

**TOWN OF ITHACA  
LOCAL DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE PLAN  
ADOPTED BY THE ITHACA TOWN BOARD ON 10/07/2025**

## **Introduction**

The Town of Ithaca approved a Local Law in 2022 establishing a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, which allowed for collective purchasing of electricity and natural gas supplies and sought to achieve town-wide decarbonization through Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), which are locally sited renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. The law also provided for the participation of other Tompkins County municipalities in these programs through a program known as Tompkins Green Energy Network ("T-GEN"). The local law was codified as Chapter 135 in the Ithaca Town Code. On September 11, 2023, the Ithaca Town Board approved its "Local Distributed Energy Resource Plan for Community Choice Aggregation" (the "2023 Plan").

In June of 2025, the Town deleted and replaced Town Code Chapter 135 to comply with New York State Public Service Commission rules. The new Chapter 135 is titled "Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) Program and Distributed Energy Resources Program."

Because the 2023 Plan tracked the 2022 law that is no longer in effect, the Town Board will rescind the 2023 Plan and adopt this Local Distributed Energy Resource Plan ("Local DER Plan") as the next "step" in the process for the formation of the Town's CCA and DER Programs. Chapter 135 sections that are reproduced in this document are italicized. Definitions of terms appear at the end of this document.

The Local DER Plan reflects recognition of the limitations of town-wide decarbonization through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that are referred to as "green" or "renewable" centralized grid power and "net metering." Instead, the Plan follows a localization and self-consumption of energy strategy for DER design that seeks to provide (1) savings to DER Users, and (2) a return on investment to DER owners, which result from the avoided cost of natural gas, electric grid power and vehicle fuel purchasing, relative to the cost of DER installation, operation, and administration.

The Local DER Plan recognizes that the Town's climate goals depend upon the effective engagement of energy consumers that live and work here. The Plan recognizes obstacles to engagement and seeks collaboration between the Town and the City of Ithaca to simplify and standardize participation to maximize the number of residents and businesses that are eligible and have the opportunity to participate. To be inclusive, the Plan employs both individual investment and cooperative investment. The Plan's references to "Cooperatives," "Shares" and "investments" are descriptive; details about the precise legal forms are being explored.

The Local DER Plan will be augmented by Article I (Community Choice Aggregation) of Town Code Chapter 135. Article 1 provides for a form of cooperation through aggregation of energy demand and the collective purchasing of electricity and gas Supply through the passive mechanism of opt-out enrollment. This has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity use. The Local DER Plan will result in a program that offers any Eligible Investor in the Town of Ithaca an entirely voluntary option to become a Share owner and/or User of DERs.

This is a deliberate facilitation to physically reduce the amount of grid power and natural gas supplied to CCA customers or others who become DER Investors. Use of DER-connected electric vehicles (EVs) will also physically reduce DER Investors' gasoline and diesel use.

By uniting these services under the Local DER Plan, the Town enables an organized and deliberate transition from conventional supplies to DERs for all "addressable" sources of carbon in the Town of Ithaca: power, heat, transportation, and waste (Addressable Carbon).

The Town's next steps following the adoption of the new Town Code Chapter 135 will be (1) adoption of this Local DER Plan, (3) selection of a CCA Administrator and a DER Administrator, (4) participation in communication and outreach for CCA and DER programs, (5) selection of electricity and gas Supply following Request(s) for Proposals submitted by the CCA Administrator, and (6) oversight of ongoing DER program activities. This Local DER Plan focuses on the DER program.

### **Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) as Authorized by the Local Law**

In 2025, the Town of Ithaca and City of Ithaca adopted similar Local Laws to create CCA and DER programs, define their purposes, articulate their structures, and authorize activities of the City, Town, CCA Administrator, and DER Administrator to implement the program. Article 2 of Town Code Chapter 135 states:

***§ 135-11. Legislative findings; intent and purpose; statutory authority.***

*A. The purpose of the Town of Ithaca's DER program is to administer the energy service in a manner that expands access to solar and other local renewables and energy efficiency technologies by offering optional enrollment of Eligible Investors in voluntary investments in DER, with access to financial mechanisms, including the financial mechanism developed under the City of Ithaca's Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and Thermal Load Electrification program, approved by that City's Common Council.*

*B. This chapter establishes a Distributed Energy Resources program (DER program) that gives Town of Ithaca electricity and gas users the option to choose from a mix of onsite and neighborhood-sited renewable heating, power and transportation technologies to meet a significant portion of their energy needs, and will investigate opportunities to divert municipal sewage and solid waste exports as potential feedstock sources of hydrogen for use by the DERs.*

*C. The Town of Ithaca is authorized to implement its DER program pursuant to § 10(1)(ii)(a)(11) and § 10(1)(ii)(a)(12) of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law.*

***§ 135-13.A.*** *The Town of Ithaca hereby establishes a DER program that is governed by the Town's Local Distributed Energy Resource Plan, which Plan the Town Board may adopt and amend from time to time by resolution.*

***§ 135-13.B.*** *The Town of Ithaca may select a third party as DER Administrator.*

This Local DER Plan is a voluntary act of the Town of Ithaca to further define, support, and promote the DER program and to encourage and facilitate DER ownership opportunities within the Town. This Local DER Plan specifies how the Town will provide support and oversight for the DER program to launch, and how continuing DER development will be maintained for the

duration of the DER program.

To accomplish these goals, the Local DER Plan provides for the use of a DER Administrator to manage the DER activities on behalf of the Town. The Local DER Plan creates a process for municipal support and oversight of DER activities by the DER Administrator. This Plan also defines the method of compensation for a DER Administrator for DER implementation, the specific figures for which will be determined by negotiation with the DER Administrator that is selected to run the program.

The Local DER Plan specifies how it will be implemented by the DER Administrator. Among other things, the DER Administrator will implement a town-wide DER voluntary investment program.

This program will employ standard agreement templates that the DER Administrator will draft for co-investment by different kinds of customers for different kinds of DERs. The DER Administrator will submit proposed templates to a designated Town representative for a sign-off before they are made executable by Eligible Investors. Proposed templates will be adapted to customer and DER types to provide a voluntary investment opportunity for all Eligible Investors.

