



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Marc Panepinto

## Senator Panepinto's Green Home Tax Exemption Bill Unanimously Passes State Senate on Earth Day

MARC PANEPINTO April 22, 2015

| ISSUE: **GOING GREEN**



*First piece of sponsored legislation passed by Panepinto*

**ALBANY, N.Y.** – Today, Senator Marc Panepinto secured a huge win for Erie County with the passage of his **Green Home Tax Exemption (S.3644)** bill. After its unanimous vote, he released the following statement outside the Senate Chamber:

“It is certainly fitting that on Earth Day, my first piece of legislation passed simultaneously addresses environmental responsibility and the crushing burden that is our property tax

climate. I am very proud to have gotten a bill through the State Senate, but I am even prouder of what it accomplishes. By authorizing a green home tax exemption in upwards of 35%, the State encourages the use of renewable energy and resources which will have a positive impact on our environment. In addition to promoting greener practices, this bill will also help our region prosper by incentivizing critical growth in Erie County's recovering housing market. As I head into the final 2 months of session, I look forward to fighting for more meaningful legislation on behalf of Western New York."

*Background information on S.3644:*

- *Establishes a Green Development Home Tax Exemption for Erie County.*
- *Authorizes a **35% exemption from local real property taxation for homes** that are part of green developments as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified or certified by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).*
- ***Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (<http://www.usgbc.org/LEED>).*
- ***Nation Association of Home Builders (NAHB)** is a trade association that helps promote the policies that make housing a national priority.*
- Buildings account for **41% of CO2 emissions** in the United States between commercial and residential. 33% comes from Transportation and 29% comes from Industry
- Buildings consume **73% of the electricity load in the US**
- Average LEED certified building **uses 32% less electricity** and saves 350 metric tons of CO2 emissions annually.
- Green Buildings **consume 25% less energy and 11% less water.**
- **Retrofitting just 1 out of 100 American homes** with water-efficient fixtures could avoid approximately 80,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of removing 15,000 cars from the road for one year.