

Sky High Solar

NYGATS ID: PRO35045_1

Community Engagement Plan

Submitted to NYSERDA RESRFP23-1

January 30, 2024

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1.0 Introduction

Borex has been present in the New York State energy market for two decades 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, Borex makes every effort to establish sustainable relationships with its 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 Borex subscribes, working earnestly and diligently to ensure that its projects are well received in the region and effectively integrated with host communities for the duration of their operating lives.

This document describes Borex's Community Outreach Plan (the "Outreach Plan") associated with the Sky High Solar project (the "Project") and supports an open and inclusive public process.

This Outreach Plan identifies strategic steps to maintain transparency throughout the Project'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

AHJs and Taxing School Districts			
Name	Title	Contact Information	Tenure
Onondaga County			
J. Ryan McMahon, II	County Executive	315-435-3516	January 2026
Town of Tully			
John Masters	Town Supervisor	315-696-4693 x 12 tullysupervisor@cnyemail.com	January 2026
Susan Vaccaro	Town Clerk	315-696-4693 x 10 tully-townclerk@cnyemail.com	January 2026
School Districts			
Dr. Darcy Woodcock	Tully Central School District Superintendent of Schools	315-696-6200 darcy.woodcock@tullyschools.org	N/A

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 priorities for their community. These conversations help inform our project design as we work to integrate with and enhance the surrounding area for the duration of operations. The following describes the strategic steps we have taken 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 potential issues 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 early stages of development, Boralex began a detailed analysis of the host community, identifying and meeting with key local stakeholders. This includes:

- Town and county officials
- Zoning and planning boards
- 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 priorities. 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), open houses and public hearings, and remains committed to ongoing engagement with all interested parties. During these meetings we discussed how the Bid Facility fits into the local community—any potential visual impacts, stakeholders' underlying values and priorities.

To date, Boralex representatives have met with key stakeholders to discuss the project's potential impacts, stakeholders' underlying values and concerns, and expected timelines and next steps for the project, including participation in the NYSERDA RESRFP23-1.

As we continue developing this project, we will keep stakeholders updated via:

- In-person meetings with nearby landowners, town and county elected officials, school districts representatives, and other interested parties, 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.
- A Project-specific webpage (www.boralex.com/projects/sky-high) to provide Project information and updates to the host community throughout the development and construction phases. In addition to these updates, the webpage will include the following information:
 - Project description
 - Project benefits
 - Summary of Project permitting requirements and schedule
 - Facility layout drawings
 - Q&A page, summarizing answers to commonly asked questions
 - Project contact information, including email address and telephone number
 - Permitting documents upon filing with jurisdictional agencies
- 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 Tully Free Library or Town Office Building.
- Engaging with local media about the Bid Facility and to educate the public on renewable energy, solar facilities, and resiliency.

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 Minority or Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBs).

When construction is completed and the 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. Boralex created a toll-free number (1-844-990-9146) and an email address (info.usa@boralex.com) for our projects. We will also maintain a project- specific website (www.boralex.com/projects/sky-high) which contains the contact information for the project manager and environment and community relations leader specifically working on this project, as well as frequently asked questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy. Materials from open houses and other public events will also be included on the website.

4.0 Climate Act & Disadvantaged Communities

The Bid Facility is less than 15 miles from Nedrow and other Syracuse-Area Disadvantaged Communities (GEOIDs 36067940000, 36067016200, 36067006000, 36067006102), providing potential opportunities to engage during development, construction, and operation phases of the Bid Facility.

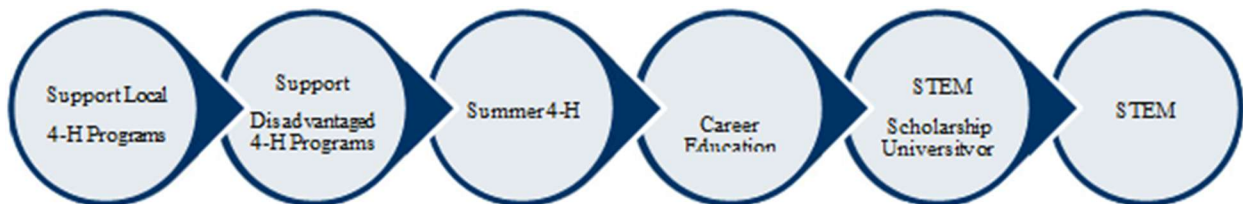
It should be noted that the CLCPA represents an inflection point. The legislation is a clear acknowledgement of the public health benefits of climate action, and a clear mandate to reduce co-pollutants in disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities which currently host fossil fuel units will 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 advancing 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 contractors 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 is guided by 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 organizations
- New York Farm Bureau
- 4-H
- BOCES Career and Technical Education program
- Cornell University College of Agricultural Sciences
- Local workforce development organizations
- Professional organizations for underrepresented populations