The core decarbonization mission as stated in Chapter 135, and implementable through the Local DER Plan, is to decarbonize buildings through the development of onsite and nearby DERs designed primarily for Self-Consumption through Interoperability of onsite and nearby power, heat, transportation and waste systems, including appliance automation, demand dispatch, nanogrids, microgrids, thermal loops and minidistricts, on and where desired and feasible within properties, and between adjoining properties throughout the Town. It is the purpose of this program to design and install DERs in a manner that significantly reduces DER Users' demand of greenhouse gas-producing heating and transportation fuels, by providing all or part of DER Users' energy needs with onsite DERs. It is also the intention of this Plan to install EV chargers at or near DER sites on sidewalks, public properties, and municipal rights of way, as well as on municipal properties and municipal meters, where desired and feasible. Where necessary, the Town will obtain easements for EV charger installations. This program establishes a planning process between the DER Administrator and Town of Ithaca to accomplish this mission.

This program is town-wide, extending eligibility for DER Share ownership to all Eligible Investors, and encompassing power, heat, transportation, and waste. A robust and cooperative relationship between the DER Administrator and the Town is a critical component to provide residents and businesses with adequate support to participate in a successful community-wide energy transition. Engagement must be actively supported and coordinated in a sustained manner to provide public awareness of and trust in the DER program and effectively engage residents and businesses over time.

The DER Administrator will provide similar assistance to other municipalities that join the Town and City of Ithaca, or with a group formed by Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) if one is created. Details on a potential IMA follow in subsequent sections.

*§135-13.D. The Town of Ithaca's intermunicipal agreement with the City of Ithaca and other municipalities in Tompkins County, and potentially municipalities in adjoining counties may also support Eligible Investors' access to DERs, including potentially the City's Energy Efficiency*

*Retrofitting and Thermal Load Electrification Program resources, and shall include a process for other municipalities in Tompkins County to offer their Eligible Investors such resources to join the DER program.*

## **Description of Town of Ithaca Local DER Plan**

### **I. Approach**

The Local DER Plan will offer Eligible Investors the ability to share Distributed Energy Resources in order to localize investment and economic benefits for energy Users and DER Investors in their neighborhood and Town. In coordination with the Town's CCA electricity and gas Supply program under PSC oversight, the DER Administrator will administer a local DER program under municipal oversight.

The program offers a broad range of technologies configured for maximum physical decarbonization across all four sectors of “Addressable Carbon,” including electricity, heating/cooling/hot water, transportation, and waste. This will provide Town residents and businesses with more choices and more flexible ways to participate, in order to achieve the high level of participation required to reach community-wide climate goals.

The program is focused on community and online engagement and robust use of municipal communication platforms to provide ongoing education and outreach, in order to both inform and simplify participation for all community members.

The DER program is focused on facilitating physical sharing by neighbors and collocation of DERs, where desired and feasible, and co-investment, to achieve economies of scale that may increase the affordability of DER technologies for more people, which can also increase participation levels in the community.

The program is focused on DER systems designed for onsite Self-Consumption in order to make a community-wide DER build out possible by 1) avoiding the imposition of costs on distribution utility system customers, and 2) minimizing grid upgrade delays by utilities to achieve the Town's more accelerated climate goal timeline. The avoidance of unnecessary costs and delays is appropriate for the Town-wide approach to building decarbonization that the Town has adopted to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

Finally, the program’s inclusiveness and flexibility will enable a multi-site acquisition approach to DER development in order to achieve a desired scale of climate impact in a timely way.

### **II. Decarbonize All Addressable Carbon through DER**

Paths to decarbonizing electricity are blocked by the legacy energy system. The grid has reached its limits as a business model and is itself a cause of carbon emissions as a result of losses during energy transmission and the need for Spinning Reserves, not to mention the direct carbon emissions associated with building high voltage transmission lines and clearcutting transmission corridors. Much of a building’s energy requirements can be generated on-block, making strictly centralized business models of renewables, like net metering, increasingly economically obsolete. Renewable Energy Certificate trading regimes dilute carbon benefits, cause new environmental justice issues, confuse consumers and undermine public trust in renewables as a climate pathway. Energy from renewable technologies is already competitive with market power, and much more stable in price. Sharing technologies like electric vehicles sharing and renewable nanogrids, microgrids, thermal loops, micro-districts, and mini-districts

are widely demonstrated niche markets. An effective program for engaging and aggregating DER Investors to help them design and solicit proposals from DER Vendors can reduce engineering costs to make energy from DERs more competitive in price and potentially increase community participation levels. The DER Administrator is charged with facilitating this physical transition of building decarbonization as defined in chapter 135.

*§135-13. DER program established.*

*E. The DER Administrator may evaluate local DER opportunities, facilitate DER procurement, and advise Eligible Investors regarding bids for DER projects.*  
*F. The DER Administrator may directly enroll Eligible Investors through an opt-in procedure into the following DER investment options:*

- (1) To Opt-Up to purchase Shares in a neighborhood DER project; and*
- (2) To Opt-With neighbors in a Cooperative to own and operate on-site DERs.*

The DER Administrator may also directly enroll Eligible Investors through an opt-in procedure to purchase an individually-owned DER project. The DER Administrator will engage DER Lenders and other prequalified financial partners designated by the Town to provide loans or other financing for DERs, and track ongoing performance of each DER Investor's investment including a list and analysis of DER costs, avoided energy costs, and net savings.

#### **A. DER Program Eligibility**

Any resident, business, institution, or government agency in the Town that is an Eligible Investor and is a ratepayer for electricity, heating, transportation or waste services, is eligible to participate in the DER program, provided that such participation shall depend upon the availability of DER projects, and the availability of Shares that some DER projects may employ to facilitate co-investment.

*§ 135-13.K. All Eligible Investors shall be eligible to participate in DER Shares and Cooperatives, provided that their ability to participate shall depend upon the availability of DER projects and financing.*

#### **B. Aggregating Local DER Demand**

Third party DER Vendors are typically siloed by technology, dependent on utility tariffs, and are often either not advanced enough in their technology applications (e.g., stand-alone solar PV), or are prohibitively expensive for many consumers (e.g., solar PV plus a wall battery). Disorganized customers generally lack information to choose or evaluate advanced local renewable energy systems. Disintegrated energy choices in current markets separate decision-making about electricity, heat, transportation, and waste into isolated acts. Disaggregated customers lack market power to achieve project economies of scale, and often cannot afford additional engineering costs associated with more advanced, Interoperable DERs.

