Battery Energy Storage Systems Forum
Ask the Experts

Date & Time: **Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 7:00 PM**
(The regularly scheduled Town Board meeting will take start at 5:30 PM and will conclude before the BESS forum. Both meetings will be viewable on Zoom.)

Location: **Town of Gardiner Town Hall**
2340 State Route 44/55 Gardiner, NY 12525

About:
In April 2025, a private developer proposed construction of a 100-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on McKinstry Rd in Gardiner. That proposal has since been withdrawn. However, because Gardiner has both high-voltage transmission and lower-voltage distribution infrastructure present within our borders, it is possible that we will receive additional proposals in the future.

Under NYS law, if a developer submits a formal application for a construction project in a NYS Town, the Town is required to respond. As is the case with most Towns in NYS, Gardiner's local laws (i.e. the Municipal Code, available on Town of Gardiner website) do not currently address utility scale battery energy storage systems since they are a relatively new phenomenon. Consequently, the Town Board must now develop a local law defining what Gardiner will or will not permit in terms of battery energy storage, and where it would or would not be sited.

In an effort to inform Gardiner residents and to provide an opportunity to ask questions, the answers to which will help inform Town Board members in crafting a local BESS law, the Town Board has arranged a forum for 7:00 PM on April 14 and invited the experts listed below to speak. Please bring your questions so that Town Board members and residents can hear them asked and answered.

Speakers:
--Jeffrey Seidman, Associate Professor, Vassar College
--Ian Latimer, Program Manager, Clean Energy Siting, New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
--Dan Murray, Energy Safety Response Group (ESRG), Retired Deputy Chief and Chief in Charge of Haz-Mat Operations for FDNY (via Zoom)
--Eva Hoskin, Clean Energy Advisor, Subcontractor to NYSERDA