

Foothills Solar

NYGATS ID: PRO38159

Community Engagement Plan

Submitted to NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

January 31, 2024

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1.0 Introduction

Boralex has been present in the New York State energy market for over 20 years and is committed to building sustainable relationships based on transparency, communication and respect for the communities hosting its projects. As a developer and long-term operator, Boralex makes every effort to establish sustainable relationships with the host communities and to respect the environment from the moment a project begins to take shape. This is a testimony to the long-term vision to which Boralex subscribes, working earnestly and diligently to ensure that its projects are received well in the region and effectively integrated with host communities for the duration of their operating lives.

The following describes the Community Engagement Plan associated with the Foothills Solar Farm (the “Bid Facility”) and supports an open and inclusive public process.

This Engagement Plan identifies strategic steps to maintain transparency throughout the Bid Facility’s development, construction, and operation, reflects an understanding of local interests and concerns and proposes a frequency and duration for future outreach activities.

2.0 Identify the Authority Having Jurisdiction

<i>AHJs and Taxing School Districts</i>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>Tenure</i>
<i>Fulton County</i>			
<i>Jon R. Stead</i>	<i>Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>518-736-5540</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Town and Village of Mayfield</i>			
<i>Brandon Lehr</i>	<i>Town Supervisor</i>	<i>518-661-5414 supervisor@mayfieldny.org</i>	<i>January 2028</i>
<i>Nancy Parker</i>	<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>518-661-5414 townhall@mayfieldny.org</i>	<i>January 2028</i>
<i>Emory Chase</i>	<i>Village Mayor</i>	<i>(518) 661-5165 mayor@villageofmayfield.com</i>	<i>January 2027</i>
<i>Terri Brubaker</i>	<i>Village Clerk</i>	<i>(518) 661-5165 clerk@villageofmayfield.com</i>	<i>January 2027</i>
<i>School District</i>			
<i>Christoper Harper</i>	<i>Mayfield Central School District Superintendent of Schools</i>	<i>518-661-8222 harper.christopher@mayfieldcsd.org</i>	

3.0 Outreach Strategies

Boralex is committed to building sustainable relationships with our host communities based on transparency, communication, and respect. As a developer and operator, we begin to establish connections with the local stakeholders early to best understand their values and concerns for their community so our projects are designed to integrate with and enhance the surrounding area for the duration of their operation. The following describes the strategic steps we have and will take to maintain an open and inclusive relationship throughout our Bid Facility's development, construction, and operation. Following this plan allows us to truly understand local interests so we have the opportunity to address concerns well before construction is underway. Boralex intends to be a long-term member of the community and believes open dialogue from the onset will enable us to be a good neighbor.

In the preliminary stages of development, Boralex conducts a detailed analysis of the host community, identifying and meeting with key local stakeholders. This includes:

- Town and county officials
- Zoning and planning board
- Adjacent landowners
- State and federal elected representatives
- State agency staff
- Local businesses
- Leaders of local school districts
- Groups of special interest

These stakeholders can provide valuable information on zoning, applicable laws, local regulations, as well as local interests and concerns. Additionally, we consult with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Renewable Energy Siting, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Given the stage of development this Bid Facility is in, Boralex has held several meetings with key stakeholders (see "Stakeholder Activity Log" table in Section 5 below for more details) and is committed to engaging with all interested parties. Boralex has also attended local board meetings and helped the Close Family publish OpEds in the three major local papers describing the economic hardships they face and the reason this Bid Facility is a financial lifeline (see zipped folder for a copy of the OpEd).

To date, Boralex has met with key stakeholders, please see Stakeholder Activity Log. During these meetings we discussed how the Bid Facility fits into the local community—any potential visual impacts, stakeholders' underlying values and concerns. Due to the location of the Bid Facility in the Adirondack Park, and the fact that, once completed, the Bid Facility will be the largest solar

installation in the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) jurisdiction, Boralex has made a concerted effort to keep the APA abreast of the latest developments in the Bid Facility. This includes engagement on specific topics (i.e., visual assessment) inviting them to join our team on field surveys, along with other regular communication.

