

**Resolution of the Town of Bethel Town Board to adopt
*Climate Smart Community Pledge***

Council member Lillian Hendrickson moved and Council member Denise Frangipane seconded that:

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel (hereinafter, the "Town" or "we") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments, which is due primarily to the extraction, production and utilization of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, we believe that the effects of climate change can endanger our infrastructure, economy, and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens;

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money while building livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthful and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures;

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

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

WHEREAS, in January 2008, the Town Board unanimously adopted a resolution expressing the Town's commitment to promote a sustainable future and implement a plan of action for the development of sustainable practices, including operating Town facilities in a sustainable manner, decreasing energy needs, increasing energy efficiency, and preserving natural resources, peace and tranquility for economic prosperity and the health of future generations;

WHEREAS, to assist in implementing the goals of the aforesaid resolution, the Town Supervisor appointed an advisory committee, whose efforts culminated in a report, "The Bethel Green Initiative," outlining proposed strategies and policy changes for the long-term economic and ecologic sustainability of Bethel;

WHEREAS, following a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ("NYSERDA") audit in April 2008, the Town undertook many of the energy conservation measures recommended as a result of such audit and joined the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance, all of which were important initial steps in reducing its energy costs; and

WHEREAS, in July 2013, the Town Supervisor designated an advisory committee comprised of local officials and community members to consider the Town's participation in the

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's "Climate Smart Communities" initiative, its adoption of this pledge, and additional measures that the Town could take to increase its environmental sustainability and lead the community by example;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Bethel Town Clerk will file a certified copy of this resolution with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Climate Change, 625 Broadway, Eighth Floor, Albany, NY 12233

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Bethel, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate and reaffirm its commitment to energy conservation and environmental sustainability, will

1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community

Set goals to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes. Establish a task force of local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action for consideration by the Town Board. Designate a point person who will oversee climate change initiatives and publicly report on progress. Work cooperatively with similar task forces in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another. As an official signal of commitment and for access to technical resources, sign on to a widespread climate campaign such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Portfolio Manager or ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - Climate Protection ("ICLEI").

2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action

Gather data, inventory GHG gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors. Develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them. Encourage stakeholder and public input and develop an action plan. Report emissions to a climate campaign such as The Climate Registry, which has developed a standardized method for reporting emissions inventories; use Portfolio Manager or ICLEI to track and evaluate progress.

3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations

Adopt a goal of reducing the Town's energy consumption from 2007 levels by 20% by 2020.

Existing Public Facilities. Inventory current building electricity usage and identify additional opportunities for conservation and efficiency retrofits. Obtain an updated energy assessment from NYSERDA, the New York Power Authority or other professionals. Consider actions such as purchasing energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as ENERGY STAR®; improving lighting, heating, and cooling efficiency; setting thermostats for maximum energy conservation; decreasing plug load from office equipment; and increasing pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems.

New Public Buildings. Achieve the highest practicable U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards or comparable sustainable principles, practices and technologies for all new local government buildings.

Infrastructure. Incorporate energy efficient technologies and operations and maintenance practices into municipal street lighting, traffic signals, and water and wastewater treatment facilities where practicable.

Vehicle Fleet and Commuting. Improve the average fuel efficiency of local government fleet vehicles. Discourage vehicle idling and encourage bicycling, car-pooling and public transit for employees. Consider reducing the number of vehicles, converting fleet vehicles to sustainable alternative fuels, and using electric vehicles where possible.

4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations

Supply as much of the local government's power, heat and hot water needs as possible from solar, wind, and small hydro through purchase or direct generation.

5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices

Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated by promoting backyard composting and educating residents on how to prevent waste. Provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces, require duplex printing in government offices, and implement, to the extent feasible, a comprehensive green purchasing program.

6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning

Combat climate change by encouraging low-emissions development that is resilient to climatic changes. When updating land use policies, building codes or community plans continue to advance the goals and objectives of the Town's Comprehensive Plan by including provisions to combat climate change; reduce sprawl; preserve and protect open space, biodiversity, and water supplies; promote compact, transit-oriented, bike able and walkable communities; promote infill development; minimize new development in floodplains and other environmentally sensitive areas; maintain or establish healthy community forests; and promote best forest management practices and encourage tree planting, especially along waterways, to increase shading and to absorb carbon dioxide.

7. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

Evaluate risks from unavoidable climate change, set adaptation goals and plan for adaptation. Identify climate change impacts (such as flooding, drought, and extreme temperatures) that could affect the community. Identify areas such as water supply and sewer infrastructure that may be at risk due to sea-level rise and future changes in climate. Factor risks into long-term investments and decision-

making. Execute climate change adaptation and preparedness measures through local government planning, development and operations, giving priority to the highest risk areas.

8. Support a Green Innovation Economy

Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans. Encourage workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate smart solid waste management practices. Procure climate smart goods and services for local government operations as may be feasible and in compliance with applicable laws and policies. Support modernizing of local and national electricity grids.

9. Inform and Inspire the Public

Lead by example. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions. Demonstrate the benefits of energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by hosting open houses; distributing fliers; holding local meetings; working with school districts, colleges, and universities to develop climate change curricula and programs; engaging faith-based communities in climate protection; and regularly communicating community climate protection goals and progress to constituents.

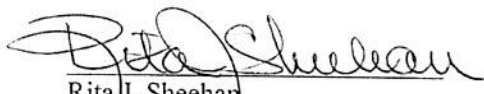
10. Commit to an Evolving Process

Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results.

State of New York
County of Sullivan County
Office of the Clerk of the
Town of Bethel

This is to certify that I, Rita J. Sheehan, Town Clerk of the Town of Bethel in the said County of Sullivan, have compared the foregoing copy of the Climate Smart Community Pledge Resolution with the original now on file in this office, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original and the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 15th day of November, 2013.


Rita J. Sheehan
Town Clerk of the Town of Bethel
Sullivan County, New York