The DER program approach to these decarbonization challenges is to engage the community as Eligible Investors and DER Users in replacing multiple fossil fuel uses with DERs onsite or in the neighborhood. Renewable electricity sharing systems require cooperation in a building. Power and heat sharing systems require aggregation and facilitation. Sharing in a neighborhood requires an agreement between DER Users and interested neighbors. Changes in waste management practices and public sector energy projects require ongoing coordination between a municipality, local and regional agencies, and service providers.

The DER Administrator will prioritize the support of local agencies and services in order to facilitate coordination of DER investment.

### **C. Serving “All Energy”**

The DER program will decarbonize town-wide through diversified local DER investment to decarbonize power, heating and vehicles through electrification bundled with onsite renewables and efficiency measures. On a parallel track, the program will seek to help local waste managers decarbonize waste management through waste separation and conversion practices. DER measures by carbon source include:

- Onsite renewable electric plug loads
  - Energy efficiency measures
  - Appliance integration
  - EV integration
  - Onsite renewable microgrid
  - Onsite renewable nanogrid
- Onsite solar electric powered, geothermal, and solar heat
  - Heat pumps
  - Thermal loops, micro-districts, and minidistricts
- Switch to onsite EVs
  - Onsite renewable energy chargers for self-consumption, or “Vehicle to Building” (V2B)
  - EV sharing and renting
- Engagement of T-GEN member municipalities to reduce solid waste and sewer waste dumping and incineration
  - Separation
  - Re-use (e.g., composting)
  - Conversion to hydrogen for DERs
  - Detoxification and/or sequestration of toxic residues

### **D. DER Design**

DERs will be designed to avoid distribution system obstacles to town-wide decarbonization (e.g., upgrade costs). Self-consumption, rather than net metering and export of electricity, will incorporate electrification to onsite renewable heat, and use of DER-connected electric vehicles. A DER will significantly reduce but is unlikely to eliminate grid use, although it may entirely eliminate a User’s natural gas consumption. The program will facilitate both individual DER investment and sharing by neighbors, as well as collocation of shared heat, power, and EV facilities, by designing DER technology to fit Users’ onsite and nearby energy needs. Facilitating neighbor sharing and the Interoperability of DER components will facilitate self-consumption. DER systems will be designed primarily under a non-exporting electricity specification, and where feasible, will incorporate an “islanding” capability for onsite resilience and/or grid autonomy.

DER sharing platforms will consist of combined stakeholder nanogrids, microgrids and/or thermal loops using multi-stakeholder cooperative agreements to enable joint co-investment, ownership and use of DERs. Sharing will employ a multi-benefit microgrid ledger in which ownership is split between Cooperative Members, with DER energy savings and dividends resulting from DER use divided contractually between them. Owners, partners, and stakeholders may include citizens, businesses, technology services providers, institutions, and government entities. DER systems, whether shared or individual, will range from installations in single- and two- family homes or small to medium sized businesses, to larger DERs on multi-residential buildings, mixed use buildings, large commercial and institutional buildings, and/or government facilities.

### **III. Individual Voluntary Investment**

Individual consumers may also voluntarily invest singularly in DER products that provide onsite renewables packaged with Interoperable electrified heating and/or transportation.

Renewable energy technologies adapted to DER site conditions and User group energy needs will be combined with electrification and efficiency measures to maximize savings from demand reduction and onsite DER Self-Consumption.

All DERs, including DER designed for individual voluntary investment participants, will be primarily designed for Self-Consumption.

The use of an electric vehicle and a switch in heating systems, as well as implementation of energy efficiency measures, will be bundled together in packages to deliver self-consumption to the DER User.

Depending on an individual investor type and size, a DER package may include a nanogrid, microgrid, thermal loop, microdistrict, or mini-district.

For purposes of this document, individual DER investment will also be facilitated for Eligible Investors wishing to finance and own a DER project, meaning they are the sole DER User and 100% Share owner, exercising site control at a location where DERs are installed.

### **IV. DER Cooperation and Sharing: Users, Sharers, Site Owners**

While the Town of Ithaca has less urban density than the City of Ithaca, cooperation between neighbors will be possible both between adjacent properties and between neighbors. Cooperation between fewer parties will involve simpler formation procedures and approvals.

DER Cooperatives will facilitate universal access to DERs by enabling greater stakeholder diversity, and enhancing community education, inclusion and sharing for the program. Cooperative Agreements will be entered into through mutual negotiation between Members, in compliance with the required legal instruments, and will be signed by authorized representatives of the parties. There are three different types of Members in a Cooperative, defined by using the DER, owning Shares in the DER, and owning the host location where DERs are installed:

- Share owners who are Users of the DERs
- Share owners who are not Users of the DERs
- Site Owner(s) who may be Sharers and/or Users of the DERs

The approach will be flexible and sensitive to site control options. Site Owners may own, use, and share DER at their discretion. A Share owner may or may not be a DER User, but only Share owners may be

DER Users. Sharers who, for example, do not own or hold a long-term lease for their dwelling/enterprise, or own or lease a building ill-suited to DERs, may purchase Shares without being Users, may be partial Users (such as sharing an electric vehicle or thermal loop) or may in the future become Users if conditions permit. The DER Administrator will work with Sharer/Users and Site Owner(s) to determine how many Share/Non-User applicants are allowable for individual DER projects. Sharers/Users and Site Owners may also organize their own Sharer group and work with the DER Administrator as such.

Sharer/Users will be off-takers of energy from a DER system and will enter mutually into an agreement to determine compensation terms between Sharers, User/Sharers and Site Owners.

EVs included as components of DERs may be used by DER Investors whether or not such DER Investors inhabit a building hosting the DERs.

Thermal loops and mini-districts included in components of DERs may be used by DER Investors whether or not such Investors inhabit a building hosting electricity-generating DERs.

Every Share, whether owned by a User, Sharer, or Site Owner, will have equal value and receive equal treatment. Apart from DER loan repayment, savings from avoided electricity consumption, natural gas consumption and vehicle fuel consumption will be divided between the Shares. The DER Administrator will prepare and submit standard Cooperative Agreement template(s) for review and sign-off by designated Town staff, for use by DER Cooperative groups to define the terms between Users, Sharers, and Site Owners of a DER project.

