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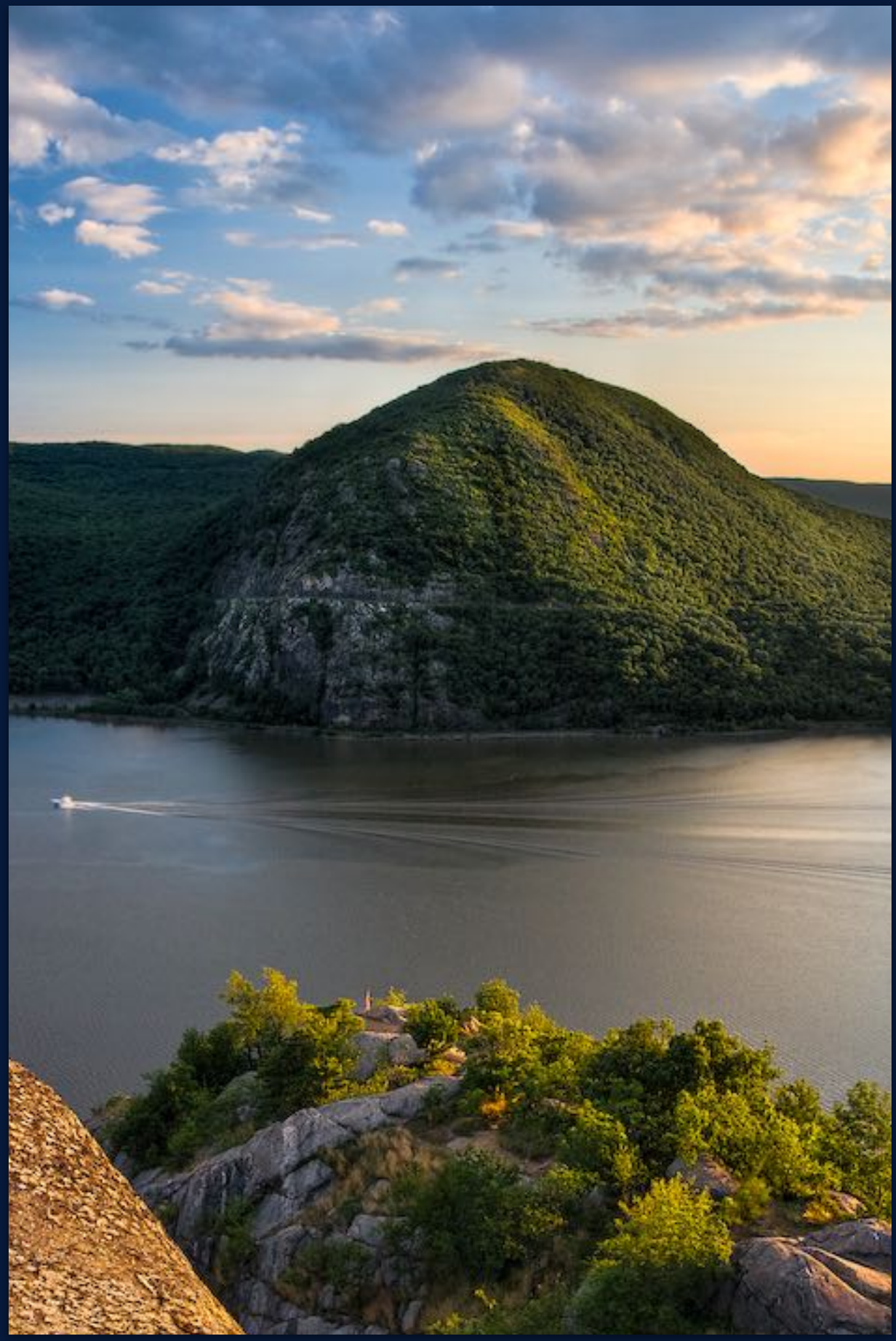
Clean Energy, Green Communities

A Guide to Siting Renewable Energy in the Hudson Valley

AUDREY FRIEDRICHSEN, ESQ., LL.M., SCENIC HUDSON

Scenic Hudson's Mission

"Scenic Hudson preserves land and farms and creates parks that connect people with the inspirational power of the Hudson River, while fighting threats to the river and natural resources that are the foundation of the valley's prosperity. "



