



Climate Change Awareness & Action

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“The sun is the only safe
nuclear reactor!”

--Don Hughes

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

Musings from the President

George Lorefice (loreficegj@gmail.com)

Fall has arrived and CCAA keeps rolling along with our mission of awareness and action. To provide information to the public we had been busy in September. Our **Sun Day!** Celebration went over well from a logistics perspective, but attendance was damped down with the rain. Old Sol didn't show its presence but all in attendance had a good time with the tablers, the musicians and the ice cream. A thank you to all that participated and attended! We were present with a table at several events in CNY: Fayetteville Party in the Plaza, Minoa Festival in the Park, Manlius Swan Fest and the Westcott Street Fair. We talked to a number of people and provided information on solar, batteries and what CCAA is about. Several signed up for our newsletter and expressed an interest in helping.

The assault on the environment continues from the federal administration, seemingly with no reason other than vindictiveness and probably distraction from release of the Epstein files. The economics of renewable energy and the cost of oil and gas are beginning to dictate which way the pendulum will swing. The war on Iran is pointing out to the rest of the world and individuals in the US that the cost

of oil in lives, fortunes and national stability is getting steeper every day. So, one has to look at the brighter side of the federal policies in pushing us all to solar, wind and batteries.

Talking about the brighter side, we had our own solar array turned on last week at our home and constantly are checking our app to see how many kilowatts we are producing. A better use of our time than doom scrolling.

Announcements

TAKE ACTION!!! Tell New York lawmakers that you support **Solar Energy**. Right now, partisan actors are attacking New York's more affordable, fastest growing energy source: solar, all the while spreading misinformation. By expanding solar power, New Yorker's can save an estimated \$1 billion per year on their energy bills.

We don't need more culture wars or influencers. [CLICK HERE](#) to tell your state lawmakers to reject partisan attacks on solar.

Congratulations!

..... to **Dr. Rhea Jezer** who will be honored as the 2026 recipient of the Feinstone Environmental Award, presented by the ESF College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The award will be presented on October 22, 2026, at the Gateway Center on the SUNY ESF campus. Known as the president of Energy 21 and founder of the Annual Energy Symposium on Energy in the 21st Century, she has also held leadership positions with the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters and numerous civic organizations.



A respected environmental consultant and policy advisor, she is being honored for her lifelong environmental work and contributions to creating a better world for generations to come.

.....And to **Carina Paton**, one of CCAA's original members, who has just been appointed Executive Director of Minnesota's Geothermal Heat Pump Association. She brings more than fifteen years of experience in clean energy consulting to the role, including her work as founder and owner of VoltaMetrics. Her expertise spans residential, commercial, and community-scale energy systems, including ground-source and air-source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic systems, energy storage, commercial food service equipment, fuel cells, combined heat and power systems, and thermal and electrical microgrids.



And also, congrats to the **Village of Cazenovia** and to **Onondaga County** for Climate Smart Communities Certification Achievements! The Village of Cazenovia achieved bronze level recertification and Onondaga County achieved a bronze level certification! These governments are taking actions to help save energy, reduce flood risk, and address extreme heat.

A new book out by Will Hackman, *Radically Reframing Climate Change: A Guide to Saving Ourselves*, offers tips to translate climate science into political gains. At a time when climate politics in the United States and globally remain deeply polarized, [Will Hackman](#), a climate advocate and political operative, argues that the climate movement needs a new language — one rooted less in doom, guilt and abstract planetary crisis, and more in people's everyday lives, health, safety, costs and communities. You might want to check that out from your local library.

Legislative Update

Submitted by Jan Kublick

Welcome to October, one month from an election crucial to climate and renewable energy progress! There is nothing more important for those of us committed to accelerating the energy transition than to vote and encourage others to do so as well. Beyond voting, the two most impactful climate actions are: (1) speaking up in favor of renewable energy projects when they come to your town, village, or city and are met with hostility or moratoria (solar panels do not disintegrate into toxic residue, and the safety of battery storage has been assured by new fire safety codes); and (2) talking to other people about your hopes and support for renewable energy, and about your deep concerns for the current and future impacts of climate change.