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 split the resources equally between the two. Boralex will work with the 4-H 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 Onondaga County

The Bid Facility is located in Onondaga County. 4-H of Onondaga County is run by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, 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 Onondaga 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 Onondaga County, we will contribute directly to 4-H program delivering services to a Disadvantage Community.

4.6 Career and Technical Education

The Tully Central School District offers a Career and Technical Education program through Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Counties' Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES). This program prepares students for employment and postsecondary study, industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. Students can earn college credit while still in high school, and take part in work-based learning opportunities.

4.7 Boralex & OCM BOCES

Through the Beyond Renewables Fund, Boralex will commit to sponsoring and employee volunteering at appropriate career training programs with the OCM BOCES program. Boralex will work with the local educators to seek opportunities to integrate green jobs into the

curriculum. Boralex will work to enrich the learning environment through active participation in the classroom. BOCES' program targets:

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

Boralex will work with school leadership to recruit students from local Disadvantaged Communities and encourage its contractors to consider playing an active role in our partnership.

Career and Technical Education programs provide students a pathway to a career in their chosen field. Some of the pathways provide an obvious career path for students to seek employment in green jobs, while other programs are more general. Boralex will partner with OCM BOCES' programs through experiential learning (speaking, mentoring, and internships) 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 project's host community or live in a Disadvantaged Community and attended either 4-H or CTE program. Boralex will work with 4-H and BOCES to promote the scholarships and will ensure that at least 50% of the scholarships will be awarded to students in Disadvantaged Communities.

4.9 Internships

Boralex will work with 4-Hs, BOCES and scholarship recipients to provide opportunities to intern at Boralex. Working with programs like the NYSERDA Internship Program, Boralex 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 issues as they arise.

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

Date	Organization	Purpose
2016-2018	Community	Initial engagement with landowners
1/9/21	Planning Board	Submit Full Environmental Assessment Form
1/15/21	Supervisor	Introduction of Boralex and update on Sky High
4/28-29/21	Community	Virtual open house events
7/19/21	Planning Board	Special Use Permit application
9/21/21	Fire department	Discussion with chief on the pitch of the road
10/2/22	Planning Board	Review of Tier 2 solar application
4/27/22	County PB	Review of application
5/14/22	Community	Highlighted Sky High Solar and discussed utility-scale solar at town renewable energy event
8/2/22	Planning Board	Presentation of project
4/5/23	Tully Free Library	Discuss potential support for their capital project
6/5/23	Planning Board	Solar Overlay District application
7/12/23	Town Board	Presentation and clarifications; Resolution to forward application to county PB, Town PB, engineer, declare lead agency for SEQR.
9/8/23	Town Engineer	On-site analysis of project with engineer and team lead
9/13/23	Town Board	Public hearing and presentation on solar overlay district
9/21/23	Planning Board	Monthly meeting; presentation and clarifications
10/4/23	Community	Public Open House at Tully Train Depot; 35+ members of the community
11/8/23	Planning Board	Special Use Permit Public Hearing
11/10/23	Planning Board	Special Use Permit vote

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.

As construction begins, and through 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. These will also be added to our project specific website.

While our community outreach efforts are most active from early development through the first three to four years into the operation of a facility, we will continue to be responsive to any feedback for the duration of the Bid Facility's life cycle. We will maintain a toll-free number (844-990-9146) and email address (info.usa@boralex.com), as well as a project- specific website—(www.boralex.com/projects/sky-high) complete with frequently asked questions and information on sustainability and renewable energy.

6.0 Direct Benefits to the Community

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

Furthermore, Boralex will build on its history of providing funding that support local initiatives and charities near the Bid Facility. Boralex will pursue donation and sponsorship opportunities through consultation with the Town and community groups. During development, Boralex supported a capital campaign by the Tully Free Library.

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 Food 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.