The process of creating Cooperative Agreements will be as follows:

- Cooperative Agreement standard template sign-off by a representative of the municipality
- Cooperative Agreement signed by Sharer/Users and Site Owners
- Sharers who are not Users then enrolled
- DER Loan or other financing application to a prequalified lender or designated Town finance partner is processed

Under the Shares approach, prospective Sharer/Users will form a Cooperative, with agreement of the Site Owner(s), which will mutually establish the terms of DERs usage. Sharers must agree to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, join as Members of the Co-op as Sharers, and purchase Shares that are defined within the terms and limitations of the Co-op's adopted Cooperative Agreement. Loans or financing will be executed either individually or as a group, as desired and feasible.

The DER Administrator manages procurement on behalf of residents, businesses and institutions that sign up to voluntarily invest in local and onsite DERs.

A Cooperative group will contract with prequalified DER Vendor(s) and DER Lender(s) solicited by the DER Administrator, who will employ an RFI/RFP or RFQ and "Job Order" procurement approach.

## **V. Roles of the DER Administrator**

The DER Administrator will manage DER supplier procurement as described in Article 2 of Town Code Chapter 135, and will prioritize inclusivity in the energy transition.

The DER Administrator will be responsible for regulatory compliance with state agencies for DER activities, DER procurement, solicitations, management, analysis, DER Vendor and Lender prequalification, Cooperative Agreements, contracts, and DER Investor support.

The DER Administrator will be responsible for managing DER site acquisition and will provide a supporting role in DER site planning and permitting activities for multi-site acquisition of Site Owners and building occupants (DER off-takers).

The DER Administrator will be responsible for representing the program to the Town's staff and Town Board, managing communication processes and participating in any public hearings, and providing support to Town staff for coordinating municipal agency cooperation and partnership activities, including Tompkins County agency, state agency and university cooperation and partnerships, and applications for state, federal and non-profit funding.

The DER Administrator will manage data, data collection, analysis and reporting with the Town, Eligible Investors, DER Investors, Suppliers, DER Vendors, DER Lenders and Town-designated finance partners, including the following:

- Data analysis including Geographic Information System (GIS) content, Profits and Losses Modeling, customer-specific confidential data collection, management, and use for DER facility siting, design, tracking and reporting to customers
- Data sharing with DER Vendors and Lenders for billing, updating DER Investor web portals and reporting purposes
  - DER project performance reporting to DER Investors
  - Summary of DER projects and program performance to the municipality, analyzing performance and recommending program improvements, needed changes and new procedures to improve program performance for municipal sign-off or Town Board action
  - Contractor performance evaluation, database of warranties and agreements
- Direct communication to diverse Eligible Investor and DER Investor groups

The DER Administrator will utilize, among others and as needed, the following steps for DER development:

- Data, survey, site analysis
- User enrollment
- Site acquisition
- Planning
- Cooperative Agreement or individual customer commitment to consider DER Vendor proposal(s)
- RFP/solicitation bid acceptance
- Permits
- Shares enrollment by neighbors
- Finance/loan
- Finalize contract with DER Vendor(s)
- Track DER installation
- DER data tracking/reporting

#### **A. DER Administrator Enrollment of Participants in DER Voluntary Investment**

The DER Administrator will manage enrollment of Eligible Investors as DER Investors and administer dedicated billing and reporting for Sharers, Users and Site Owners of a DER.

All Consumers of electricity and/or natural gas within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Ithaca shall be eligible for DER Voluntary Investment as described in Chapter 135:

**§135-12 Definitions.**

*ELIGIBLE INVESTORS (INVESTORS) — Consumers of electricity and/or natural gas who receive Default Service from the Distribution Utility, at one or more locations within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Ithaca.*

**§135-13. DER program established.**

*C. The DER Administrator may establish a system of Energy Loan Accounts to engage Eligible Investors, prequalify lenders, and track the performance of DER investments by Eligible Investors who elect to voluntarily invest in DERs.*

*E. The DER Administrator may evaluate local DER opportunities, facilitate DER procurement, and advise Eligible Investors regarding bids for DER projects.*

*K. All Eligible Investors electing to participate in a DER Investment shall be enrolled on an affirmative voluntary, opt-in basis, whether through a decision to Opt-Up to own DERs as an individual or to Opt-With to own DERs through Membership in a Cooperative.*

The DER Administrator may provide a DER Sharer and User ledger for use by the Members of each Cooperative, and may collect and report pertinent data to such Members for use by the ledger according to the terms of its Cooperative Agreement. The provision of energy usage data, DER data, and lender data to Users, Sharers and Site Owners may be administered by the DER Administrator.

*§135-13.G. The DER Administrator may create a system of Cooperative ownership to facilitate transactions and settlements by Share owners of a DER project to compensate each other for ownership and use of such DER Equity, and may facilitate funding, including through the City of Ithaca's Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and Thermal Load Electrification Program or other sources.*

The DER Administrator will separately prequalify and engage DER Lenders to provide loans to Eligible Investors. The DER Administrator will also prequalify Town-designated finance partners to offer DER financing products to Eligible Investors and/or Cooperatives, such as the City of Ithaca's Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and Thermal Load Electrification Program or other sources.

The DER Administrator may choose to engage with one or more Program Organizers to educate and engage both Customers in the Town of Ithaca and the municipal governments in and around Tompkins County to join or participate in the DER program.

*§135-13.H. The DER Administrator may designate one or more Program Organizers to assist in the education and engagement of Eligible Consumers, Eligible Investors and municipalities in Tompkins County to participate in the DER program.*

The DER Administrator will provide a dedicated bookkeeping platform for DER Investors.

The DER Administrator will organize DER Investor Cooperatives through “Opt-With” enrollment. Opt-With customers will voluntarily invest in a local DER project through a Cooperative. For Customers unable to be Users but wishing to invest in Shares, the DER Administrator will enroll Sharers as an “Opt-Up” enrollment, based on the availability of Shares in local DER projects. Opt-Up and Opt-With customers will enter into a Cooperative agreement to allocate payments and dividends amongst Members,

and to secure an Energy Loan or other financing, as desired and feasible, in order to voluntarily invest in a local DER project

The DER Administrator will assist participants relative to Cooperative, Vendor and Lender engagement processes.

