



Council Members

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**Murray Partners with EmPower Solar to Kick-Off
2013 Solar Power Student Competition:
Encourages High School Students to Recognize the Benefits of Solar Power**

Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray joins with EmPower Solar to announce their 2013 Solar Power Student Competition. The Island Park company is hosting an essay and video competition for Long Island and New York City High School Students to recognize the benefits of solar power through a multi-faceted competition that encompasses a combination of science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and creative components. The Town of Hempstead will host the competition awards announcement at its Energy Park in Point Lookout in August.

“I am thrilled to join forces with EmPower Solar to announce their 2013 Solar Power Student Competition,” stated Supervisor Murray. “Renewable energy is at the forefront of Hempstead Town’s agenda, and I am proud that our Energy Park, home to New York Institute of Technology’s Solar House, is one of the leading locations for energy innovation in America,” continued Murray.

Participants will be competing for an all-expense–paid trip to the U.S. Department of Energy’s 2013 Decathlon in California and a \$1,000 per person scholarship. Second and third place scholarships and awards are also being offered. The Solar Decathlon is a prestigious and highly competitive event that challenges 20 universities from around the world to construct and operate advanced solar homes.

“We launched this competition to challenge our region’s rising stars to think critically and creatively about our energy infrastructure, to learn about the near-term practicality and long-term promise of solar energy, and to promote teamwork and entrepreneurship. It also provides an opportunity to magnify the exposure of the Solar Decathlon competition, which we believe is one of the most inspiring and educational green building and solar energy events in the world,” stated David G. Schieren CEO, EmPower. “We are also grateful for the longstanding support of renewable energy by the Town of Hempstead and Supervisor Kate Murray, and for promoting this competition,” he added.

“This competition highlights the importance of renewable energy, especially solar energy, and is cultivating our next generation of clean energy leaders,” concluded Supervisor Murray. “We are proud to play a role in such a worthwhile competition.”



CAPTION (963TM-30): Supervisor Kate Murray (second left) joins with David Schieren (right), CEO, EmPower and Commissioner Ron Masters (left), Department of Conservation & Waterways, at Hempstead Town's Energy Park in Point Lookout.

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