



ENERGY NAVIGATOR VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Title

Tompkins Energy Navigator

Description

Tompkins Energy Navigators are concerned and capable residents who help their friends, neighbors and other community members make environmentally and financially sound energy decisions by providing them with locally relevant, unbiased, research-based information and resources.

Energy Navigators receive training in understanding energy efficiency and renewables options for local residents, along with personalized support for their own home energy goals.

Responsibilities

Aside from participating actively in the training, Energy Navigators are responsible for hosting or attending at least one community meeting and helping at least two people with their energy decisions. A wide variety of activities can be used to fulfil these responsibilities, including:

- Talking with friends or neighbors about energy choices, and helping them with their priorities
- Supporting community campaigns around renewables and energy-efficiency, such as HeatSmart Tompkins
- Hosting energy dinner or block parties
- Speaking to town board or public representatives, or organizing a community presentation
- Participating in online energy forums or answering phone calls or emails
- Teaching an energy lesson plan in a school
- Doing research to update or create fact sheets and writing articles for the public

Tompkins Energy Navigators are also expected to:

- Keep track of community members' energy interests and progress towards their energy goals
- Represent at all times the high standards of Get Your GreenBack Tompkins and Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County
- Only disseminate unbiased, research-based information
- Help improve the Energy Navigator program by providing regular feedback

Expected Results

By applying their training to their own situation and helping at least two other people, Energy Navigators actively promote energy efficiency and renewables, and help Tompkins County

residents achieve greater comfort, energy savings, and help the community move closer to its goals to reduce its carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

Qualifications

- Basic interest in energy-related knowledge and skills
- Enthusiasm for helping others with energy-related questions and actions
- Reside in Tompkins County, or be well-connected to the area
- Ability to attend all training sessions and commitment to do related service work
- Ability to use the internet to conduct research required to answer basic energy questions with unbiased information
- Ability to communicate with community members in a responsible, helpful, timely, and cordial fashion, orally or written
- Ability to self-start and follow through on volunteer efforts with limited guidance

Benefits

- Acquire new knowledge and skills
- Reduce energy waste and help community members save money, and have more comfortable homes, including one's own
- Contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve teaching and leadership skills through community education
- Make a difference in people's lives through community service
- Forge new connections and work as a team with others who share similar interests

Training

Ten 2-hour sessions are held one morning per week in early spring. Classes are a mix of classroom presentations and discussions, led by Cooperative Extension educators and community specialists, along with hands-on site visits to homes in the area. Topics include energy efficiency, renewables, heating systems, energy audits, as well as outreach and community-building skills. Topics of transportation, waste reduction and local food will be treated in brief.

Following the training, there will be monthly Navigator gatherings to share updates, receive support, provide additional training, and enjoy each other's company.

Level of Background Screening Required

As part of the Cooperative Extension system, volunteers are screened in several ways:

- Application and reference checks
- NYS Sex Offenders Registry & National Criminal History check

Questions?

Contact Karim Beers, Get Your GreenBack Tompkins coordinator, at kwb6@cornell.edu.

Tompkins Energy Navigators is a program of Get Your GreenBack Tompkins, with the support of Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.