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Vision for the Valley

A regional response to climate change must be powered by renewable energy

- sustainable, low-carbon region
- rapid transition
- protected scenic, historic, agricultural, environmental and economic resources

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"Smart from the Start"

Avoid conflicts at the outset to streamline review/approvals

- adopt clear principles/strategies
- avoid impacts to natural resources
- promote successful renewable development
- help achieve NYS "50x30" climate goal

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Prioritize Previously Disturbed Areas and Existing Buildings

- reduces development pressure on ag lands and open space
- reduces development impact of existing land use
- mitigates blight
- increases property values
- creates jobs

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Protect Agricultural Lands and Promote Co-Location

- large-scale projects appropriate when soils and farm facilities are unimpaired
- rooftop, small scale ground mount arrays or wind turbines appropriate for local energy needs

- solar installations can be co-located with ongoing farm operations

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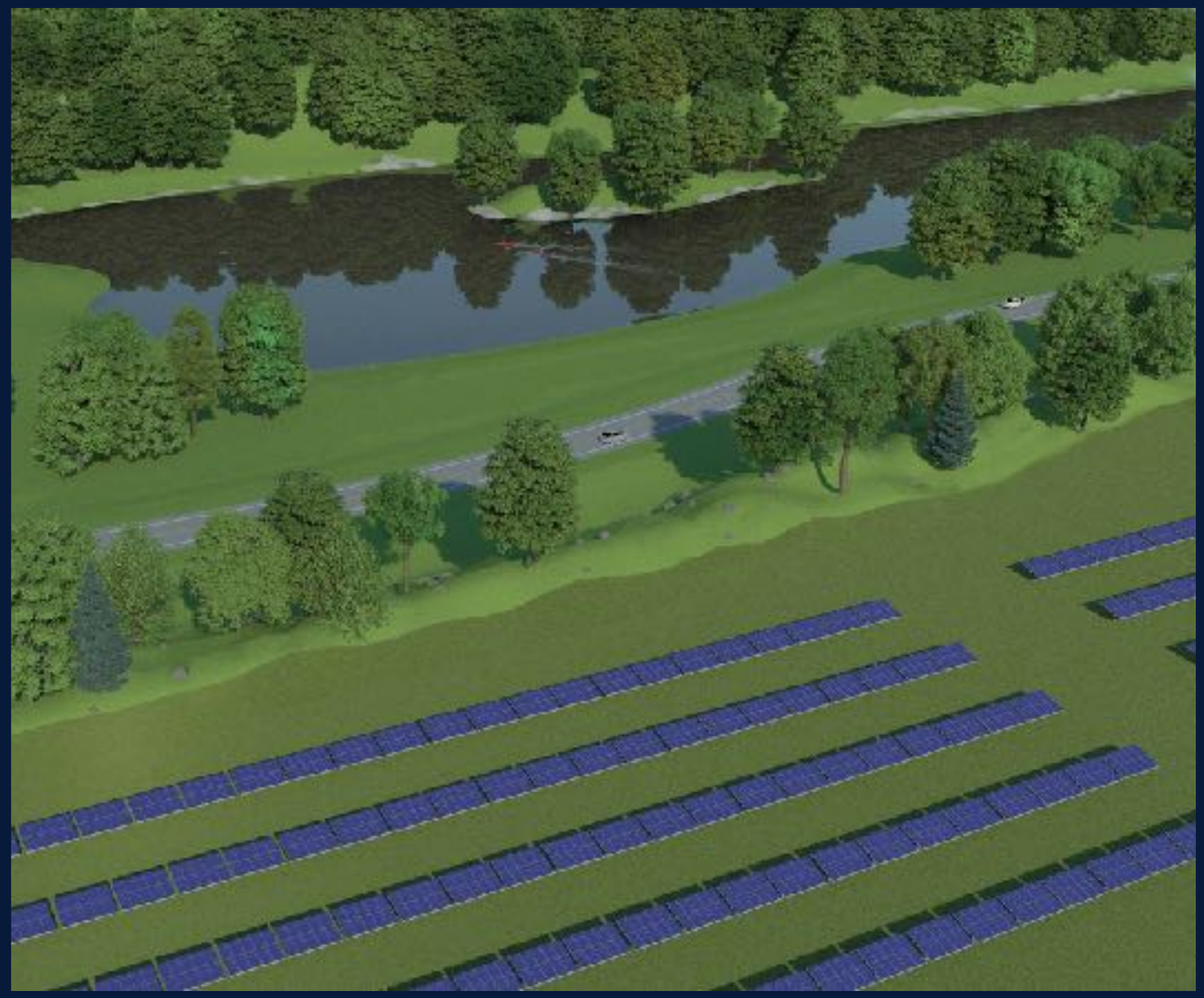
Protect Scenic Views

