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Subject: CCAA March Newsletter
Date: March 6, 2026 at 8:39 PM
To: loreficer@gmail.com



Volume
Marc



Letters to the editor and feedback always welcome: news.ccaa@gmail.com

Musings from the President

Submitted by George Lorefice (loreficegj@gmail.com)





Photo provided by Roseann Lorefice.

With all the crazy stuff going on in Washington, D.C., it is hard to keep in focus our goal to re climate. But focus we must if we are to make an impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We continue to educate ourselves and others on ways to do just that.

We will continue to have educational tables at events around Central NY, keep an eye on MIT to relevant podcasts, attend seminars and the like. Our newsletter and missives through Action disseminate information to our members.

I have been reading about some positive developments around the country and the world lately. Bill McKibben often offers up these tidbits such as:

- Last year solar panels supplied more power to Texas's (yes that Texas) electrical grid.
- There is a proposed 21 giga-watt solar and battery project in California.
- Plug in Solar (Balcony Solar) legislation has been proposed in NY. The bill was introduced by Sen. Kruger and the Assembly by Emily Gallaagher.
- Utah is the only state so far who has approved Plug in Solar, but several other states are considering it.
- Several wind projects have been restarted after legal challenges were mounted and then withdrawn.

Is the Iran war about ballistic missiles or the oil that they have? Using solar, wind and battery storage is the equation.

I haven't heard a robin yet but know Spring is around the corner, so keep listening for its song.

From the Editor...

Submitted by Roseann Lorefice (loreficer@gmail.com)

CCAA is always on the front line, your eyes and ears for issues relating to the environment. We share via this newsletter, networking with other environmental groups in our efforts to advocate our thoughts and efforts via this newsletter by contacting us at news.ccaa@gmail.com.

A new initiative on our part is a column called **"Solar Scholar."** Do you currently have solar?

you have questions about it? Our “scholar”, Kevin Nickels of Nickels Energy, is ready to assist you. Finally, Happy Spring! Let’s stay positive and look forward to Earth Day.

Announcements

NYS Climate Connection Summit. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has announced that registration is now open for the NYS Climate Connection Summit. This is an in-person event where local government interested in climate action planning can connect with peers from across NYS.

This free event is taking place in Utica, NY from June 10 – 11, 2026. For more information and

Energy Symposium. Remember to [REGISTER](#) for the Twenty Second Annual Energy Symposium held on April 17, 2026 at the SunyESF Campus Gateway Building in Syracuse. Top speakers on renewable energy topics will address vital issues as the demand for more energy is rapidly increasing. It is crucial that we focus on capturing the energy produced by such sources as wind and solar that can be used when needed.

DID YOU MISS THE BOOK REVIEW? On February 19, 2026, Genevieve Gunther, author of “The Book of the Dead” discussed her book on a zoom call available to CCAA members. You can access the recording

DATA CENTERS PANEL DISCUSSION. [Sustainable Finger Lakes](#) (SFLX) is hosting a panel discussion with Assemblywoman Anna Kelles, sponsor of the moratorium bill in the Assembly; Eric Weltman of Water Watch, who helped push for a moratorium in NYS; and Aimee Caffrey, member of the group protesting the creation of a 400 MW hyperscale AI data center on the shores of Cayuga Lake. Join the ongoing moratorium in Lansing and will launch the next phase of the FINGER LAKES FOREVER [NOW](#) for this webinar.

On February 28, 2026, Sustainable Finger Lakes under the guidance of Peter Bagdaglio, will discuss **nuclear energy**. Anne Rabe (annerabe@msn.com), Mark Dunlea (dunleamark@aol.com) (kate@kressmannkehoe.com), and Eric Dawson (eric.scott.dawson@gmail.com) shared their views on both sides. If you missed this robust discussion, you can [ACCESS THE RECORDING](#). The production is 18 lbs!!!!

DONATE





For the past 10 years, CCAA has worked to inform and educate the public on many climate issues. We announce that this year we were able to attain non-profit status! That means that YOUR donations are deductible!!

Will you help us do more?

Your contribution now will help us in many ways: paying fees to climate events, supporting our office supplies, purchasing a tent for tabling events....and the list continues.

It's easy! Just click and donate [RIGHT HERE!](#)



UPDATE: what's happening.

