

Name: Robert Backus

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Organization: Omega Institute for Holistic Studies

County: Dutchess

Comment: Founded in 1977, Omega Institute is the nation's most trusted source for wellness and personal growth. As a nonprofit organization, Omega offers learning opportunities to more than 23,000 visitors per year. Five years ago, Omega set out to develop a non-toxic, sustainable, water reclamation facility to replace the aging septic system that supports Omega's 195-acre Hudson Valley campus and sits on top of the largest aquifer in the Town of Clinton, New York. The new Omega Center for Sustainable Living protects a fragile eco-system, serves as a community resource, and demonstrates ecological responsibility and green alternatives to standard construction. It is an innovative model for developers, architects, contractors, government agencies, ordinary citizens, and students. From the start, NYSERDA understood Omega's goals. Its programs included areas that could support the OCSL in important ways, and NYSERDA's funding added significance to this groundbreaking environmental facility.

Name: Joel Levitan

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Organization: Omega Institute for Holistic Studies

County: Dutchess

Comment: After five years of research and development, Omega Institute for Holistic Studies has just completed and now operates The Omega Center for Sustainable Living (OCSL), an innovative educational center slated to be certified as LEED platinum and to become the first "Living Building" in the United States. This facility in Rhinebeck, New York, combines the most technologically advanced green building and wastewater treatment technologies within a visionary year-round classroom and sustainability education center. It serves as the heart of Omega Institute's ongoing environmental initiatives, and as an environmental model that can be seen, understood, and replicated locally and globally to inspire a robust synergy between economic development and environmental sustainability. Omega has partnered with NYSERDA for over two years to find ways that its various programs could support this project and defray capital and financing costs. We are grateful recipients of funds associated with two NYSERDA programs.

Name: George Kaufman

Title: Director of Institutional Advancement

Organization: Omega Institute for Holistic Studies

County: Dutchess

Comment: Omega Institute is a participant in NYSERDA's Loan Fund Program. Funds have been set aside by NYSERDA to provide a lump sum to Omega's institutional lender in the amount of \$257,837 to implement select energy efficiency improvements in the new Omega Center for Sustainable Living. This payment materially reduces Omega's monthly loan obligation and substantially improves Omega's cash flow over a ten year loan term. In July 2007, NYSERDA welcomed Omega as a participant in the New York Energy SmartT New Construction Program in connection with the development of the OCSL. As part of that effort, in the spring of 2009, NYSERDA set aside funds to provide an incentive in the amount of \$209,920 for the installation of a 48.530kW, grid-connected PV system, with payment to Omega's supplier and installer. By defraying this significant cost, NYSERDA materially reduced the cost of one of this facility's critical aspects and reduced the funds that Omega must raise through private donations.