



September 12, 2025

Dear Friends,

Would you like information on how feasible a solar panel installation would be for your home? Next Tuesday I will be hosting a free online webinar with Sustainable Westchester where you can learn what the process looks like and what possible energy cost savings may be for your home. For more information see the first story in this newsletter. The webinar will be held next Tuesday, September 16 at 6 pm.

This newsletter also includes information on one of the technology conferences I participated in this summer. The second annual Converge conference was sponsored by the business group, the Westchester County Association, The STEM Alliance, and Westchester County. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology, I have been working on evolving issues related to AI, cybersecurity, and data privacy.

Also included is an update on the latest distribution of STAR property tax rebate checks, SUNY opportunities for veterans, and news of upcoming Westchester County Household Recycling Days.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this email or any matter with which we can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm Regards,

NYS ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE OTIS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

JUMPSTART YOUR SOLAR JOURNEY

**A FREE WEBINAR FOR HOMEOWNERS
LOOKING TO AVOID RISING ENERGY
BILLS BY GOING SOLAR!**

**JOIN US TO LEARN HOW OUR
RESIDENTIAL SOLARIZE PROGRAM CAN
STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR YOU**

WHEN

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR HERE:

bit.ly/residentialsolarjourney



SCAN ME



**Sustainable
Westchester**

There has been tremendous interest in Westchester County in converting to solar energy to reduce utility bills and expand the use of clean energy. I am very excited to host a webinar on solar energy conversion for homeowners provided by Sustainable Westchester. The webinar will include information on how you can learn what is involved in converting to solar panels, how your home can be evaluated, what incentives are available to help fund your project, and contractors qualified to do this work.

Sustainable Westchester's Residential Solarize program will provide a realistic

assessment of your property, walk you through the steps in the process, and connect you with qualified contractors. There is no cost or obligation to explore your options through the program.

The program will also provide a broader update on Sustainable Westchester's Community Solar program and how conversion efforts in Westchester have been progressing.

If you are interested in learning more about how to convert to solar energy, please join us for the webinar on Tuesday September 16th from 6 pm to 7 pm.

Converge Conference 2025



Assemblyman Otis speaking on a panel on “Regulating Telecom and AI for the Public Good” with (l – r) John Emra, President of AT&T Atlantic Region; Albert Pulido, Deputy Secretary for Finance and Technology for Governor Hochul; Judah Holstein, Westchester County Legislator; Karim Mohammadali, and Manager of Government Affairs and Public Policy for Google.

The second year, I participated in the annual Converge Conference sponsored by the Westchester County Association, The STEM Alliance, and Westchester County. Titled “**The Hudson Valley Digital Innovation Conference: Transforming Business in the Age of AI and Quantum Computing**”, the Converge Conference again brought technology companies, academics, government officials, and not-for-profit leaders together to discuss cutting-edge issues in technology and society.

The keynote speaker was John E. Kolb, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Vice President and Head of RPI Future Computing Institute (FOCI). RPI has an IBM Quantum computer on their campus and has entered a new partnership with Westchester County.

The subject of my panel was “**Policy & Protection – Regulating Telecom and AI for the Public Good**”, which provided a good discussion of developments in AI policy in New York and around the country. New York has attracted microchip manufacturing companies and launched the Empire AI Consortium to use AI for the public good. The engaging panel ensured a good discussion. Panel members are listed in photo caption above.



Assemblyman Otis at the Converge Conference with Angela Siefer, Executive Director of the National Digital Inclusion (NDIA), the nationwide group that has provided the model for digital equity programs around the state. The Assemblyman has worked with NDIA and their principles in advancing digital inclusion programs throughout New York State.

New Rochelle Book Bag Giveaway



In August I attended Backpack Giveaways in New Rochelle and Port Chester. I am pictured here in front of New Rochelle City Hall with educators, parents, and school and local officials, to hand out backpacks and school supplies. The Backpack Giveaway was presented in partnership with community organizations including the City School District, Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Choice, Refuge of Hope, HOPE Community Services, United Community Center, and the Department of Parks & Recreation. Similar programs are offered by Sharing Shelf in Port Chester, Helping Hands for the Homeless in Rye, and the Community Resource Center in Mamaroneck. Backpack giveaways are held in most communities. They offer a great way for students to start off the new year with a new bookbag and school supplies.

Governor Hochul Announces One-Stop-Shop for Military, Veterans, and Family Members Interested in SUNY

Governor Hochul has announced the launch of a one-stop-shop for active duty service members, veterans, and family members currently enrolled or interested in attending any SUNY college or university. The landing page: www.suny.edu/military, includes information on available credit for military service and experience, tuition assistance, specialized scholarships, and dedicated campus services like veteran lounges and associations for all 64 SUNY campuses. The website also connects veterans with services offered by the counties where each campus is located, helping them stay close to home and community, and will be regularly updated as new information becomes available.

Also [recently announced](#) is expanded access to an affordable education through the Veterans Tuition Assistance Program, which went into effect on July 1. The program will now serve even more veterans by broadening eligibility and increasing flexibility.

Thirty-seven SUNY campuses offer academic credit for military service and experience, and the new website includes connecting visitors to an easy-to-use search for available credit for military experience and training. Additionally, SUNY campuses have tailored support available including student veteran associations and military and veteran offices, and counties throughout New York State have programs and staff available as well. SUNY developed this comprehensive website so that service members and veterans would be able to easily learn about and access all of the available programs and benefits that they have earned through their service.

