

Name: Nancy Norton

Title: President

Organization: Stone Quarry House

County: Tompkins

Thanks to the NYSERTA program my husband and I were able to install solar panels to supply electricity to our home and business in 2008. We will be paying off the loan for quite a few years, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we've prevented 20,633 pounds of carbon from being released into the atmosphere since our panels went into service a year ago. When I write my check for that loan every month, I think of the children who are exposed to that much less mercury from coal-burning power plants, of the lessened amount of coal mined, of the oil not purchased from countries that are hostile to the US (and have terrible human rights records), of the tiny contribution our household is making to addressing global warming and it's terrible consequences to those who are least able to respond to protect themselves . . . there are so many good reasons to support renewable power generation! The guys who installed our system are working, contributing money back to the community. But, my prime reason is my own beautiful two year old granddaughter who will be inheriting the world I leave behind. There are many New Yorkers, present and future, who are relying on your decision to empower them to do the right thing regarding supporting renewable energy with their own actions and their dollars. We couldn't have installed the panels without New York's generous assistance to get started. Please keep programs going to encourage the increased use of solar and wind power in New York State. Let people know how important both reduction of the use of power (through insulating, etc.) and the generation of clean power is for our communities, our state, our nation, and the world. Please keep these thoughts in mind as you draw up the State Energy Plan this year. It's a moral issue and we need to direct our resources toward protecting them for the future through a strong energy plan.