

## PLEDGE – COMBAT CLIMATE CONTROL

WHEREAS, the **Town of Woodbury** believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms 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; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will

1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community:
  - a. Set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes.
  - b. Establish a committee of local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action.
  - c. Designate a committee chairman who will oversee climate change initiatives and publicly report on progress.
  - d. Work cooperatively with similar committees in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another.
  - e. Open an EPA Energy Star Portfolio for all town municipal buildings.
2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action
  - a. Gather data, inventory greenhouse gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors.
  - b. Develop quantifiable interim greenhouse gas emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them.
  - c. Encourage stakeholder and public input and develop an action plan.
3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations - Adopt a goal of reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels no later than 2015.
  - a. **Existing Public Facilities.** Inventory current building electricity usage and identify opportunities for conservation and efficiency retrofits. 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.

- b. **New Public Buildings.** Achieve at least minimum U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards (LEED Certified) for all new local government buildings.
  - c. **Infrastructure.** Incorporate energy efficient technologies and operations and maintenance practices into municipal street lighting, traffic signals, and water and wastewater treatment facilities where possible.
  - d. **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:
  - a. 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
  - b. Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community.
  - c. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated -- promote backyard composting, implement volume-based pricing and educate residents on how to prevent waste.
  - d. Promote reuse by organizing community-wide yard sales, and providing a space for drop-off or trade of reusable goods.
  - e. Provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces, require duplex printing in government offices, and compost food scraps and green waste.
- 6. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change
  - a. 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.
  - b. Identify areas such as water supply and sewer infrastructure that may be at risk due to sea-level rise and future changes in climate.
  - c. Factor risks into long-term investments and decision-making.
  - d. Execute climate change adaptation and preparedness measures through local government planning, development and operations, giving priority to the highest risk areas.
- 7. Support a Green Innovation Economy
  - a. Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans.
  - b. 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.

- c. Procure climate smart goods and services for local government operations and support modernizing of local and national electricity grids.
- 8. Inform and Inspire the Public
  - a. Lead by example.
  - b. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions.
  - c. Demonstrate the benefits of energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by holding local meetings; working with the Monroe-Woodbury Central School District 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.
- 9. Commit to an Evolving Process
  - a. Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving.
  - b. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed.
  - c. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results.

STATE OF NEW YORK                    }  
COUNTY OF ORANGE                 }  
  } ss.  
Office of the Clerk of the         }  
TOWN OF WOODBURY                }

I, Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk of the Town of Woodbury, Orange County, New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the above with the original pledge adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury at a meeting of said Board held on the 4th day of February, 2010, and that the above is a true and correct transcript of said original pledge and of the whole thereof, and that said original pledge is on file in my office.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that each of the members of the Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and that John Burke, Supervisor, and Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine, Frank Palermo and James Skoufis, Councilpersons, were present at such meeting, and that no member was absent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 10th day of February, 2010.



Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk  
of the Town of Woodbury  
Orange County, New York



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**From:** Kim Farrow (kxfarrow@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
**To:** townofwoodbury@yahoo.com  
**Date:** Wed, February 10, 2010 10:56:10 AM  
**Subject:** Certified Climate Smart Community Resolution

Hi Desiree,

Please fax a copy of the certified resolution to my attention at (518) 408-5752.

Thank you.

Kim

Kim Farrow  
Office of Climate Change  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233  
Phone: (518) 402-8311  
Email: kxfarrow@gw.dec.state.ny.us