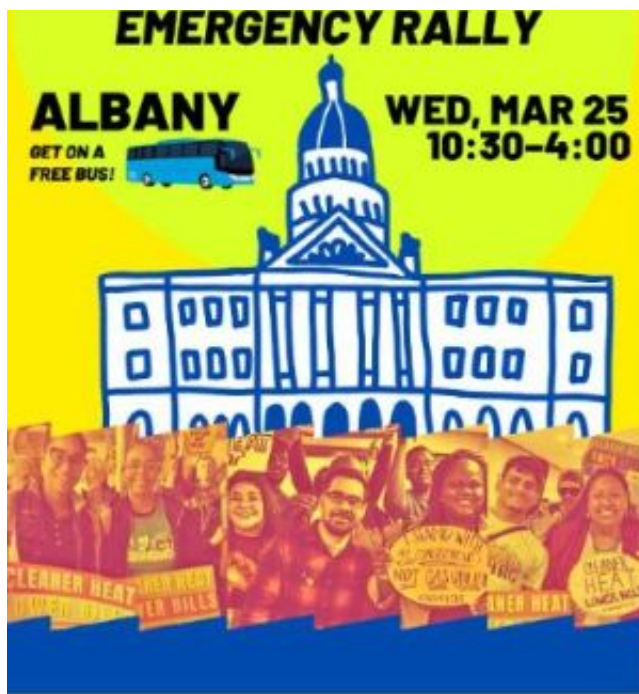
- Micron has announced that it will pay the entire cost of an industrial wastewater treatment plant that Onondaga County is building for the chipmaker's planned factories in Clay.
- March 7: Community Town Hall at the Southwest Community Center, Syracuse, NY. 3:00-5:00 PM
- Micron has petitioned the Town Board of Clay for a noise ordinance waiver.
- The Onondaga Legislature has approved a new district for Micron's industrial zone to ensure transparency.

It's Time to Defend Our Climate Law

Submitted by Andra Leimanis, AGREE Program Director (andra@agree.org)

DEFEND OUR CLIMATE LAW

On February 25, Governor Cuomo signed [alarming signals](#) that the Governor's landmark Climate Law. are



environmental justice, an executive branch released a law's "likely costs."

However, the state's best bet is to transition off the coal affordable, clean heat and energy budget. Read the [Renewable statement](#) and [the letter signed](#) calling on the legislature to find ways to undermine our Climate Law.

We must stand together to defeat Citizen Action, NYPIRG, Allia Civil Liberties Union and so on, including State Senator Racine Stirpe for a press conference

WHEN: Friday, March 6, 2020

WHERE: Salt City Market - 130 Salina Street, Syracuse NY 13202

Then, help us keep up the momentum by attending the **Defend the Climate** rally in Albany on Wednesday, March 25th, at the corner of our state to protect our future. [Register today](#) to receive updates on the free bus. Please share this post across New York!

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 2020

WHERE: 3rd Floor Terrace in the Albany County Courthouse, 198 State Street, Albany, NY 12242

Deeper Shade of Green: An Update

Submitted by Chris Bolt, WAER Senior Reporter, Professional in Residence and podcast host (

Thanks go out to the members and leaders of CCAA for helping the [Deeper Shade of Green](#) podcast or so. We hit the 30-episode mark in February. Over that time, we have covered topics from energy and myriad waste and recycling issues impacted by government policies on various environmental

Among the episodes and topics that have stood out are editions that described the impact of climate change on communities. We learned about not only the [massive power needs](#) and suggestions to address the [that could drive policy and innovation](#). One of the core principles of **Deeper Shade of Green** is to focus on issues and solutions. A pair of episodes on carbon offsets explained [how they can be effective](#) and [puts those investments to work](#) for the environment and social justice.

Producer Hector Perez has been instrumental from the start, finding guests, researching

Green tips. Some of his favorites include an episode on [Green Jobs, with Climate Power](#). He led projects that create jobs, but the places in which they grow, such as Tennessee, Texas and topics. One covered the [legal avenues to challenge many of the environmental rollbacks](#), address EPA-level issues, but also local concerns such as water quality and public health.