As we enter the construction phase, we will keep stakeholders updated via:

- In-person meetings with nearby landowners, town and county elected officials, school districts representatives, and other interested parties.
 - Meetings will continue throughout the development process to keep the public updated on the Bid Facility's status and to solicit feedback.
- Announcing upcoming events, developments, and updates via advertising on social and traditional media, mailings, emails, and telephone calls.
- Holding public events, open houses, site tours, and educational sessions.
- Sharing information about Bid Facility plans, information about renewable energy, construction alerts/road closures via informational leaflets and newsletters to be disseminated and posters to be displayed in public spaces, such as the Gloversville Public Library.
- Engaging with local media about the Bid Facility and to educate the public on renewable energy, solar facilities, and resiliency.
- Conducting additional outreach activities and participating in public hearings consistent with the 94-c state permitting process.

The company's team of agricultural and natural resource protection professionals have begun research options for multi-use on the Bid Facility site. They will also convene a local agricultural multi-use working group, made up of landowners, farmers, and other experts and interested parties, to evaluate multi-use options on the site. This group will meet every 5 years during operation to evaluate and advise the agricultural efforts at the site.

Before construction begins, Boralex hosts networking events for local businesses to promote their services. The participation of local businesses in these events also allows Boralex to create a directory of local suppliers and services that can be used during development, construction, and maintenance of the facility, including environmental and engineering consultants, legal firms, hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores. During construction, Boralex informs local suppliers of the goods and services needed by the Bid Facility and makes an effort to use local vendors and contractors if possible. Throughout construction, Boralex also publishes and disseminates a newsletter to the community on construction updates, potential road closures, upcoming events, and other ways to get involved or

provide feedback. Boralex makes a concerted effort to reach out to business located in Disadvantaged Communities, and MWBE Businesses.

When construction is completed and the Bid Facility is officially commissioned, we plan to welcome the community to join us for an opening ceremony, and a public site visit. Boralex will distribute an annual newsletter for at least the first three years of operation to share information on environmental monitoring and facility operation.

Our community outreach efforts are most active from early development through the first three to four years into the operation of a facility, but we will continue to be responsive to any feedback or concerns for the duration of the Bid Facility's life cycle. We will maintain an email address (info.usa@boralex.com), project- specific website--complete with frequently asked questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy--and a toll-free number to encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement. The project website also contains direct contact information for the Boralex team members managing the project.

4.0 Climate Act & Disadvantaged Communities

The Bid Facility is less than ten miles from the Gloversville – Johnstown Disadvantaged Community, providing a potential opportunity to engage those communities during the development, construction and operation phases of the Bid Facility.

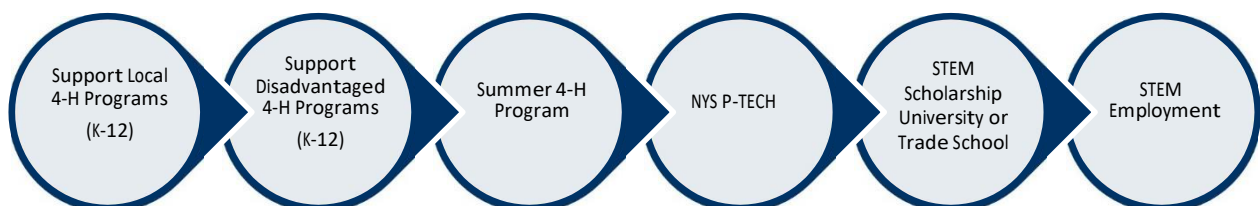
It should be noted that the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) represents an inflection point. The legislation is a clear acknowledgement of the public health benefits of climate action, the deleterious impacts of inaction, and a clear mandate to reduce co-pollutants in disadvantaged communities. Disadvantage communities which currently host fossil fuel units will see reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants because of increased renewable market penetration.