For each of its projects, Boralex is committed to generating economic benefits in the host community. Strategies, such as the creation of a local suppliers register and hosting networking events to connect local businesses with the Project contractor prior to construction will be promoted. Boralex plans to work closely with the Town, the County, local economic groups and affected agencies to put in place these kinds of initiatives, and to determine the best timing, format, and locations for these events and materials.

Construction of the Project will occur entirely within New York State, and it will create about 50 jobs during construction. Earthwork, foundations, racking and panel installations, collector system and power connection to the substation and to the grid are examples of work that will be done exclusively in New York State, and Boralex intends to rely on workers from New York State to complete this work.

Local long-term jobs will also be created for the operation and maintenance of the Project. Ongoing jobs during operation may include, but not be limited to, road maintenance, snow removal, internet and IT maintenance, vehicle leasing and maintenance, and land maintenance.

In addition to direct job creation, the Project presents opportunities for local businesses to offer their services, including environmental consultants, engineering consultants, legal firms, hotels, restaurants and grocery stores. In addition to services, the Project will need to source material in New York such as, but not limited to, gravel, steel, concrete and sand.

Boralex will also reserve an annual budget for a donation and sponsorship program to support local initiatives and charities near the Project. This budget will be effective during the construction period and throughout the Project's operation. Boralex will solicit donation and sponsorship opportunities through consultation with the Town Board, community groups, etc.

Boralex will also promote the Project's environmental benefits by focusing on environmental stewardship and management during development, construction and operation. The environmental benefits to the Project area could include, but not be limited to, improved storm water management, improved soil fertility and increased pollinator habitat. These benefits will be shared with the local community and stakeholders through the communication materials and events described above.

During its operation, the Project will also increase tax revenues to the Town, Washington County and to the local school district. The exact tax payments have not yet been determined (see below).

7.0 PILOTs/HCA's

The Bid Facility is in its early development stages, discussions regarding payments in lieu of taxes and/or host community agreements have started in general. Boralex has reached out to the host community, and Onondaga County to initiate these discussions. Boralex anticipates these negotiations to occur in the next few months.

8.0 Local Interests

Borex 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. Borex 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.

Establishing harmonious relations with stakeholders has been a successful strategy for Borex. 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. Borex 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.

Borex 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.

The primary local interests, as provided to Borex during meetings with local stakeholders, landowners and the Town of Tully, involve economic benefits for the community, such as the

number and type of jobs created during construction and operation and the revenues to the municipality. The primary concerns raised to date are about traffic safety during construction.

These potential impacts have been and will continue to be considered throughout the development of the Project, and further discussions on the proposed mitigations will be pursued throughout the consultation process. Details on how we are addressing these concerns are outlined in the following section.

9.0 Mitigation of Concerns

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

Boralex includes view and sound surveys as part of our environmental assessments and works to avoid significant impacts on nearby homes and businesses. On visibility, Boralex meets with those impacted and works with the Bid Facility design team to alter the Bid Facility in ways to reduce the visual impacts. These upgraded designs can include three-season tree planting or using the natural landscape in determining where to place panels. For noise, 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. Boralex installs our single-track panel systems far enough apart that a tractor can drive between for traditional agriculture. We also work with local communities to determine opportunities to use the spaces between panels. Boralex convenes agricultural multi-use working groups to solicit advice on the best use of the land between and under the panels. Members may include landowners, farmers, local officials, farmland trusts, soil and water conservation agencies, cooperative extensions, and state agencies. This approach allows us to hear directly from those who know the land best, using their knowledge to inform our multi-use strategy, while also continuing to build our relationship with the host community.

For Sky High Solar, concerns raised by the community members and the planning board included:

Concern	Mitigation by Boralex
Traffic safety during construction	Given the geography of the area and windy road approaching the project site, members of the community were concerned about potential accidents during construction. Boralex committed to giving notice, putting up signage, and using a roadside flagger to alert drivers of changes in traffic pattern.
Drainage	Engineering consultants and internal experts established a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to manage the construction-related stormwater discharges from the project site.

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—(www.boralex.com/projects/sky-high) 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.

Conclusion

As this Community Engagement Plan highlights, Boralex approaches our host communities as a guest and strives to become a meaningful member of the community. We are proud of the relationships we have built with by addressing issues directly and openly and look forward to continuing to be a good neighbor for decades to come.