



# Town of Warwick

## A Case Study

# Facts about Warwick

- Located in Orange County, 50 miles NW of NYC
- 104 sq. miles, 32,000 residents, Three Villages
- Largest Industry is Agriculture
- 8,000 acres of Black Dirt
- Over 4,000 acres of upland farms under land conservation easement
- Zoning that promotes preservation of critical environmental areas thru sound land use practices
- Promotes Sustainability

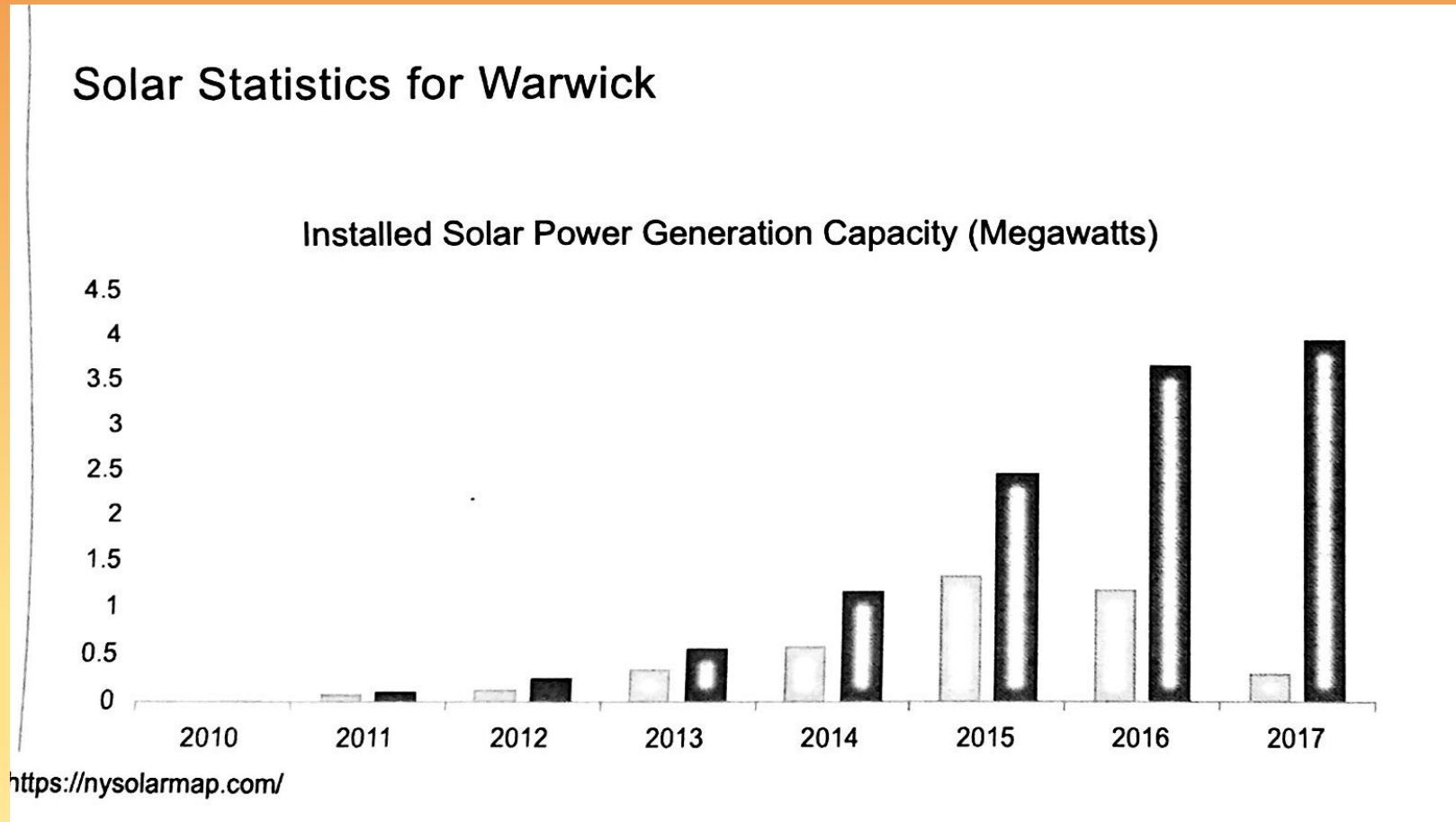
# Solar in Warwick

- In 2011 joined a working group with CUNY to develop the Unified Permit for residential solar. Early adopter in 2014.
- Worked to have Orange County adopt commercial PACE.
- Modified Comprehensive Plan with a sustainability section.
- Adopted zoning changes in 2015 to facilitate small, medium & large scale solar – small & medium require building review only using the NYS Unified permit
- Large scale – currently 15 acres or 60% lot coverage maximum-  
Special use permit – limited currently to AI, OI, RU zones of the Town
- In 2017 the 2<sup>nd</sup> NYS community to be designated a SolSmart Town