Renewable facilities and related infrastructure should avoid impacts on scenic resources/community character

- keep components at low profile
- use natural screenings and setbacks
- choose locations within areas of low scenic value



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Protect Historic and Cultural Resources

Small-scale, on-site installations can be appropriate for historic sites

- locate on non-primary facade
- recognize and reflect architectural lines/features
- avoid damage to historic materials/integrity
- allow future removal without damaging resource

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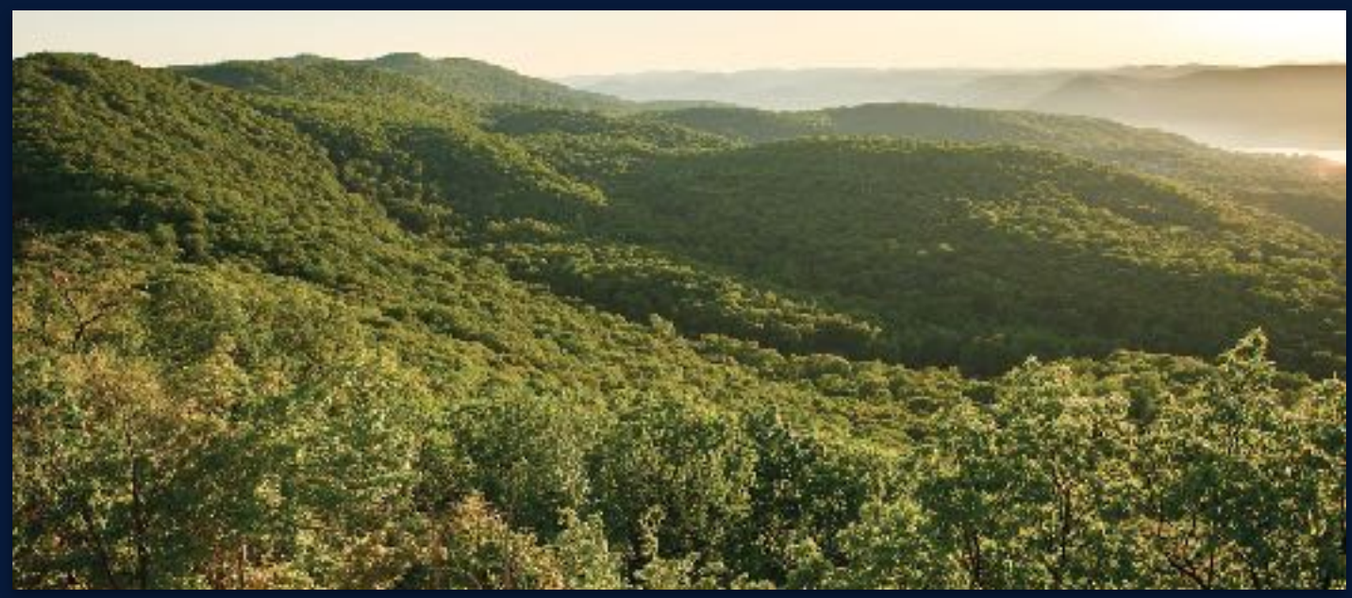
Protect Ecological Resources

Renewable energy projects should avoid sensitive environmental resources and other critical areas

- wildlife/critical habitat
- preserved open space
- streams/stream corridors
- wetlands/wetland buffer areas
- river corridors/floodplains
- ridgelines/steep slopes
- valuable contiguous forests



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Minimize Transmission/ Distribution Impacts

Priority should be given to renewable projects that do not require new transmission lines/ substations

- numerous high-voltage transmission corridors already impact the region
- community opposition to new or expanded power lines is widespread

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Adopt Best Practices for Construction/Operations