Implementation of the CLCPA requires the targeting of investments to benefit disadvantaged communities. Boralex is committed to developing projects that advance the objectives of the CLCPA. Prior to construction, Boralex will work with target outreach to potential contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers located in disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, Boralex will survey its contracts regarding their past and future commitments to advancing opportunities for subcontractors and suppliers located in disadvantaged communities.

Long term historical inequities and injustices require long term commitments. Boralex is committed to the advancement of meaningful measures to address these inequities. Boralex is committed to a multifaceted long-term plan to advance a green and just economy.

4.1 Beyond Renewables Fund

The Beyond Renewables Fund is designed to create meaningful opportunities to benefit disadvantaged communities, underrepresented populations, and the host community. At time of commercial operation, the Fund will direct resources towards local 4-H programs, 4-H summer camps, career focused education programs, and STEM Scholarships. The initiative is intended to connect with and inspire students from elementary learning to university level to seek STEM careers with a focus on increasing the diversity of those entering the STEM workforce.



4.2 Board of Advisors

The Beyond Renewables Fund Initiative begins with the development of an inclusive Board of Advisors to ensure that these educational and workforce development programs are designed, implemented, and carried out in the best ways possible. This group will also help select candidates for these programs, as necessary, and evaluate the overall effort annually.

Members of this board may include representatives of:

- Host communities
- NYSERDA
- Environmental Justice Organization
- New York Farm Bureau
- 4-H
- P-TECH
- Cornell University College of Agricultural Sciences
- Local Workforce Development Organizations
- Professional Organizations for Underrepresented Populations
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- Association for Women in Science
- Association for Multicultural Science Education

4.3 4-H Programs

4-H believes in developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible and compassionate – seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have the life-long skills to succeed in college and career. To do this, 4-H:

- Creates positive learning experiences and following an experiential learning model.
- Delivered by Cooperative Extensions—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. In New York, in-school, after-school, community club and camp programs are run by Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Has chapters in almost every county, including New York City's 5 boroughs consisting of 15 or more youth ages 8-19 who work with adult volunteers, including teachers, youth workers, staff and parents.
- Develops programs based on each group's needs and interests.
- Focuses on the advancement of STEM learning through 4-H projects related to nutrition & health, science & technology, environmental education, community development and citizenship.
- Works to eliminate the opportunity gap by addressing critical challenges around broadband access, environmental equity, food insecurity, and physical and mental well-

being, by increasing access to positive adult relationships, skill-building and leadership opportunities that give kids a sense of belonging and spark their potential.

As an example, Ulster County 4-H runs a weekly STEM mentoring program, The Tech Wizards, for middle and high school youth designed to erase persistent gender and racial inequalities in STEM. By high school, many girls and youth of color are already socialized away from these promising fields, so the program provides an important linkage to keep these communities interested in the opportunities high tech high schools could provide. Since beginning the mentoring programs 6 years ago, they have reached over 150 youth.

4.4 Boralex & 4-H Programs

Through the Beyond Renewables Fund, Boralex will commit to sponsoring and employee volunteering at 4-H Programs conducted in the host community and a disadvantaged community. Boralex will work with the 4-H Program local leadership to appropriately integrate renewable energy projects in the curriculum. The opportunities are seemingly limitless, but could include simple electricity circuit projects, field trips to hydro, solar or wind facilities, onsite habitat improvements, species identification, and/or advances in soil sequestration. Boralex will also encourage its contractors to consider playing an active role in the 4-H Program.

4.5 4-H of Fulton County

The Bid Facility is located in Fulton County. 4-H of Fulton is run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. Boralex will help directly support the work of 4-H of Fulton County. Additionally, we will aid in the development of programs intended to increase participation from those residing in local disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, as mentioned above for every contribution provided to the 4-H of Fulton County, we will contribute directly to 4-H program delivering services to a Disadvantage Community. The 4-H and the program will be identified by the Board of Advisors.