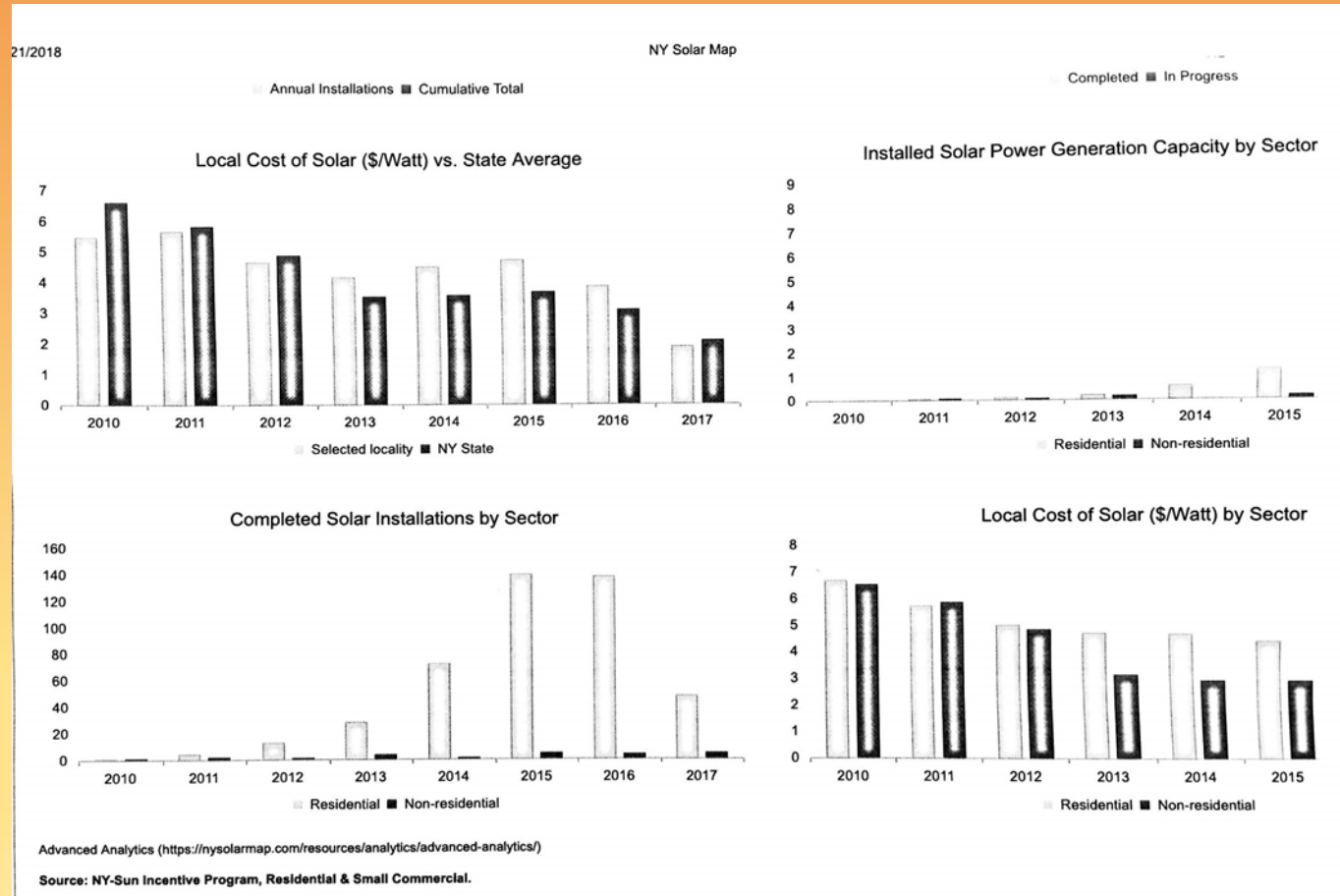
# Community Engagement

- Historically Warwick's citizens have been active in the Comprehensive Plan process.
- Warwick has always protected its rich natural environment
- Residents voted in 1999 to tax themselves \$9.5 million for PDR
- In 2006 successfully became the 6<sup>th</sup> community in NY to impose a transfer tax for land preservation –over 4000 acres preserved today.
- Partnered with a citizens group, Sustainable Warwick, to promote among other things solar development in our Town.

# Results



# Results (cont.)



# Solar in Warwick

Small & Medium Scale- Unified permit process is simple

Active Farms- simple permit for installation for on farm use only

Large Scale- >40,000 sq ft up to 15 acres or 60% lot coverage

- Requires use of Town's 4 step design process

- Identify and avoid Primary Conservation Areas – floodplains, wetlands & steep slopes

- Planning board will review Secondary Conservation areas for best placement

- Landscaping requirements to provide year round screening

# Solar in Warwick (cont.)

Fencing six (6) feet around utility meter & Location map signage for FD

Decommissioning plan required with appropriate bonding

Town requires a PILOT agreement as per RPTL section 487



# What's next in the Quest for 50/30?

- In 2018 Town held a forum on the future of solar in NY- NYSERDA, small, medium size developer and a large scale developer
- Wholesale or Commercial solar - Town holding a hearing on 4/08/18 to consider solar applications that would tie directly into high capacity transmission lines
- Promote & facilitate community solar projects in the community
- Develop microgrids for essential facilities
- Facilitate energy storage facilities in proximity to Commercial solar