Projects should be developed and managed to minimize impacts

- protect soil and avoid new impervious surfaces
- preserve existing vegetation and plant native, pollinator-friendly species
- minimize noise
- ensure proper maintenance and operation
- plan for eventual decommissioning

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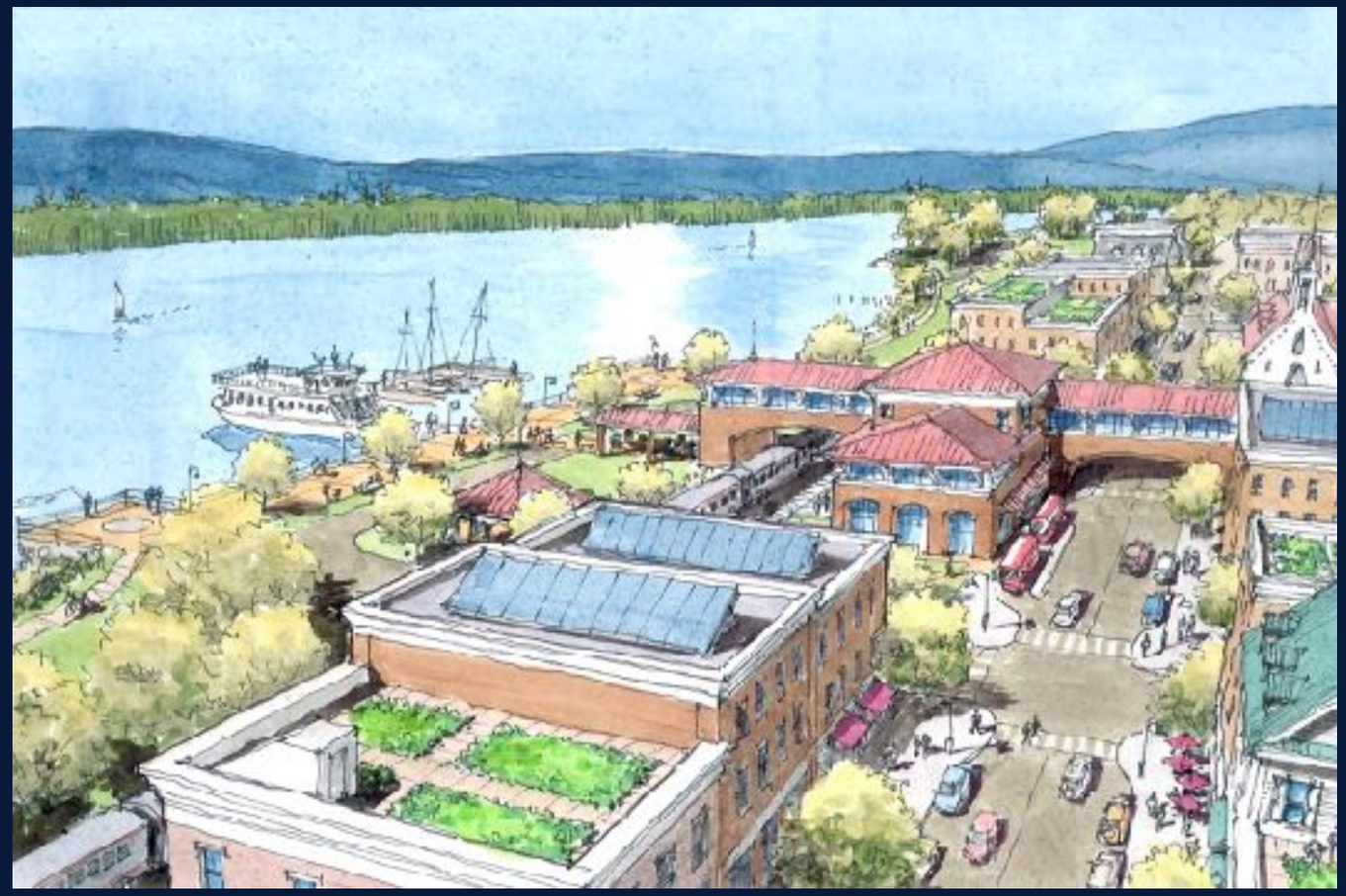
Promote Renewables through Planning & Zoning

- local comprehensive plans/ zoning laws should maximize appropriate renewable development
- municipal planning and zoning can promote clean energy while protecting important community resources
- proactively addressing renewable energy in municipal plans is vital to meeting renewable energy targets



