



**When:** Saturday February 3, 2018 – Fox Lane High School, Bedford, NY

**What:** There is an urgent need for immediate, local and regional action – from Westchester County to the Hudson Valley and Long Island – to create and implement solutions to Climate Change. Region-wide, elected officials play a critical role. The goal of the Summit is to facilitate government action at the municipal level.

The Summit will:

- Identify most impactful solutions available in this region.
- Reduce complexity of programs so that both elected officials and constituents can support them.
- Create easy steps for implementation.
- Arm elected officials with communication tools and strategies necessary to promote programs to constituents and address opposition.

**Target Audience:** Open sessions are targeted to individuals, elected officials, community, business and environmental leaders. There will be separate, invitation only, break out sessions targeted to elected officials and environmental leaders.

**Topics Relevant to Elected Officials will include:** (for a full list of programs, go to <http://bedford2020.org/climatesummit2018/>)

**How Do We Get to 100% Renewable Energy?** - A rapid transition to 100% renewable energy is critical to combating climate change. Municipalities now have the power to make our clean energy future a reality. Homes can be power plants, cars can be batteries and your community can produce local renewable energy. This session will explore how we as individuals and municipalities can control the prices, sources and usage of our own power. Topics will include regional solutions for community solar, rooftop solar, community choice aggregated energy purchases, electric vehicles, battery storage, innovations in demand response and more.

**Bringing Clean Energy Home: Community Choice Aggregation** Take control of your community's electric supply with Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). The opportunity to choose and bargain for your community's electricity supply is a game changer. CCA empowers your community to demand renewable energy, negotiate fixed pricing, reduce electricity bills, increase resiliency, and create a market for local renewable energy. This session will feature regional municipal leaders, energy experts and climate change activists to showcase the benefits of CCA, for your own municipality. Learn what your constituents are thinking - as well as steps to implement CCA in your municipality.

**Electric Vehicles – On the Road to a Clean Energy Future** - An EV is not just a car. It is the key to transforming our electric grid and shifting to 100% renewable energy. From clean transportation to battery storage to resiliency, EVs lay the groundwork for your municipality's clean energy economy. This session will explore challenges and opportunities to bring EVs to your municipality. Join us for a discussion with regional policy makers, clean energy entrepreneurs, and business leaders about vehicle fleets, charging stations and communicating about benefits, incentives and rebates for your constituents.

**Locally Generated Renewables: Take CHARGE** - You have the power to bring locally generated renewable energy to your municipality. Programs like Solarize, Community Solar, Geothermal and Demand Response put your constituents in charge of both the supply and usage of energy. This panel of regional renewable energy experts and program leaders will present solutions, new programs, and best practices in the region to give you the tools to bring local renewable energy home.

**Pollinator Friendly Solar** - This “big idea” will advance renewable energy, protect pollinators (bees, birds and more), and support local agriculture. Adding pollinator friendly native plants under and around ground mounted solar arrays has many benefits: reduces O&M costs for solar developers; increases community support for solar; protects pollinators; and increases productivity of adjacent farmland. Landfills with solar arrays can also benefit from this program. Panelists, including beekeepers, farmers, native plant experts, and solar developers, will explore obstacles, challenges, and overall benefits.

**Communicating about Climate Change** - How can we inspire the world to move the needle on Climate Change? We must capture hearts and minds and make solutions deeply personal. Leading-edge experts will explore the power of storytelling and other communication techniques that have been effective in moving individuals to action. The panel will also showcase creative ideas for messaging that will empower everyone seeking to mobilize the public.

**BEDFORD 2020:** [Bedford 2020](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve natural resources in Bedford, NY, communities throughout Westchester County, and beyond. Over the past eight years, Bedford 2020 has inspired environmental action by individuals, businesses and municipalities in the areas of: energy efficiency, renewable energy (CCA and Solarize), solid waste reduction, access to and consumption of local food, adoption of fuel efficient and electric vehicles, and water and land protection.

Bedford 2020 is hosting this Summit to leverage our past experience in piloting statewide programs, creating an extensive partner network, and connecting stakeholders to reduce GHG emissions. The goal for the Summit is to showcase successful programs and remove obstacles in order to achieve region-wide impact quickly and at scale. Our partners in this effort include NY League of Conservation Voters, Audubon, NRDC, Sustainable Westchester, Renewable Highlands, and Renewable Energy Long Island, among others.

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