We thought it important to cover alternative energy. And started with an episode on [Wind](#) the emission free power, but also the job creation the wind turbine and offshore wind industry focused on [battery storage](#), an issue that has seen some controversy in Central New York with locating such facilities near residential areas. Bill Acker of the New York Battery and Energy Storage explained the important role technology plays in grid efficiency. More recently, an episode on the history of that ground-breaking facility, its educational benefits, and the distaste for energy projects in the same area.

Looking ahead, we have episodes on Electric Vehicles, their adoption and future, as well as the crisis, recycling challenges and the wide-ranging impacts of waste, as well as policy coordination development and environmental protections. Thanks again to all who listen and share **Deep** are always welcome!

March Rally for Climate

Submitted by Ethan Gormley, Climate Action of New York (egormley@citizen)

On March 10th, New Yorkers from every corner of the state will converge on Albany for a mass mobilization to demand that Governor Hochul do her job and protect New York communities from ICE raids, sky-high costs, and the existential threat of the climate crisis. RSVP to join NY Renews, Make the Road, and Invest in Our New York for a huge day of action to Defend New York! While the federal government cuts essential services, this Governor continues to prioritize big corporations and the status quo over working people. We are done being told to accept scarcity while corporations profit and our communities suffer.

This moment calls for unity. Climate, housing, immigrant, health, and economic justice movements are coming together to show Albany what collective power looks like. We are standing as one to demand a New York that is sustainable, affordable, and safe for all.

RSVP to join us in Albany on March 10. Buses will be traveling from multiple regions across the state to bring people to Albany, because when we move together, we win together.



Heat Pump Research at Syracuse University

Submitted by Peter Wirth, CCAA Vice President (pwirth2@verizon.net)

Last year, CCAA welcomed **Ian Shapiro** from **Syracuse University**, who shared insights from his research on climate heat pump performance. We are pleased to report that this work continues to advance.

Professor Shapiro is beginning a new phase of monitoring the EPHOCA room heat pump installation. Data collection is now underway, with comprehensive results expected by next winter. At the suggestion of a Goodfellow, the research team will also evaluate a new competitor to the EPHOCA — the Desco. To gather preliminary performance data on both units before the end of this heating season. Once the data should provide useful early insights, more rigorous cold-weather testing will likely take place in the future.

In addition, Ian and his students continue laboratory and field testing of a variety of split-system heat pumps. Recently received a significant boost through a new project award from **New York State Development Authority** (NYSERDA). This project will support expanded lab analysis and research aimed at identifying practical strategies to reduce heat pump energy use, particularly during challenging winter conditions.

The team has also submitted a new research paper examining heat pump defrost cycles and energy consumption — an important area of study for improving cold-climate efficiency.

Encouragingly, one monitored installation in Syracuse successfully heated a home throughout the winter without relying on electric resistance backup heat. We view this as very good news and a promising sign for this research progress.

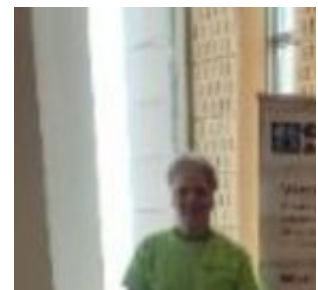
Editor's Note: Ian Shapiro is Associate Director of Building Science and Community Programs, and a recipient of the Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems.

Youth Summit Report

Submitted by Jim Doherty (jdoherty492@gmail.com) and Ken Johnson (kmjohnson717@msn.com)

Do you know how much carbon dioxide is produced by combusting one gallon of gas? Over 50 students who recently attended the Youth Summit Conference at SunyESF were challenged to find out!

Directed to the answer, the students then referenced a handout with the graph showing the global temperature rise making the connection with all that production of



combusted-gas CO₂. And then they discussed the resultant impact of that on our environment.

The students who participated and the adults who accompanied them were surprised by the answer and were more engaged in learning from the handouts that CCAA made available.

Editors' Note: Do YOU know the answer? Find out in our Announcements column! Please note that CCAA members Jim Doherty and Ken Johnson are providing important information to the public at a tabling event at SunyESF. Their materials and banner explain who we are and what we do and educate the public on how to help the climate.

YOU can help us in our mission! Your donation to CCAA funds these events and materials.



CCAA Welcomes Volunteers



Photo provided by Milane Morange



Photo provide

CCAA is always excited when more volunteers join our effort. **WELCOME** to **Milane Mor** Oswego. Milane has a background in psychology and Human Development and experier diverse ages and backgrounds.