4.6 Pathways in Technology (NYS P-TECH)

NYS P-TECH program is a public-private partnership that will prepares New York students for high-skills jobs of the future. The NYS P-TECH model delivers five core benefits to students:

- A rigorous, relevant and cost-free “grades 9 to 14” education focused on the knowledge and skills students need for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers;
- Workplace learning that includes ongoing mentoring by professionals in the chosen career sector, worksite visits, speakers and internships;

- Intensive, individualized academic support by K-12 and college faculty within an extended academic year or school day that enables students to progress through the program at their own pace;
- An Associate of Applied Science degree in a high-tech field; and
- The commitment to be first in line for a job with the participating business partners following completion of the program.

4.7 Boralex & HFM P-TECH

Through the Beyond Renewables Fund, Boralex will commit to sponsoring and employee volunteering at P-TECH programs. Boralex will work with the P-TECH local leadership to appropriately integrate green jobs in the curriculum. Boralex will work to enrich the learning environment through active participation in the classroom. P-TECH targets:

- First generation college bound students
- Students with low-income families
- Students with educational challenges

Boralex will work with P-TECH leadership to recruit students from local Disadvantaged Communities including GEOIDs: 36035970700, 36035970800, and 36035971200. Boralex will also encourage its contractors to consider playing an active role in the P-TECH Program.

All P-TECHs focus on providing students a pathway for a field. Some of the pathways provide an obvious career path for students to seek employment in green jobs, while other programs are more general. The Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery PTECH, in association with SUNY Cobleskill and Fulton Montgomery Community College, focuses upon Agriculture, Advanced Manufacturing, Business, Computer Science. and Medical Science. The HFM P-Tech Agricultural program can lead to students getting associate's degrees in environmental studies, and fisheries & wildlife technologies. Additionally, due to our interest to co-locate agriculture on the sites, supporting the agricultural programs could lead to greater interest and opportunities to co-locate. These associate's degrees lead to professionals that Boralex and other green employers could recruit. Boralex will help to support the HFM P-Tech, through experiential learning and direct financial support.

4.8 STEM Scholarships

In cooperation with the Advisory Board, the Beyond Renewables Fund, will fund scholarships for graduating high school seniors. The scholarships will target students seeking either a college degree or certificate in a STEM field who live in a Bid Facility's host community or live in a Disadvantaged Community and attended either 4-H or P-TECH. Boralex will work with 4-H and P-TECH to promote the scholarships with a special focus in Disadvantaged Communities.

4.9 Internships

Borex will work with 4-Hs, P-TECHs and scholarship recipients to provide opportunities to intern at Borex. Working with programs like the NYSERDA Internship Program, Borex will help connect the skilled emerging employees with companies focused on developing renewable energy—helping create the much-needed talent pipeline of tomorrow’s skilled workforce.

5.0 Frequency of Public Events

Boralex strongly believes in being a good neighbor and integrated member of our host communities. To that end, we begin communicating with local stakeholders early, and work to ensure that conversations are ongoing throughout the duration of the Bid Facility, soliciting feedback and addressing concerns as they arise.

Boralex has held several public forums, including an informal Open House in February of 2023 and the formal ORES-compliant 60-day Open House in July of 2023. To advertise these events, Boralex sent postcards to residences and businesses in nearby zip code routes, posted to social media and reached out to landowners, key stakeholders, and elected officials.

Boralex representatives have had numerous substantive conversations and meetings with local officials, the details of which are provided in the following table:

Key Stakeholder Contacts		
<i>Organization/Individual</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Mayfield Mayor-elect Lehr	11/20/23	Project status and briefing
Snowmobile Association	Ongoing	Rerouting of snowmobile trail (see attached letter of support)
Fulton County Chamber	8/15/23	Inflation petition briefing and project update
Fulton County Planning Board	8/15/23	Project update and review of visual impacts
Community	7/26/23	94-c Open House
Community	2/15/23	Voluntary Open House
Mayfield School District	11/21/22	Project briefing and Beyond Renewables Fund briefing

Prior to construction, Boralex will continue to host public events and open houses. To get the word out about these events, we will engage with local officials, landowners, and other stakeholders; place ads and notices in social and traditional media platforms; mailings, emails, and telephone calls. As events occur, we compile contact information of interested parties for future communications.

