

Village looks to get 'greener'

By ELLEN SHEFFIELD

The Village of Greenwood Lake is teaming up with a Monroe company that will recommend alternative "green" energy alternatives for municipal buildings and will offer discounted residential energy audits.

At Monday's village board meeting, Mayor Barbara Moore said the village is looking to save money and energy and use available natural resources. The company, Green Energy Act, is evaluating the village's potential use of wind, solar and geothermal energy and will help the village apply for federal and state funding.

Moore said possible "green" projects include solar streetlights, a green municipal parking lot and green municipal buildings and water treatment plant.

According to Guy Itzkovitch, national sales manager, Green Energy Act has set up a web site (greengreenwoodlake.com) for residents and/or business owners interested in registering for a home energy audit, for information or to submit green project ideas. The web

site can also be accessed through the village web site, villageofgreenwoodlake.org.

Itzkovitch said his firm is evaluating cost versus savings of potential projects. According to the web site, potential projects include rooftop solar panels, wind energy and geothermal heating and cooling for the village hall/firehouse, and police station/courthouse buildings, wind power for the water treatment plant and a rainwater garden around the municipal parking lot.

Itzkovitch said that green project applications must be submitted by the end of May to qualify for potential 90% grant funding that has become available to municipalities since the Obama administration took over in Washington. Also, most projects are eligible for federal and state tax deductions, tax credits or refunds.

Itzkovitch said discounts for audits and improvement projects would be offered to village residents. The discounted cost for a typical 3,000-square-foot home energy audit is \$450, he said.