## **B. DER Data Management**

The DER Administrator will coordinate data collection with Suppliers, the Town and NYSEG. The DER Administrator will make all collected data available to the Town at its request.

### ***§ 135-15. DER data protection requirements.***

*A. Town of Ithaca departments and other CCA program member municipalities involved in supporting the CCA program and DER Shares service and DER Cooperative service will share energy data and other data with their respective CCA and DER Administrators to tailor DER products to Eligible Consumers and Eligible Investors, and to facilitate Investor engagement, program administration, operations, billing and collection, provided that any use of an Eligible Consumer's Customer-Specific Data will be conditioned upon receipt of affirmative permission from each customer who elects to receive DER investment offers and/or become a DER Investor.*

*B. Customer-Specific Data shall be protected in a manner compliant with, collectively:*

- (1) All national, state and local laws, regulations or other government standards relating to the protection of information that identifies or can be used to identify an individual with respect to the CCA Administrator's, DER Administrator's and Town of Ithaca's processing of confidential utility information;*
- (2) The utility's internal requirements and procedures relating to the protection of information that identifies or can be used to identify an individual with respect to the Town of Ithaca or its representative's processing of confidential utility information; and*
- (3) The PSC CCA Orders and PSC rules, regulations and guidelines relating to confidential data.*

## **C. DER Administrator Customer Service**

The DER Administrator will establish and manage a customer call center and a customer-specific online account system. Customer service will include direct mail and be referenced in Town of Ithaca DER Outreach and Education activities.

*§ 135-14. DER Investors shall be provided Investor account support by the DER Administrator, including a toll-free telephone number available during normal business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday) to resolve concerns, answer questions, and transact business with respect to the service received from the DER provider, as well as a secure Investor-specific online account, scheduled direct mail, and messages inserted into Town of Ithaca scheduled direct mail and public notices.*

The DER Administrator's DER Outreach and Education activities - via municipal communications, web communications and direct mail - will include the following:

- Prospective Cooperatives engaged by group based on building occupancy and Site Owner authorization

- Shares participants engaged individually based on sign-up and enrollment authorization
- Monthly educational messages about program using municipal channels
- Cooperative group facilitation and data sharing between participants
- Performing requested data analysis for any customer
- Enterprise web site management with customer specific accounts
- Free media, direct mail, monthly live public webinars
- Recorded webinar series

#### **D. DER Administrator Engagement Activities**

The DER Administrator's Voluntary Investor engagement activities will include the following:

- Assist in public community meetings
- Create and manage DER RFPs/solicitations with DER Vendors
- Engage Town Board/Common Council/ Intermunicipal Agreement participants and an advisory group(s) in developing community DERs on municipal properties, equipment, and fleets
- Solicit Site Owners
- Solicit DER Users
- Solicit DER Shares
- Engage social service agencies and community organizations, as appropriate, to solicit Assistance Program Participant (APP) and Low to Moderate Income (LMI) shares investors to participate
- Engage neighbors to sign Cooperative Agreements including occupants and owners, residential, commercial and institutions
- Engage individuals to participate in local DER voluntary investment
- Engage (non-APP) Low- to Moderate Income residents
- Engage large commercial customers in DER voluntary investment
- Provide the municipality, on a monthly basis, all materials and messaging for its municipal public distribution, web site, notices, and communications platforms

The DER Administrator's primary customer engagement method will be as follows:

- DER Investors who are Users - web, mail, email
- DER Investors who are Sharers - web, phone, email
- DER Site Owners - phone, mail, email

The DER Administrator will maintain a website and online customer relationship management, and/or customer engagement system to augment customer service.

The DER Administrator's Eligible Investor and DER Investor engagement, including Outreach and Education, Site Owner consent and contracts, will be as follows:

- Site acquisition, lease writing, support for planning, permitting
- Co-op education, outreach, engagement, and implementation
- Cooperative Agreement writing including Shares, Users and Site Owners
- Shares customer education, outreach, engagement, and enrollment
- Shares term sheet based on Cooperative Agreement

The DER Administrator's Sharer engagement, including waitlisting, enrollment, and Sharer Agreement, will be as follows:

- CCA-related Opt-out notification information and links to DER web page and Customer Service number
- Customer-specific web account
- Explanation of Cooperative, Sharing and individual investment terms
- Web and phone support for contract signing

The DER Administrator's Individual DER Voluntary Investment engagement will provide DER procurement for Eligible Investors who wish to own and use DERs individually.

The DER Administrator will facilitate communication in collaboration with the Town to engage with Eligible Investors. Approved communications will reflect recognition of the program as community-driven and as facilitating community-wide decarbonization, in which residents, businesses and institutions are eligible to own and and/or use neighborhood-sited DERs. A municipally-designated representative of the Town may review and sign-off on these messages ahead of release.

#### **E. DER Administrator Engagement of DER Vendors and Lenders**

The DER Administrator's engagement of DER Vendors, Lenders, and Site Owners may include the following activities:

- Define Vendor program
- Prequalify DER Vendors
- Issue RFPs
- Negotiate contracts
- Confirm Data Sharing Agreement
- Define Lender program
- Solicit bank participation
- Prequalify DER Lenders
- Secure DER leases
- Solicit additional (off-site non-user) owner participation in DER voluntary investment
- Negotiate building owner provisions in Cooperative Agreement

#### **F. DER Administrator DER Reporting**

The DER Administrator will separately provide annual Local DER reports to an individual customer and the Town.

*§ 135-17. An annual report shall be prepared by the DER Administrator, which report shall be filed with the Town Board of the Town of Ithaca by March 31 of each year and cover the previous calendar year. DER annual reports shall include, at a minimum, number of Eligible Investors served, number of complaints received, carbon reductions resulting, and administrative costs collected. Information shall be broken down by municipality, where applicable."*

#### **G. DER Administrator Compensation**

The funding source of the DER Administrator's compensation for work performed on behalf of the DER Voluntary Investment program is described in the Local Law as follows:

*§ 135-16. The DER Administrator may collect, or cause to be collected, funds from DER Investor payments, DER developers or DER lenders, to pay for administrative costs associated with running the DER program.*

The contract with a DER Administrator will involve a five-year term with an option by the Town to renew. The DER Administrator will charge a DER procurement fee that is a fixed percentage of project value, to be negotiated between the Town and DER Administrator in a DER Administrator Agreement, which will be paid to the DER Administrator irrespective of which DER Vendor, DER Lender or Town-designated finance partner is selected. Compensation shall be paid either upon commissioning of DER as an upfront payment by the DER Vendor, Lender or other Town-designated financial partner, or otherwise on an ongoing basis as a percentage of monthly loan repayment for the full maturity, as is required by the Town and accepted by the DER Administrator. Customers who self-finance DERs and do not require an energy loan likely will pay the DER procurement fee as part of the installed system cost up-front or in installments.