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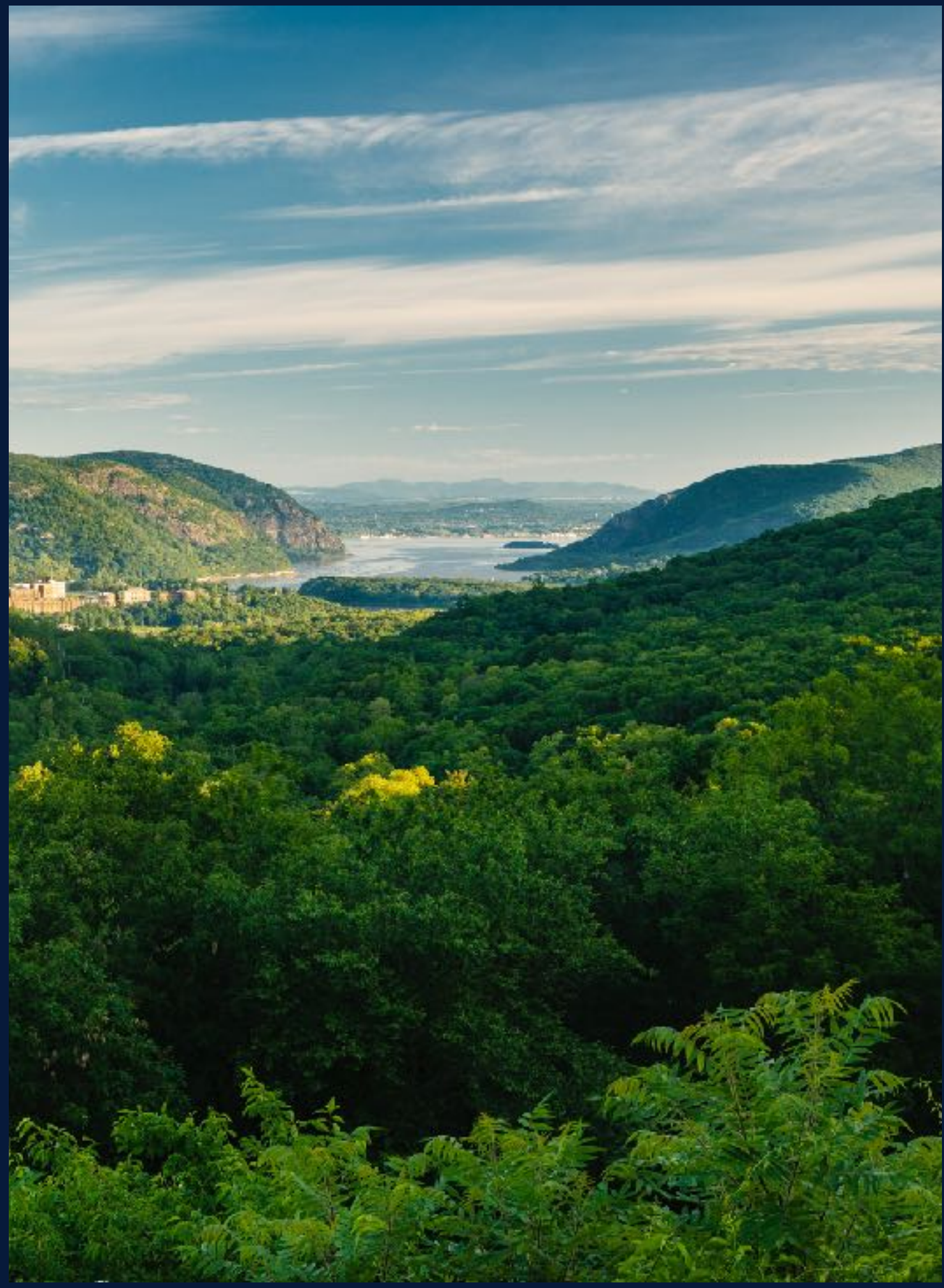
Landscape-level Planning for Renewable Energy

- larger scale planning can identify low-impact and low-conflict sites on a regional basis
- public and community input are key to reducing conflicts
- directing development to appropriate locations maximizes chance of meeting renewable energy targets



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