Port Chester Rye Brook Town of Rye Chamber of Commerce Summer Event



Assemblyman Otis talking to Rye Brook Assistant to the Village Administrator Greg Rivera, Village Administrator Chris Bradbury, and Village Mayor Jason Klein at the Port Chester Rye Brook Town of Rye Chamber of Commerce Summer Lobsterfest at Rye Town Park. There was a great turnout from local business owners and municipal officials to support the annual chamber event.

Next Phase of STAR Tax Relief Going to Millions of New Yorkers This Summer and Fall

Governor Hochul announced the start of phase two of the School Tax Relief (STAR) program benefit season. Eligible homeowners in communities with school tax due dates in August or September will start receiving their STAR benefit in the coming weeks. Most homeowners eligible for a STAR credit will receive a check between \$350 and \$600. Most seniors eligible for an Enhanced STAR credit will receive a check between \$700 and \$1,500. STAR recipients can visit ny.gov/STAR to track their check delivery or enroll in direct deposit.

The STAR program provides property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners. During STAR benefit season, which runs from June to November, nearly three million homeowners will receive more than \$2.2 billion in property tax relief through the program.

Homeowners who are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program receive their benefit each year in one of two ways: as an exemption that reduces their school tax bill, or as a credit issued as a check or direct deposit.

Those who receive the STAR credit as a check or direct deposit can visit the [STAR Credit Delivery Schedule](#) to learn when credits will be issued in their area.

Property owners who are looking for details about STAR credits that have already been issued should visit the [Property Tax Credit Lookup](#).

Enroll in STAR Direct Deposit

Homeowners can enroll in the [STAR Credit Direct Deposit](#) program through the [Homeowner Benefit Portal](#) within the Tax Department's secure Online Services system. Homeowners can also use the Homeowner Benefit Portal to manage their STAR benefits easily and efficiently.

Upcoming Westchester County Household Recycling Days

Scheduled Events on October 4 and November 8

Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (WCDEF) will host two upcoming Household Recycling Day events, offering residents convenient and safe opportunities to dispose of household waste. The Household Recycling Day (HRD) events will be on:

- **Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sprain Ridge Park, 149 Jackson Ave., Yonkers**
- **Saturday, November 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Playland Park, 1 Playland Pkwy., Rye**

Due to the popularity of the events, residents may experience extended wait times. Those who wish to avoid long lines, or cannot attend an event, are encouraged to schedule an appointment at the County's Household Material

Recovery Facility (H-MRF), and located at 15 Woods Road on the Grasslands Campus in Valhalla. The H-MRF accepts the same items as HRDs and is open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, [CLICK HERE](#) or call (914) 813-5425.

In addition to properly labeled household chemicals, tires, scrap metal, electronics, appliances, and other special wastes found in a typical household, residents can bring documents for shredding and expired or unwanted medications for disposal to the HRD Events. Residents should place items in their trunk or backseat and remain in their vehicles while staff unload vehicles in the drop-off area.

Generally, the following items are accepted for safe disposal or recycling:

- Properly labelled household chemicals, such as:
 - Household cleaning products, most automotive fluids (antifreeze, brake fluid, gasoline, but not motor oil), flammable liquids (kerosene, butane, lighter fluid, turpentine)
 - Metal, jewelry, and furniture polishes and waxes; wood preservatives
 - Fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides
 - Photographic and swimming pool chemicals
- Batteries – only vehicle, rechargeable, or button cell
- Textiles- footwear, clothing, linens, leather, and handbags
- Latex and oil-based Paint, wood stains
- Fluorescent light bulbs & CFLs
- Fire extinguishers
- BBQ propane tanks (up to 20 lbs.)
- Mercury containing devices (thermometers and thermostats)
- Electronic waste (TVs, computer monitors and towers)
- Expired or unwanted medications, both OTC and prescription

- Personal documents for shredding (limit of four (4) file-size boxes per household.
- Tires (with or without rims) up to four per household

Items that will not be accepted and should not be brought to the Household Recycling Day include ***non-rechargeable alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries (they can be safely discarded in the trash), motor oil, smoke detectors, cell phones, explosives (flares, fireworks, ammunition), construction debris and hypodermic needles. Please note that waste from businesses, schools, or other institutions will not be accepted.***

For more information on what to bring to this event, visit environment.westchestergov.com or call the Recycling HelpLine: (914) 813-5425.

For more information on Westchester County environmental programs and events follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/WestchesterCountyDEF



Give your child a head start in a nurturing learning environment in New Rochelle!



Enroll Now:



OUR CENTER:

- ✓ Beautiful classrooms and play areas for ages 3 to 5
- ✓ Healthy and nutritious meals and snacks
- ✓ Access to outdoor learning

WHY CHOOSE US?

- ✓ 60 Years of Head Start success
- ✓ Caring, well-trained staff
- ✓ The latest in educational materials
- ✓ Help with children's individual needs
- ✓ Resources and workshops for the family
- ✓ Health and dental screening and wellness



📍 32 LeCount Place
New Rochelle, NY 10801

📞 Ada Carrillo, ERSEA Coordinator
914-571-1046

