



# NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES START OF COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY AUDIT TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS AND THE COUNTY'S "CARBON FOOTPRINT"

Kingston, NY - (April 21, 2009) - Ulster County Executive Mike Hein announced today the start of a comprehensive, energy audit of all county owned buildings. The 3-week long audit process will be conducted by Siemen's Building Technologies and will identify priority buildings for energy efficiency improvements that will yield the greatest cost savings, along with the potential for renewable energy applications.

"Increasing efficiency and reducing costs for taxpayers are the main priorities of my administration", said County Executive Hein. "In addition, I believe the County has responsibility to lead by example by reducing our carbon footprint and encouraging the use of renewable energy whenever possible. This audit creates a win-win situation and will go a long way toward helping us reach multiple objectives." Hein added that he would like to commend the Ulster County Legislature, and in particular the Environmental Committee, for advocating for and initiating Ulster County's energy policy.

"I am very pleased with the County Executive's decision to move forward with these audits, which compliment and comply with the county's adopted energy policy" said Brian Shapiro, Chair of the Ulster County Environmental Committee.

The energy audit will also provide essential information that the County can use to best utilize the \$754 thousand of Federal stimulus money that has been allocated to it for energy efficiency and conservation improvements. *The audit and subsequent upgrades will be financed exclusively with future cost savings.*

Ulster County is one of only five Counties in New York State with an adopted energy policy. Ulster County's energy policy sets a goal of a 10% reduction in energy consumption. A 10% reduction represents a savings of approximately \$140 thousand annually in utility costs.

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