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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit
Kicks Off Region Wide Climate Solutions**
Saturday February 3, 2018 – Fox Lane High School, Bedford, NY

Wildfires, floods and hurricanes are not the story. What we are doing about it – that is the story. New York State promises a 50% Renewable Energy Supply by 2030 and 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit will show us how to get there.

On February 3rd, Summit participants will consider a world in which every town in Westchester County, the Hudson Valley and Long Island has a 100%, locally generated renewable energy supply... all communities throughout the region have electric vehicle infrastructure... the pollinator crisis is solved by adding pollinator friendly plants to ground mounted solar arrays throughout the State... local school buses emit no diesel fumes, but are electricly powered, and their batteries generate revenue by providing battery storage over the summer... meatless meals reduce GHG emissions ...and more.

“The Climate Action Summit is for anyone and everyone who is itching to move the needle on climate change,” explained Summit Co-Chair and Bedford 2020 Co-President, Ellen Rouse Conrad. “This event will be laser focused on bottom up action to address climate change. We will share information about successful projects as well as the obstacles. The goal of the Summit is to create and promote a pipeline of projects to meet the goals of 50% renewable energy and 80% reduction in GHG emissions. We want to empower elected officials, individuals and communities to take action against Climate Change and see the tangible results from their efforts.”

The event will bring together policy makers, elected officials, climate activists and funders to drive solutions forward. Attendees will represent over fifty environmental entities and elected officials from Hudson Valley, Westchester County, and Long Island, a region that includes 11 counties, 314 municipalities and a population of approximately 5 million people.

Here's what you need to know:

I. SPEAKERS AND EXPERTS: The Summit will kick off with a call to action from two renowned environmentalists and influential leaders at the forefront of tackling climate issues:

- David Gelber, Creator and Executive Producer, *Years of Living Dangerously*, the award winning series on climate change and climate action
- David Yarnold, President and CEO, *National Audubon Society*

Other Climate Action Summit speakers include national, state and local leaders at the forefront of implementing or creating powerful climate solutions:

- Lynn Arthur, Chair, *South Hampton Sustainability Committee*
- Noam Bramson, Mayor, *City of New Rochelle*
- Chris Burdick, CEO, *Sustainable Westchester*; Supervisor, *Town of Bedford*
- Marcia Bystryn, President, *New York League of Conservation Voters*
- Paul Curran, Founder and Managing Director, *BQ Energy*
- Rob Davis, Director, Center for Pollinators in Energy, *Fresh Energy*
- Adriana Espinosa, New York City Program Manager, *New York League of Conservation Voters*
- Ron Kamen, CEO *EarthKind Energy*
- Brent Kim, Program Officer, *Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future*
- Katherine Nadeau, Senior Research Director, *Catskill Mountainkeeper*
- Will Nicholas, Senior Manager, Policy, *Tesla*
- Nina Orville, Director, *Solarize Westchester*; Principal, *Abundant Energy*
- Eric Pooley, Senior Vice President for Strategy and Communications, *Environmental Defense Fund*
- Karl Rábago, Executive Director, *Pace Energy and Climate Center*
- Michael Rauch, President, *Renewable Highlands*
- David Sandbank, Director of NY-Sun, *NYSERDA*
- Nathaniel Stinnett, Founder & Executive Director, *Environmental Voter Project*
- Brad Tito, Program Manager, Communities & Local Government, *NYSERDA*
- Luke Tonachel, Director Clean Vehicles and Fuels Project, *NRDC*
- Glenn Weinberg, Director, Joule Community Power, *Joule Assets*
- Dan Welsh, Program Director, *Westchester Power*

II. TOPICS: Each session focuses on a specific project to reduce GHG emissions and move us towards 100% renewable energy. The event will culminate with two, invitation only sessions at the end of the day, one for elected officials and one for environmental leaders to discuss action steps post Summit.

Sessions open to all attendees include:

How Do we Get to 100% Renewable Energy? - Tap into existing, high-impact solutions: community choice aggregation, locally generated 100% renewable energy, community solar, rooftop solar, electric vehicles, battery storage, innovations in demand response and more.

Bringing Clean Energy Home: Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) -

Forward-thinking municipal leaders, energy experts and climate change activists will showcase the benefits of aggregated energy purchases, current and emerging CCA models, and provide the tools you need to bring CCA to your own community.

Electric Vehicles – On the Road to Our Clean Energy Future - An EV is not just a car. From clean transportation to battery storage to resiliency, learn how EVs lay the groundwork for a clean energy economy.

Locally Generated Renewables: Take CHARGE - Programs like Solarize, Community Solar, Geothermal and Demand Response put YOU - the consumer - in charge of both the supply and usage of energy. Learn about solutions, new programs, and best practices in the region to let you take charge.

Pollinator Friendly Solar - This “big idea” will advance renewable energy, protect pollinators (bees, birds and more), and support local agriculture. Beekeepers, farmers, native plant experts, and solar developers, will explore this amazing opportunity for NY State.

Carbon Tax: What is it? Why Should I Care? What Can I do? - Examine the pros and cons, explore the major hurdles to enacting a carbon tax, and come away with specific steps you can take to support a NY State tax on carbon pollution.

Communicating about Climate Change – How can we create inspired messaging about Climate Change? And ways to address it? Communication experts will demonstrate the power of storytelling and creative ideas for messaging to mobilize the public.

Food and Fumes - Hear how a small shift toward plant-based foods has an outsized impact on our carbon emissions, and learn about a community-wide Meatless Monday campaign to eat more sustainably.

Reducing Food Waste to Cool our Planet - Explore ways we can promote better food policies to reduce waste and how individuals can divert food waste to feed the hungry, regenerate our soil, or be productively re-purposed.

Soil Regeneration: Storing CO2 and Feeding Us Better - According to scientists, we can reduce carbon emissions, sequester carbon in the soil and capture 100% of the planet’s current annual CO2 emissions. Learn about alternative agricultural methods that focus on soil health and carbon farming.

CO-HOSTS: The Bedford 2020 Climate Actions Summit is being co-hosted by New York League of Conservation Voters and Bedford Central School District.

SPONSORS: Curtis Instruments; Healthy Home Energy and Consulting; Betsy Davidson, J.M. Kaplan Fund; Ladle of Love; Rowan Energy Integration; Wizard Studios; Con Edison; New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: Summit attendees may choose to attend up to four sessions and the Expo. A sustainably sourced lunch is included in the ticket price of \$30. Register at bedford2020.org.

To register or for more information, visit <http://bedford2020.org/climatesummit2018> or contact Bedford 2020 at (914) 620-2411.

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BEDFORD 2020: [Bedford 2020](http://bedford2020.org) 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 played a leadership role in environmental action by individuals, businesses and municipalities in the areas of: energy efficiency, renewable energy (Solarize and CCA), 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 New York League of Conservation Voters, Audubon, NRDC, Sustainable Westchester, Renewable Highlands, and Renewable Energy Long Island, among others.

For more information, contact Midge Iorio, Executive Director, at (914) 620-2411 or midge.iorio@bedford2020.org

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