

Dear Supervisor Turner and Members of the Environmental Concerns Committee,

Thank you for meeting with us today on Earth Day and giving attention to climate mitigation. We are asking committee members today to:

- Support forming a Working Group
- Doing town halls
- Consider one solar project example

As you know, Lisa Adamson and I are the co-founders of NCEA North County Earth Action and its CAT (Climate Action Team). We hope to collaborate with you on climate response in Warren County. We have stepped outside of politics with our work except to note that the current Administration is proposing severe cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency. Drastic effects of climate warming continue. This leaves climate mitigation policy (and action) up to New York State and its counties. I noted in my last talk that NY State has **not** stepped away from this responsibility and continues to lead on climate action through programs like the well-established Climate Smart Community (CSC) initiative administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSERDA) and the Dept. of Environmental Concern (DEC). The CSC program offers support and funding to municipalities for projects such as reducing emissions, improving flood resilience, and promoting clean energy. Citizens participate as members of a town's CSC committee. Glens Falls and Queensbury, as well as Warren County and Lake George, have already formed CSC committees and can serve as valuable models.

Lisa recently provided Supervisor Turner with a climate related information "checklist" that can help town leaders engage residents in local climate issues. There are many issues to consider. We'd be glad to help organize town halls to explore public concerns around heating costs, climate issues, and mitigation efforts. We propose forming a **working group** with members from this committee and citizens committed to climate action to explore these issues, prioritize local interest & needs, and recommend actionable steps. We especially hope that Horicon Supervisor Geraci and Johnsburg Supervisor \$ Bean might participate as their towns are candidates for CSC participation.

Overall, while the Adirondacks are resilient, climate warming is already making a significant impact on the region's natural environment, economy, and way of life. Efforts to address these changes, such as protecting natural habitats, promoting sustainable land use, and **reducing emissions**, are crucial for the future of the Adirondacks.

An example of reducing emissions that may spark considerable interest from town residents is **establishing a solar farm**. Financial incentives are available from NY State/NYSERDA for renewal energy projects. In brief (a working group would explore this further) this project could:

- Lower energy costs for residents – community solar models let residents subscribe to the solar farm and receive credits on their electric bills.
- Provide job creation & local economic boost – installation & maintenance jobs; long term the town may save on municipal energy costs!
- Provide environmental & conservation benefits – clean energy reduces carbon emissions, which helps protect the forests, lakes, and snowpack the Adirondacks rely on for tourism, recreation, and ecology.
- Give more energy independence – a local power source can stabilize energy supply and increase resilience, especially during outages.
- Address municipal revenue – if on town-owned land, the town gets steady income from the project.
- Enhance education and pride – solar farms make climate action visible and local; community members can take pride in being climate-forward.

You might check in with Lisa and me here after this meeting or discuss forming a working group later with Nancy Turner.

One more item:

There are climate-related bills underway benefiting our area in our state legislature. We would recommend for the next meeting a presentation by Michael Richardson, Co-facilitator of Third Act Upstate NY, to review and explain Climate-related legislation that directly impacts the North Country.

Michael Richardson serves as the co-facilitator of Third Act Upstate New York, a regional chapter of the national climate and democracy advocacy organization founded by Bill McKibben. In this leadership role, Richardson coordinates local initiatives aimed at addressing climate change and promoting renewable energy. Richardson has actively supported legislative efforts like New York's Climate Change Superfund Act.

Diane Collins

Lisa Adamson

4/22/2025 Earth Day

Possible suggestions for Supervisors to include in educational outreach and interaction with their community around climate mitigation and adaptation from CAT (Climate Action Team/North Country Earth Action, Diane Collins, Lisa Adamson)

Hopefully each municipality in Warren County, if not one already, could become a NYSERDA/DEC Climate Smart Community Committee or Clean Energy Committee.. Josh Dranoff, CDRPC (Capital District Regional Planning District) is most willing to meet with Supervisors to initiate this program. Matthew Smith at Warren County is chair of the Warren County CSC and a good resource.

One idea is that supervisors set up informal town meetings inviting their community to discuss concerns related to the impact of climate issues including extreme weather events, infrastructure needs (ie culvert and road conditions), health and medical impacts (ie heat stress tickborne disease), emergency preparedness, energy cost saving opportunities and discussion of reduction of community's carbon footprint.

Supervisors could provide residents information on:

- town comprehensive plans and codes
- HVAC, solar installation, solar farm participation, geothermal incentives/rebates, discounts
- audits and insulation information/opportunities
- advice on how to install what kind of renewable (there are experts available to come to municipalities and advise and zooms to explain this)
- grants and funding the municipality is eligible for and what is the municipalities priority as far as their fleets, vehicles, lighting, electric landscaping tools and renewable installations in municipal facilities
- reports, analysis and discussion on how municipal and county departments can line up with the values and requirements of the state CLCPA and discussion on how municipal and community energy consumption into line with the state mandates.
- share what their own and other municipalities and the county is doing as far as a climate related implementation for pollution issues, composting and recycling and
- Create a citizen climate task force to look at and support the Supervisor re:
 1. the financial and environmental benefits of each state climate bill and the benefits to the local population (ie the Repackaging Act, the Better Bottle Bill, the NY Heat Act)
 2. brainstorm about what needs to go into a consumption based community climate action plan and discuss the possibility of creating a community GHG inventory leading to a plan,
 3. update disaster preparedness