She recognizes that this has strengthened her communication skills and she is committed t environments. She is passionate about protecting others and the environment and says, "I b to ensuring the well-being of both present and future generations."

Milane plans to use her skills to help us with graphics and some marketing. She will be a grea And **Haley Clarke** has joined our ranks to help in our efforts with marketing and PR. A 2025 with a concentration in geoscience, Haley is now studying urban planning with a focus on en She is deeply committed to climate action and credits a semester abroad in New Zeala

formative years. When she isn't focused on environmental advocacy, she enjoys practicing yoga outdoors.

Micron: Time to Make Some Noise

Submitted by Dr. Sonia Kragh, CCAA Sustainability Chairperson (sykragh@)

Micron has asked the Town of Clay for a variance to its noise ordinance in order to run the radio at the town board meeting agenda on March 2, 2026.

Reading between the lines, if granted, this would give Micron permission to operate construction equipment for 15 - 20 years! Impacts to Clay and surrounding communities would include not only noise but also air pollution.

These impacts were not adequately studied in the environmental impact statement. As a physicist, I am concerned about potential harm to all living beings with 16 - 18 hours a day of construction activity with heavy machinery and industry will ask for the same variance in order to serve the needs of the construction site. The noise ordinance will be no longer.

I urge concerned residents of Clay and anyone along the transportation corridors to show up on Monday to comment on this agenda item. Micron should not run our lives.

"Time to make some noise."



Editor's Note: Meet Kevin Nickels, our local solar expert! Kevin is the Vice President at Nickels Energy Solutions, LLC, committed to bringing solar energy solutions to homeowners and business owners in New York. He will give us some insight on solar trends and answer common questions about transitioning to solar in the section below!

Hi! I'm Kevin Nickels. I am the Vice President and co-owner of Nickels Energy Solutions, LLC. I have provided property owners in Upstate NY with solar estimates, advice and education. If you are already a solar customer, feel free to contact me about maintenance, troubleshooting or removing/reinstalling the system. If you do not have solar, please take a moment and send me your questions. kevin@nickelsene.com

Q : Are solar panels recyclable ?

A : Yes, solar panels are almost entirely recyclable. But it's not a widespread concern for existing solar panels. It will be a much bigger issue in the 2030s, 2040s, and beyond. I say that because one of the

will be a much bigger issue in the 2030s, 2040s, and beyond. I say that because one of the biggest concerns surrounding solar panels surrounds their longevity.

Solar panels typically have a 25-year performance warranty -- but they will perform reliably w/o degradation over time, but the panels being sold today are expected to perform at about 90% of original capacity. So, the degradation is very minor.

However, sometimes a solar array (a group of solar panels) may get damaged and need to be replaced. If that occurs, recycling is absolutely an option. Each solar panel is covered in recyclable glass and metal frame. Besides the glass and aluminum, the junction box(es), metals and cell materials can be recycled. A company called "SolarCycle" already recycles over 100,000 solar panels per year. The raw materials can be used in the supply chain for the solar industry or other industries that need them.

Legislative Update

Submitted by Jan Kublick

New York has one of the nation's most ambitious climate plans and mandates to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. The goals in our climate law are being undermined and attacked by the Federal Administration and its political allies, both locally and nationally.

The EPA's cancellation of the 'Endangerment Finding' is the biggest national news. This finding required the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases and stated that greenhouse gases caused global warming and posed a threat to national public health. The Trump EPA repealed it essentially arguing that climate change is a global, not a national, problem, the U.S. contribution to it is relatively small. This is an argument that is being pushed by the U.S. in our extremely conservative Supreme Court. The U.S. is by far the largest per capita contributor to global warming. The current administration is trying to increase greenhouse gas emissions here and worldwide (via the U.S. House of Representatives). It's not a pretty picture.

So, what can a group of upstate New Yorkers do in the face of all this?