## **VI. Roles of the Municipality**

### **A. Engagement with DER Administrator and T-GEN Municipalities**

The DER Administrator will report to an advisory group designated by the Town, as well as individually to a designated Town representative. The DER Administrator will continue to have regularly scheduled Zoom meetings every two weeks with the advisory group and once a week with the designated Town representative. A CCA Advisory Group was established by the City of Ithaca's Local CCA Law to develop and review CCA related proposals, to act as the City of Ithaca's agent in approving proposals, and where appropriate to forward information regarding such approvals to the Common Council for ratification. If the City expands the scope of topics covered by the advisory group to also cover DER programs, the Town of Ithaca will authorize participation in this advisory group, and the Town Board will consider the advisory group's information and any requests for ratification. Advisory group membership should include Town Staff and Ithaca Town Board members. The advisory group will host the meetings on the City's and/or Town's Zoom account or in person, as its members deem appropriate.

An Intermunicipal Agreement for the City and Town of Ithaca will be signed to coordinate and cooperate around their DER programs. The Intermunicipal Agreement will be developed following the approval of this Local DER Implementation Plan and selection of a DER Administrator.

The DER Administrator will engage interested municipalities within or near Tompkins County to join the City and Town of Ithaca by seeking to join T-GEN.

### **B. Governance, Outreach, Education**

#### **1. Two-Year Governance Schedule**

A Two-Year Governance Schedule includes continuing biweekly meetings of the CCA (and DER) Advisory Group, Committee meetings or Town Board Meetings by request of the Advisory Group or designated entity, and if created, monthly meetings of an intermunicipal group.

#### **2. Public Outreach and Education Schedule (coordinated with City of Ithaca Schedule)**

“The Tompkins Green Energy Network” or “T-GEN” is the name of the program, including the City of Ithaca CCA Advisory Group. The Public Meetings and Tabling Schedule for the Town of Ithaca from \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 to \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, is as follows:

<b>MTG O&amp;E DETAILED TIMELINE</b>	
<b>#</b>	<b>O&amp;E ITEM</b>
	<b>PHASE I O&amp;E (INITIAL - MIN. 60 DAYS, up to 90) Months One and Two</b>
	<i>*All Meetings &amp; Sessions live broadcasted &amp; recorded by municipality &amp; posted on LP &amp; Municipal Websites</i>
	<i>*All 10 Day Notices on LP website, Municipal CCA and DER web pages, Municipal printed/posted notices, ROBOCALL</i>
<b>1:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice of In-Person Hybrid Public Meeting 1</b>
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal tax or water bill insert
	Electronic Supplemental - TV or radio interviews (suggestions?)
	Physical Supplemental - Poster/Municipal Flyer
	Physical Supplemental - Newspaper print ad
	<b>Public Meeting 1 City (in person)</b>
	<b>Public Meeting 1 Town (in person)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>2:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Zoom Information Session 1</b>
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal email
	Physical Supplemental - Newspaper print ad
	<b>Information Session 1 City (Zoom)</b>
	<b>Information Session 1 Town (Zoom)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>3:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Zoom Information Session 2</b>
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal social media
	Physical Supplemental - Poster/Municipal flyers
	<b>Information Session 2 City (Zoom)</b>
	<b>Information Session 2 Town (Zoom)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>4:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice in-Person Hybrid Public Meeting 2</b>

	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal digital newsletter
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal postcards?
	<b>Public Meeting 2 City (in person)</b>
	<b>Public Meeting 2 Town (in person)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
	<b>Month Three</b>
	<b>PHASE II O&amp;E (POST AWARD - MIN. 30 DAYS) Month Four</b>
<b>5:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice of In-Person Hybrid Public Meeting 3</b>
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal tax or water bill insert
	Electronic Supplemental - TV or radio interviews (suggestions?)
	Physical Supplemental - Poster/Municipal flyers
	Physical Supplemental - Newspaper print advertisement
	<b>Public Meeting 3 City (in person)</b>
	<b>Public Meeting 3 Town (in person)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>6:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Zoom Information Session 3</b>
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal email
	Physical Supplemental - Posters/Municipal Flyers
	<b>Information Session 3 City (Zoom)</b>
	<b>Information Session 3 Town (Zoom)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>7:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Zoom Information Session 4</b>
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal social media
	Physical Supplemental - Newspaper print advertisement
	<b>Information Session 4 City (Zoom)</b>
	<b>Information Session 4 Town (Zoom)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>8:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice in-Person Hybrid Public Meeting 4</b>

	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal digital newsletter
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal postcards?
	<b>Public Meeting 4 City (in person)</b>
	<b>Public Meeting 4 Town (in person)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
	<b>Month Five</b>
	<b>PHASE III O&amp;E (OPT-OUT - MIN. 30 DAYS) Month Six</b>
<b>9:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Public Meeting 5 (add notice in Opt-Out Notification Letter)</b>
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal tax or water bill insert
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal digital newsletter
	Physical Supplemental - Newspaper print advertisement
	Electronic Supplemental - TV or radio interviews (suggestions?)
	Physical Supplemental - Municipal postcards
	<b>Public Meeting 5 City (in person)</b>
	<b>Public Meeting 5 Town (in person)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town
<b>10:</b>	<b>10 Day Notice Information Session 5 (Zoom)</b>
	Physical Supplemental - Tabling with flyers
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal social media
	Electronic Supplemental - Municipal email
	<b>Information Session 5 City (Zoom)</b>
	<b>Information Session 5 Town (Zoom)</b>
	DER City
	DER Town

*\*This schedule is a working draft, dates and meetings are subject to change.*

Town representatives will participate in DER Outreach and Education meetings as follows:

- City and Town meetings may be on the same day at separate times and locations
- Some are physical meetings with webinars, some just webinars
- All meetings are open to the public, with a focus on different kinds of local energy users and local market participants

- A Town representative will sit on a panel at each meeting in its jurisdiction
- The DER Administrator will facilitate the meetings, in person or remote
- After launch, a shift to web-, direct mail-, email- and phone-based engagement

### 3. Why Municipal Governance of Local DER Plan is Important

While the Town is not required to submit a DER implementation plan to the PSC, successful implementation will require municipal involvement, particularly the use of municipal communications channels to conduct outreach, education and marketing of the DER Administrator's DER program to local residents and businesses. The DER Administrator will engage the Town, Cooperatives, and individuals/businesses/institutions in an ongoing energy transition planning process to navigate the several elements of a town-wide energy transition, year to year, until the Town's climate goals are met.

