

# The Western New York Environmental Alliance



July 2, 2021

Re: City of Buffalo Climate Smart Communities Action, Partnerships with Other Entities

The Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA) is a dynamic member-based organization that acts as a voice for the environment of the Western New York Region. The WNYEA is an active participant on a variety of community projects, partnering since 2019 with local governments in the Region to advance actions that combat the climate crisis. The City of Buffalo is a strategic partner in this fight, as the second largest city in New York State and the population center of our Region.

The Board includes an ex-officio seat for local government representation, filled since 2019 by Kelley St. John, resiliency grants manager for the City of Buffalo. Multiple board members also serve on the Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force. The intergovernmental collaboration offers counsel to propel initiatives forward like our Youth in Climate Justice Fellowship and Native Plants Campaign, and in return the Alliance advises on policy actions, such as developing a climate action plan.

A primary service offering of the WNYEA to its membership and the community at large is facilitating opportunities for engagement on joint topics of interest. WNYEA hosted its annual Congress in September 2020 to highlight ongoing climate action work amidst the hindrances of the coronavirus pandemic. The event focused on a panel discussion of climate justice with local government and community organization representatives and offered opportunities for additional engagement. Details about the event are available online: <http://www.wnyea.org/congress.html>.

In celebration of Earth Day this year, the WNYEA, through its subsidiary body, the WNY Youth Climate Council again brought together City of Buffalo and Erie County government representatives to speak specifically with the youth (under 25) population of the Region. The webinar on April 29, 2021 was open to anyone but focused on the important role of youth in guiding and implementing community-focused activities in response to the climate crisis. The Youth Climate Council was successful in their campaign to declare a

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*Chair*

**Jay Burney**  
*Advocacy Chair*

**Jessica Gilbert**  
*Secretary*

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*Treasurer*

**Lynda Schneekloth**

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**Richard Stockton**

**Brenda Young**

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climate emergency in Western New York through advisement and support of WNYEA members and the Board of Directors. The resolution is available [here](#).

Thank you for accepting this letter as demonstration of the partnership between the City of Buffalo and Western New York Environmental Alliance as we work toward advancing local and regional climate action.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Whitney". Below the signature, the text "John Whitney, Chair" is printed in a black serif font.

## *About the Western New York Environmental Alliance*

The Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA) is a coalition of over thirty member organizations across the region that are dedicated and committed to the environment and sustainability. These members represent non-profits working in transportation, food systems, energy, waste, habitat and social justice.

The WNYEA Board acts as the advocacy body to this collection of organizations. Their role is to coordinate membership engagements, advocate for sustainable development, and form unique partnerships between the membership that will holistically advance environmental causes in our region.