

Solarize Southtowns is a program from the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) that looks to bring potential solar customers together and have customers work with a vetted solar installer to provide a cheaper price for solar installation. Led by Green Springville, residents in the participating municipalities of Concord, Colden, Eden, Evans and Sardinia can work with the chosen solar installer to receive cheaper prices for solar. The signup period for discounted solar installation will run until Sept. 30.

“Probably the biggest benefit the fact that through this program you negotiate a best price, Green Springville President Reed Braman said. “[The solar installers] came to us with their best price so right there [residents] are getting close to a 20 percent saving as compared to if they went to the companies by themselves.”

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Friday, June 28, 2019

After receiving proposals from multiple solar companies, Solar by CIR was chosen as the installer for Solarize Southtowns. At the Solarize Southtowns launch party at UNOVA Coworking in Springville, residents were able to talk with Solar by CIR representatives, ask questions and learn about the cost, savings and installation process.



People in attendance at the launch event were able to see a presentation about Solarize Southtowns.

“Once we had a kickoff meeting with [Solar by CIR], we were really excited, they are energetic ... and looking to help people especially in our market. So giving them access to this market, they are very energized and looking to spread the word,” Braman said. “There was a constant flow of people [at the launch event] and a lot of people were speaking with [Solar by CIR] ... so we got a lot of positive feedback. I think there are a lot of people who are interested and we are just trying to work hard to get the message out.”

Along with helping the environment, installing solar panels this year under Solarize Southtowns can save people money on their energy bills. Starting on Jan. 1, 2020, changes will be made to the net metering program, which offers credits to customers who make excess electricity and send it back to the grid, and to the availability of tax credits. Braman said with these benefits going away next year, installing solar panels now can provide additional advantages to residents.

“This is the last year you will be guaranteed 20 years on net metering and starting next year it is going to shift to a new model. There is no real guarantee on how much they will reimburse you for your unused energy,” Braman said. “We are still in an environment where you get the full 30 percent tax credit if you get it installed this year top that with the 25 percent from New York state tax credit and **NYSERDA** has an additional incentive that once you put all those together, it knocked the price down to a manageable investment.”

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Friday, June 28, 2019

For those who cannot participate in the Solarize Southtowns program, the Solar for All program is also available for residents. Solar for All allows eligible households to subscribe to community solar at no cost. If homeowners meet certain requirements, participants can receive monthly credits on their electricity bills.

“It’s a great way to get involved and take advantage of the solar programs that New York state offers,” Braman said.

Additional Solarize workshops will be held in the participating municipalities including Colden on July 10, Evans on July 18, Concord on July 23, Eden on Aug. 7 and Sardinia on Aug. 21. Green Springville will also be in attendance at local events including the Eden Corn Festival, Colden Arts Festival, local farmer’s markets and local concert series to provide information about Solarize Southtowns.

For more information or to learn how to participate in Solarize Southtowns and Solar for All, visit solarizebuffaloniagara.org, email greenspringvilleinfo@gmail.com or visit the Green Springville, Inc. Facebook page.