Through construction commissioning, Boralex will share updates via a newsletter disseminated to the community with construction updates, potential road closures, upcoming events, and other ways to get involved or provide feedback.

Our community outreach efforts are most active from early development through the first three to four years into the operation of a facility, but we will continue to be responsive to any feedback or concerns for the duration of the Bid Facility's life cycle. We will maintain an email address (info.usa@boralex.com), project-specific website--complete with frequently asked

questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy--and a toll-free number (844-990-9146) to encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement. The project website also contains direct contact info for the Boralex team managing the project.

6.0 Direct Benefits to the Community

As discussed above, Boralex is committed to using the Beyond Renewables Fund, designed to create meaningful opportunities to benefit disadvantaged communities, underrepresented populations, and the host community. The fund will include direct assistance to 4-H programs, and P-TECH programs serving the local community. Additionally, Boralex will fund STEM Scholarships for students of the host community.

Furthermore, Boralex will continue its history of providing funding for a donation and sponsorship program to support local initiatives and charities near the Bid Facility. The budget for local donations and sponsorships will be effective during the construction period and throughout the Bid Facility's operation. Boralex will pursue donation and sponsorship opportunities through consultation with the Town, Village, and community groups.

Based in South Glens Falls since 2003, Boralex has supported over the years many local charities:

- In 2020, Boralex made a \$30,000 donation to contribute to the restoration of Derby Park, an urban park located in Washington County. The Park refurbishment included a new regulation-size soccer field, softball field, basketball court, three pickleball courts, a quarter-mile of paved walking paths and two new event spaces for arts-and-crafts shows and other community festivals.
- To support our neighbors during the onset of the pandemic, Boralex made a special donation of \$5,000 to the Regional Foot Bank of Northeastern New York to provide essential aide to those going through difficult times related to COVID-19.
- Boralex continuously seeks ways to support organizations in our host communities to help them meet the needs of the community. This has ranged from sponsoring and volunteering for the Center for Disability Services' Prospect Center events to partnering with the Middle Falls Fire Department and Battenkill Conservancy in improving access to river recreation.
- In an effort to enhance our support to local nonprofits in line with our mission, Boralex joined the Common Roots Foundation as a legacy sponsor in 2022. As a long-term sponsor, we help fund programs that address quality of life issues impacted the greater South Glens Falls area, with a focus on environmental stewardship and community vitality.

The New York State Public Service Commission in February of 2021 established a "host community benefit program" through which owners of large-scale renewable energy facilities would pay \$500/MW for solar each year for the first 10 years of Bid Facility operation. Savings to power bills resulting from these payments will be distributed by the incumbent utility and will be done equally among eligible ratepayers residing in the municipality where the Bid Facility is located.

Borex will work with the local utilities and the community to implement and raise awareness of the program. This benefit is projected to provide annually \$20,000 per year for the residents of Mayfield. Over the ten-year period, the program will result in \$200,000 in ratepayer savings.

7.0 PILOTs/HCA's

Boralex has engaged with the Fulton County IDA about seeking a PILOT for this Bid Facility. At this time the Fulton County IDA has not adopted a policy to assist in the advancement of renewable energy projects. Discussions will continue with the IDA.

Locally, Boralex has begun very early discussions with the Town and Village of Mayfield regarding the establishment of a PILOT. We would expect those discussions will become more targeted and a PILOT will be reached to provide the host community with long term and stable revenues.

8.0 Local Interests

Boralex begins conversations with our host communities from the onset of Bid Facility development. We believe that engaging in thoughtful discussions early prevents surprises and undue stress to local residents and businesses, and we are able to quickly respond to concerns raised. To build strong relationships with our host communities, we are transparent, available, and committed to these locales.

