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CRP 5074
Fall 2009

**A Community and Economic Development Workshop:
Informing Local Policy Makers About Green Economy Choices and Investments**

**Tuesday 2:55-5:00pm*
211 Sibley**

With the ramp up of green economy investments because of local initiatives and state and national tax incentives, rural communities and small cities are being confronted with a new set of policy issues and decisions. How do they evaluate the desirability of wind power installations against other goods, such as tourism? What kind of zoning regulation is possible and appropriate? Is a biofuels plant a good idea? What kinds of jobs will it create? Can local farmers take advantage of the local foods movement?

The purpose of this workshop for is to inform local officials about what green economy investments mean for their communities and help them make wise and informed policy decisions. Depending on the size of the workshop and student interest we will develop policy briefs and internet resources in one or more of the following areas: wind power, biofuels, local food, and clean tech. Students will also be required to prepare a class discussion on one of the issues and lead a discussion.

The briefs will be five-six pages and intended for distribution to local policy makers through The Cornell Community and Rural Development Institute, Sustainable Tompkins, and the New York State Association of Counties and on a website, "Green Choices". A tentative title for the series is: What Local Policy Makers Need to Know About...(Wind Power, Bio-fuels, Local Food etc.)

During the semester we will do research on the problems local policy makers face as these investments begin to impact their communities and what resources, including model zoning ordinances and public processes) have been developed that might help them. We will look at the issue of NIMBYISM and at what can go wrong for policy makers and communities as they attempt to use investments to improve their local economies. We will look at all the issues during the course of the semester though policy briefs may only focus on one or two issues.

The workshop will meet once a week, though there will be additional sessions, some related to a conference on green jobs sponsored by Sustainable Tompkins and guest speakers.

A set of preliminary readings and web resources will be provided on each topic as well as a briefing template you can use to organize your work. Although the quality of research and ideas in the brief is important so is presentation and accessibility.

Prerequisites:

This course is open to Master's students who have taken CRP 517 (Local and Regional Economic Development Policy) or by permission of instructor. CRP MRP students will be given priority.

* Additional sessions will be scheduled as needed on Thursdays at 2:55.