

FACT SHEET:

The Energy and Economic Development Task Force and the West Dryden Road Pipeline

What is the Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force?

The Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force (EEDTF), a broad-based group of business leaders, government officials, and environmental advocates, was brought together in late 2015 by Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD) at the request of Tompkins County Legislature Chair Michael Lane. The EEDTF was charged with recommending short-term actions that could be initiated over the next five years that would advance both the County's Greenhouse Gas emissions goals and economic development in Tompkins County. The Task Force developed eight key recommendations and related tactics as the result of its 12 months of service.

Task Force Members:

Charlie Trautmann (Chair), *Sciencenter*
Peter Bardaglio, *Black Oak Wind Farm*
Bert Bland, *Cornell University*
Michael Cannon, *Tompkins Trust Company*
Graham Gillespie, *HOLT Architects*
Jerry Goodenough, *Upstate NY Power Producers*
Melissa Kemp, *Renovus Energy*
Michael Lane, *Tompkins County Legislature*
Glenn Morey, *Legislator, Tompkins County*
Martha Robertson, *Legislator, Tompkins County*
Ken Schlather, *Tompkins County Cooperative Extension*
Herman Sieverding, *Integrated Acquisitions & Development*
Jennifer Tavares, *Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce*
Mike Thorne, *City of Ithaca*
Irene Weiser, *Board, Town of Caroline*
Steve Welliver, *Welliver Construction Company*

For further information on the EEDTF and its recommendations, see the Task Force Final Report, posted at the TCAD website: www.TCAD.org.

What is the Task Force's recommendation regarding the West Dryden Road Pipeline?

Work with the Public Service Commission and NYSEG to reduce dependence on natural gas, while supporting the ongoing Energy Smart Community collaboration with NYSEG to support increased dependence on distributed energy resources

- a. Meet with Public Service Commission officers, Department of Public Service and NYSEG staff as soon as possible to assess alternatives to the West Dryden Road pipeline. If early discussions identify realistic alternatives that are a) economically viable, b) can be implemented with existing technology, and c) meet the energy needs of the high tech industries located along Warren Road in the Northeast sector of the County which have been seriously impacted by NYSEG's rejection of applications for additional natural gas service connections, then ask the PSC to mandate and incentivize NYSEG to pursue these alternatives rather than build the pipeline.

- b. Ask the Public Service Commission and other agencies for permission and support in establishing a model process in Tompkins County, in cooperation with NYSEG both peak and sustained gas usage through weatherization, industrial process design, conservation, conversion to electric heat pump, and other measures on an ongoing, sustainable basis.
- c. Work with PSC, NYSEG and other entities to encourage and develop better financing tools to spur the conversion of fossil-fueled heating systems to electric heat pumps or other systems that can be fueled through renewable sources.

What is the West Dryden Road Pipeline?

NYSEG has proposed a \$17.8 million, 10-inch diameter steel pipeline that would start in the Village of Freeville and extend for seven miles along West Dryden Road to Warren Road in the Town of Lansing. It is commonly called the West Dryden Road pipeline; NYSEG calls it the Lansing/Freeville Reinforcement Gas Pipeline Project.

Why was the pipeline proposed?

NYSEG is obligated to provide safe and reliable service to its existing natural gas customers. With growth in the county over the years, the increased demand for gas have created a low-pressure situation, especially out at the end of the gas supply system in Lansing. Of most concern are peak demand days – approximately 14-30 very cold days in winter – when everyone cranks up the heat and the pressure in the gas system is at risk of dropping to very low levels. Further, NYSEG anticipates future growth in northern Lansing over the next 20 years for which added gas would be needed.