

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

445 DELAWARE AVENUE
DELMAR, NEW YORK 12054



RESOLUTION NO. 20

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethlehem believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change may negatively impact our infrastructure, economy, farms, food supply, ecological communities; encourage the spread of invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies; and pose health threats to our residents; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change may result in new opportunities that could save money, encourage the growth of livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Bethlehem, in order to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will, to the extent that actions can be taken that are consistent with good fiscal management of Town and taxpayer resources and are consistent with the Town's plans and goals as reflected in the Town Comprehensive Plan, pledge to take actions consistent with the goals outlined below.

1. The Town shall set a goal of combating climate change by participating to the extent practical and fiscally prudent in programs designed for Climate Smart Communities.
2. The Town shall investigate programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The Town shall take steps to decrease energy demand for local government operations, with a goal of reducing consumption of gasoline and reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels by no later than 2015.
4. The Town shall encourage the use of renewable energy for local government operations.

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5. The Town shall investigate opportunities to realize benefits of additional recycling programs and other climate smart solid waste management practices.
6. The Town shall, to the extent consistent with the Town's Master Plan, promote climate protection through its community land use planning.
7. The Town shall, to the extent practical and fiscally prudent, investigate, consider and plan for the effects of unavoidable climate change on Town infrastructure.
8. To the extent practical and fiscally prudent, the Town shall support green economy innovations.
9. The Town shall endeavor to inform the public about steps that they can take to reduce energy use and reduce climate change.
10. The Town recognizes that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving, and shall endeavor to remain updated on steps that the Town can take to reduce adverse climate impacts.

The foregoing resolution was presented for adoption by Mr. Kotary, seconded by Mr. Hennessey and passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Kotary, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Hennessey.
Noes: Mr. Messina.
Absent: None.

DATED: April 22, 2009