We welcome feedback and input and address issues as they arise. Boralex encourages input early so concerns about noise, views, traffic, wildlife, etc., can be addressed during the planning phases and the design of the facility can be modified to address these issues. We also continue to solicit feedback throughout the Bid Facility's processes and operations in the instance that other issues arise.

The concerns raised to date are related to the impacts on agricultural land, retention of snowmobile trail access, and potential impacts to viewsheds in the area. These potential impacts were considered in the development of the Bid Facility, and substantive changes were made, particularly concerning routing of the snowmobile trail through the Close Family Farm, and an agreement to put visual screening for nearby residences, the local school, and to minimize visual impacts from the Great Sacandaga Reservoir. (see zipped attachment for for letter from the Southern Adirondack Snowmobile Association)

Establishing harmonious relations with stakeholders has been a successful strategy for Boralex. The foundation of a harmonious relationship is predicated on trust, communication, and shared respect. For example:

In the fall of 2023 in the Town of Easton, some members of the community approached the Town Board calling for a moratorium on utility-scale solar. Boralex had been developing the Easton Solar project for more than 22 months, appearing before the planning board, attending public hearings, holding open houses, and generally offering opportunities for feedback on the solar project. Building on our engagement over the previous two years and 20 years operating a hydroelectric facility in the Town, we demonstrated a willingness to engage with community members to design a project that valued the community's feedback. Stakeholder meetings led to the development of: a robust landscape screening plan, complete with input from abutting landowners on preferred plantings; increased setbacks from the road; reduced footprint; a complaint management plan as part of our operations and maintenance program; and increased interest in our agricultural multi-use efforts and sponsorships. These all contributed to helping our project get permitted, with conditions, in December.

If needed, Boralex will use a similar strategy, based on careful listening, proactive consultation and engaging with the local media, to build public support for and respectfully responding to any opposition to the Bid Facility.

Also, as our team of agricultural and natural resource protection professionals research options for agricultural uses between panels on project sites, we also reach out to the local agricultural community. To help gather ideas, Boralex puts out a Request for Information, asking local farmers, residents and businesses to share their multi-use ideas. This approach allows us to hear directly and be advised by those who know the land best, while also continuing to build a relationship with our host community.

9.0 Mitigation of Concerns

Borex has projects in various stages of development across the state, and the world. With our experience, and dedication to being an integrated member of our host communities, we have specific strategies to address public concerns.

Borex includes visual impact and noise surveys as part of our environmental assessments and works to avoid significant impacts on nearby homes and businesses. For concerns about visibility, Borex meets with those concerned and works with the Bid Facility design team to alter the Bid Facility in ways to reduce the visual impacts, such as three-season tree planting or using the natural landscape in determining where to place panels. For noise concerns, our engineers can modify the plans to include natural buffers and position components farther away from any more populated areas.

We believe solar facilities can create opportunities for farmers to generate steady income to reinvest in their farms. We also work with local communities to determine opportunities to use the spaces between panels. To help gather ideas, Borex has launched campaigns to encourage residents and businesses to share their multi-use ideas. This approach allowed us to hear directly from community members and farmers, using their knowledge to inform our multi-use strategy, while also continuing to build a relationship with our host community.

10.0 Soliciting Feedback

Boralex begins outreach to local stakeholders early in the development of projects. We systematically meet with the local elected representatives, Town and County leadership, Industrial Development Associations, Chambers of Commerce, school districts, environmental organizations, local charities, landowners, neighbors, interested members of the community, and more.

To provide stakeholders ample opportunity to share feedback, we host open houses, attend meetings with local organizations, and keep in close contact with stakeholders. We will maintain an email address (info.usa@boralex.com), project-specific website--complete with frequently asked questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy at the Bid Facility website--and a toll-free number (844-990-9146) to encourage ongoing stakeholder engagement. The website will be updated throughout the development, construction, and operation of the Bid Facility.