A successful energy transition will involve many ongoing activities and be iterative in nature, with evolution and learning based on experience to be more climate impactful and increase participation levels. DERs use public space, like EV charging sites. Town departments may choose to own and share DERs based upon ongoing collaboration with the DER Administrator. Coordination of these activities will involve important local procurement, permitting, planning coordination and cooperation.

### 4. Municipal Roles in Local DER Program

Roles by the municipality in the Local DER program include the following.

- Town Board/Common Council: ongoing oversight, staff reports, agenda items, action items
- Advisory Group: focused on Town development of DERs across T-GEN member jurisdictions and will approve DER Cooperative and Shares agreement templates
- Scheduled meeting management
- Sign-off DER Administrator's proposed DER Voluntary Investment agreement templates
  - DER Cooperative Agreement
  - Other agreements with Users, Sharers and Building Site Owners that are requested by the DER Administrator on an ongoing as-needed basis, as different kinds of customers and projects present new approaches that require the signature of a designated Town representative
- Process for DER Administrator to share data and explore development of DER proposals to municipality on Municipal Buildings and Fleets
- Reports to Town Board/Common Council
- Intermunicipal Agreement (if formed) will add a layer of meetings

### 5. The DER Governance Process

The DER voluntary investment process will be solely focused on DER development as defined, across "addressable carbon" sectors: power, heat, vehicles, waste. Periodic public hearings will be held. The DER Administrator will attend meetings, in person or by internet, of the Advisory Group / Intermunicipal Agreement group to focus on increasing DER adoption, cooperation and oversight. Ongoing web public meetings with evolving educational content will be provided by the DER Administrator based on local experiences and project development, to maintain current and engagement-oriented content. The DER Administrator will be provided with a Town representative to request sign-offs as required by this Local Plan. The Advisory Board may vote to recommend actions to member municipalities. Municipally-initiated changes or DER Administrator-requested changes by a representative of the municipality will be

overseen by the Advisory Group, Intermunicipal Agreement (if and when created), or where deemed appropriate, Town Board.

### **C. Municipal Staff Roles**

The Town of Ithaca Sustainability Planner (or successor position) will facilitate communication and coordination processes for internal communications and decision making. When questions or potential changes arise within municipal departments, the DER Administrator and lead staff will communicate to resolve questions in a timely manner.

### **D. Municipal Properties**

*§135-13 DER program established.*

*I. The Town of Ithaca may designate all Town-owned properties and rights-of-way available, where allowed by law, for accommodation and connection of DERs, including microgrids, electric vehicle chargers, and geothermal microdistricts, and authorizes the Department of Public Works to develop protocols for DER access.*

*J. The Town of Ithaca may make up to 49% of Equity in any municipally sited DERs available for voluntary Share investments by Eligible Investors.*

### **E. Municipal Communication Roles**

The Town of Ithaca will provide communications support to the DER Administrator for DER program outreach, education, and promotion to the public.

- Municipal Insert Process
  - DER Administrator will provide a municipal representative with updated short announcements to distribute interdepartmentally for distribution and/or verbal announcements at public meetings
  - Municipality will place announcements, where appropriate and as space allows, in its public meeting agendas on a continuing basis for the duration of the DER program, to announce DER program updates and explain people's eligibility to participate in a local DER project, announce upcoming meetings, and provide contacts
  - Municipality will insert a DER Administrator message on the front page of its web site for the duration of the program, linked to a dedicated municipality web page that features links to DER Administrator's designated DER and associated CCA outreach and education web page
- Scheduled Municipal Mail Inserts
  - Where feasible and appropriate, the municipality will insert announcements into any regularly scheduled mail to local residents and businesses.
  - Announcements will include information about the DER Administrator's name and location, the DER roles designated by the municipality, and where technically feasible, a QR code linking to the DER Administrator Outreach and Education web page for their municipality
  - May also include opportunities, news, announcements, information, events, contacts, regarding DER Share, Cooperatives and individual investment.

Designated Town staff will work with appropriate Town Departments, Committees, and Boards to share information through approved DER Administrator outreach and education insertions in their materials.

- Town Forms to be Considered for DER Administrator Insertions
  - Tax bills
  - Building permits
  - Electrical permits
- Town Departments Materials / Postings
  - Planning
  - Public Works
  - Sustainability
  - Town Administration
  - Town Clerk
  - Code Enforcement
- Town Boards and Committees, Agendas, Meeting Announcements
  - Town Board
  - Budget Committee
  - Planning Committee
  - Public Works Committee
  - Economic Development Committee
  - Agricultural Committee
  - Conservation Board
  - Tompkins County Council of Governments

## **VII. DER Consulting Schedule**

### A. September-November 2025

Sessions: One with City (Mayor, City Attorney, Planning, DPW, Sustainability) and one with Town (Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, Planning, Public Works, Sustainability)

Subjects: DER program planning - data sharing, research needs, designation of staff liaisons, communications support, initial discussion of municipal DER projects, buildings, properties, fleets, procurement activities, existing projects.

### B. December 2025-March 2026

Sessions: One with City (Mayor, City Attorney, Planning, DPW, Sustainability) and one with Town (Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, Planning, Public Works, Sustainability)

Subjects: DER program structure, role of City and Town, specific departments, Municipal DER projects, and ownership sharing, as well as additional options like Green Bonds and franchise opportunities.

### **VIII. Definitions**

**ADDRESSABLE CARBON** — Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, heating, cooling, hot water, transportation vehicles, sewer waste and solid waste.

**ADVISORY GROUP** — Group established by the City of Ithaca’s CCA Local Law to support the Common Council and Town Board, as well as other municipalities that may join T-GEN in the future, with CCA governance. **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (APPs)** — Low- and medium-income residents designated by the Tompkins County Department of Social Services.

**COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM (CCA)** — The program authorized by Article 1 of Town Code Chapter 135, and which will implement the Master Implementation Plan of the Town’s chosen CCA Administrator provided that Plan has been approved by the PSC.

**CCA ADMINISTRATOR** — A third party designated by the Town of Ithaca which shall be duly authorized to put out for bid the total amount of electricity and natural gas being purchased by participating consumers and larger local DERs that may be incorporated into the CCA supply. The CCA Administrator shall be responsible for CCA program organization, public outreach, data, administration, procurement, and communications.

**COOPERATIVE** — A group formed by building owners and Eligible Investors to invest mutually in onsite DERs.

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT** — Agreements between DER Sharers/Users, DER Sharers, and Site Owners.

**CUSTOMER-SPECIFIC DATA** — Energy account-specific information, personal data and utility data for all Eligible Consumers in the municipality eligible for opt-out or opt-in enrollment based on the terms of the PSC CCA Orders, and the CCA program design, including the customer of record's name, mailing address, telephone number, account number, and primary language, if available, and any customer-specific alternate billing name, address, and phone number.

**DEFAULT SERVICE** — See definition in Town Code § 135-2.

**DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE(S) (DER(s))** — Local renewable energy projects and energy efficiency measures, shared renewables like community solar and shares and cooperatives, renewable heat and hot water systems, energy management, energy storage, microgrid projects, geothermal heat loop projects, electric vehicles and charging systems, local renewable hydrogen fuel cells, and other innovative Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiatives that optimize system benefits, target and address load pockets/profile within the Town of Ithaca, and reduce cost of energy for DER Users.

**DER ADMINISTRATOR** shall mean a third party designated by the Town of Ithaca to administer, under municipal oversight, DER activities within Town boundaries, including DERs implemented in coordination with the Town's CCA program.

**DER LENDER** — A local lending institution that is prequalified by the DER Administrator to provide loans to Voluntary Investors.

**DER INVESTOR** — An Eligible Investor who invests in a DER project under this program.

**DER USER**— See User. **DER VENDOR** — A DER provider, developer, integrator, consortium or component seller.

**DISTRIBUTION UTILITY** — New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG), or any successor thereto.

**ELIGIBLE CONSUMERS** — Consumers of electricity and/or natural gas who receive service from the Distribution Utility.

**ELIGIBLE INVESTORS** — Consumers of electricity and/or natural gas who receive Default Service from the Distribution Utility, at one or more locations within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Ithaca.

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING AND THERMAL LOAD ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM** — The City of Ithaca's program along with financial partners to determine potential energy efficiency improvements on residential and commercial buildings and provide financing for voluntary loans and leasing programs available to eligible consumers in the City of Ithaca, as well as in the Town of Ithaca, to pay for efficiency and electrification projects, with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities.

**ENERGY LOAN ACCOUNT** — An individual Customer's DER investment repayment, Shares loan repayment or Cooperative loan repayment account voluntarily subscribed by an Eligible Investor to finance their DER investment.

**ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY (ESCO)** — An entity duly authorized to conduct business in the State of New York as an ESCO.

**EQUITY** — Ownership benefits, financial and/or physical, from participating in voluntary investments in local DER.

**INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (IMA)** — An agreement between the Town of Ithaca and one or more other New York municipalities.

**INTEROPERABILITY (INTEROPERABLE)** — A characteristic of an energy product or system, such as a photovoltaic array, to work with other energy products or systems, such as appliances or an electric vehicle.

**MASTER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN** — A document submitted to the New York Public Service Commission as part of the approval of a CCA Administrator.

**MEMBER or COOPERATIVE MEMBER** — A member of a DER Cooperative who owns Share(s), or uses DERs, or both, and may include a Site Owner.

**MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS** — Electricity and gas accounts that serve municipal government-related operations.

**OPT-UP** — An affirmative decision of an Eligible Investor to voluntarily invest in a local DER project in the form of Shares.

**OPT-WITH** — An affirmative decision of an Eligible Investor to voluntarily invest in a local DER project in the form of Cooperative membership.

**PROGRAM ORGANIZER** — A designated local nonprofit organization responsible for educating energy users about participation in the DER program's voluntary investment opportunities, as well as supporting the organization of Cooperatives by neighbors. This group will typically secure participation from local governments and engage in preliminary outreach and education around DERs.

**PSC CCA ORDERS** — The several Orders concerning Community Choice Aggregation by the New York State Public Service Commission's (Case 14-M- 0224) including the "Order Authorizing Framework for Community Choice Aggregation Opt-Out Program," issued on April 21, 2016; the "Order

Approving Community Choice Aggregation Programs with Modifications” issued on January 18, 2018; the “Order Modifying Community Choice Aggregation Programs and Establishing Further Process” issued on January 19, 2023; and the “Order Modifying Outreach and Education Requirements and Directing Program Evaluation” issued on November 19, 2024.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC)** — New York State Public Service Commission.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC)** — A market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to an electricity grid from a renewable energy resource somewhere in the United States, allowing sellers of nonrenewable energy holding RECs to claim that they are selling renewable energy.

**SELF-CONSUMPTION** — Producing and consuming electricity and/or heat onsite, as opposed to exporting power onto the grid for sale to a third-party off-taker, such as through net metering.

**SHARE(S)** — Unit(s) of ownership by an Eligible Investor in local DERs, whether through investment in a designated DER project that is located in a nearby building, or through membership enrollment in a designated on-site DER Cooperative.

**SHARER** — An owner of DER Share(s).

**SITE OWNER** — The owner of a building or property who consents to participate in a DER project either alone or by joining a DER Cooperative.

**SPINNING RESERVES** — The extra generating capacity that is available by increasing the power output of generators that are connected to the power system, for a variety of purposes including the provision of balancing capacity for intermittent renewable generators such as a solar farm or wind farm.

**SUPPLIERS/SUPPLY** — ESCOs that procure electric power and natural gas for Eligible Consumers in connection with Town Code Chapter 135.

**T-GEN** — Tompkins Green Energy Network.

**USER** — A DER Share owner who is also an off-taker of energy from a DER.

**VOLUNTARY INVESTOR** — An Eligible Investor who invests in a DER.