1. **Vote**, and be sure that everyone you know does too. We have a huge opportunity to advance our renewable energy goals and policies in November. The Governor is facing pushback, and wavering on his goals. Affordability and utility bills are being used by fossil fuel interests and their political allies to undermine our goals. Even though renewable energy is the best way to make electricity. Paired with battery storage, we can meet the expected increase in demand you are likely hearing about in the news.
2. Support renewable energy deployment wherever possible. That means going to local wind resources and speaking up for the cheapest, cleanest means of putting more renewable energy on the grid.

when electrifying cars and heating and cooling by heat pumps is ramping up, lowering

3. See #1 above.

Good News



Make Your Own Electricity? States weigh bills to allow you to make your own electricity. You
We (CCAA) now have an expert to answer your solar questions. Check out our new column, So

Not so good News



The Trump Administration has overturned the Endangerment Finding, the EPA action esta
are harmful to public health and welfare. The move was paired with eliminating limits on c
trucks, and could quickly be followed by steps to overturn limits on power plants, industrial
our country backwards in time, raising families' costs, and putting millions of people at risk.

Coal Power? The Trump administration has ordered the Pentagon to buy more coal-fired ele

Environmental Calendar...



March 6, 2026. 11 a.m. Salt City Market Community Room, 484 South Salina St., Syracuse,
Law Press Conference."

March 7, 2026. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Community Town Hall. Micron Discussion. Southwest Com
Syracuse, NY.

March 9 2026. Zoom Webinar: "Plastics and Environmental Justice " 6:30 n m A conversat

March 7, 2026. Zoom Webinar: "Plastics and Environmental Justice, 6:30 p.m. A conversation about our community and what we can do about it in NYS. FREE. [Register Here.](#)

March 10, 2026. Rally in Albany, NY. 10:00 a.m. "Defend NY, Fund Our Future."

March 12, 2026. Zoom Webinar: "Hold the Plastic: How to Get this Toxic Material OUT of S [Register Here.](#)

March 19, 2026. 6:30 p.m. UCAN Meeting. Cazenovia Public Library. AGENDA: Isabel Wilsc and Planning Board. TOPIC: "Climate Vulnerability." And Anne Saltman, "2025 Cazenovia Clim

March 25, 2026. "Defend the Climate Law Mobilization." 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 3rd Floor 1 Building, 198 State Street, Albany, NY 12210.

April 17, 2026. Twenty second Annual Symposium on Energy in the 21st Century. 7:30 a.m Gateway Building, Syracuse, NY. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

April 24 – 25, 2026. OCRRA Earth Day Litter Cleanup. [REGISTER NOW.](#)

April 25, 2026. **Cazenovia Earth Day.** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Burton Street School, Cazenov Vendors. More information to follow.

June 10 – 11, 2026. 2026 New York State Climate Connection Summit. Delta Hotels, 200 Ge for the summit, view the tentative agenda, and browse important resources for attendees, free for all attendees.

Links Articles of Interest

As Micron becomes a reality in Central New York, there are ongoing concerns about its neighborhood where it is located. Neighbors have bonded together and continue to express to the Editor by the group leader, Bonita Siegel, raises legitimate concerns. You can access it [I](#)

Help CCAA's Mission : Purchase a

From the beginning, CCAA has focused on its mission to inform and educate the public environment in the face of climate change. Our organization sponsors events that bring this your help.

Volunteers offer time and energy but the reality of the costs of providing materials, sponsoring attending tabling events, maintaining our website, etc. have mounted and so we're reaching out. Purchasing a CCAA t shirt not only supports our efforts but promotes more awareness even online at [THIS SITE](#).



Image provided by Michael Lorefice

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

NY Renews Youth Committee Opportunity

NY Renews is a coalition of over 300 organizations fighting for climate justice in New York S

on a budget campaign demanding NY State invest \$15 Billion in the budget this year for climate

Within NY Renews, the Youth Committee is a space mostly for high school and college students, moving towards bi-weekly trainings followed by community organizing to support our campaigns. Joining is a great opportunity to level up your organizing, learn about campaigning, and get involved in the movement.

We meet every other week with additional time on projects for those interested. If you're interested, fill out the sign-up form so we can get more info about your interests and experiences (it's not too late to hear from you!)

[Here's the form to sign up!](#)

FOLLOW US



We encourage you to follow our social media accounts to support CCAA and stay up to date on the latest news.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)



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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Legislative: Jan Kublick

Membership: Ken Johnson

Micron: Jan Kublick and Sonia Kragh

Newsletter: Roseann Lorefice

Sustainability: Sonia Kragh

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