Governor Hochul has recently announced funding and initiatives aimed at deploying more renewable energy systems and making grid planning and upgrades to the grid faster and more efficient. Notably in this election cycle affordability and accommodation of load growth are the justification for these measures, rather than that of addressing the climate crisis. We focus on the implementation of these new initiatives, and the fates of climate and energy legislation passed by both chambers this session but not yet signed by the Governor.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter is a list of podcasts and other content which are very helpful in understanding developments in both climate and renewable energy. I recently listened to an interview with [Al Gore on a pod called Shift Key](#), published by Heatmap News, a news organization providing in-depth reporting on everything to do with climate change and the transition to renewable energy. Vice President Gore was in New York for Climate Week, held annually to coincide with the UN General Assembly meeting there. You likely saw wide coverage of climate coming out of NYC last week. Mr. Gore expressed cautious optimism that 2026 might turn out to be the positive turning point

in the energy transition, despite the best efforts of the President, his supporters in Congress, and the petroleum industry, to accelerate climate change and delay the transition to renewable energy.

Mr. Gore continues to worry that the energy transition may not be fast enough to avoid major negative tipping points, but he points to facts such as these which may mark this year as the moment when the corner was turned:

- 2026 was the first year that renewable energy increase was larger than world-wide demand growth
- EV sales were 30% of the total new car sales world-wide
- renewables produced 86% of new electric generation worldwide and 93% in the US
- investment in renewables was nearly three times that of investment in fossil fuel projects
- fossil fuels produce less than 60% of electricity in the US.

Whether this marks the ‘end of the beginning’, or the ‘beginning of the end’ for fossil fuels (to borrow the phrases from Winston Churchill) remains to be seen. Crucially even this pace of growth in renewable deployment is not yet fast enough to avoid increasing GhG emissions and increased global climate disruption.

Please vote your climate concerns, talk about your climate concerns and your support of renewable energy, and support renewable energy projects locally.



UPDATE: what's happening...

- North Syracuse Central School District, the district nearest to the planned Micron Technology campus, have lobbied state and local officials for funds to help them prepare their students for Micron's impact and future job possibilities. Unwilling to put the burden of paying for updated facilities and programs on school taxpayers, the district is reaching out to the entities that provide Micron with its tax breaks.
- For those following the PFAS issue with Micron, Onondaga County held a closed-door conference of government officials, consultants and university representatives to assess the state of research into the use and treatment of these chemicals. The meeting was not recorded and there are no records of speaker's comments. The article appeared in the *Post-Standard* September 29.
- **Neighbors for a Better Micron** attended the October 1, 2026, public hearing of the Onondaga County Legislature with discussion centering on amending the rates for the Sanitary District.

This was an opportunity to tell County officials that taxpayers do not want to bear the costs of Micron's water use and to express existing concerns about ensuring proper treatment of harmful forever chemicals in Micron's wastewater.

- The Micron Project is driving a New Jersey firm to build industrial space in a Syracuse suburb. They see an opportunity to bring its small-bay, industrial facility concept to the Syracuse area.
- A reminder: **Neighbors for a Better Micron** has two court challenges to Micron that are pending.
- **FYI:** Micron Technology reported yet another record-breaking quarter. It had its biggest year since its founding in 1978.

Environmental Calendar

DATE: October 18, 2026

EVENT: Community Candidate Forum and Open House Poster Session

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 4947 Rt. 31, Clay, NY

Join **Neighbors for a Better Micron** to learn all about the ways Micron will impact Central NY, especially the environment. Students from Colgate University's Environmental Justice Program will contribute in significant ways.

DATE: November 9 – 20, 2026

EVENT: COP 31 United Nations Climate Change Conference

PLACE: Antalya, Turkey

Participating countries will engage in a spirit of unity and shared purpose to work together to deliver transformative and ambitious outcomes at COP 31 that enhance ambition and implementation of the global response to the threat of climate change.

DATE: December 5 and 6, 2026

EVENT: Plowshares

TIME: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Saturday), 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Sunday)

PLACE: Nottingham High School, Syracuse, NY

Plowshares is a CCAA Tabling Event.

Please feel free to volunteer to help at tabling events. Email Ken Johnson at Kmjohnson717@msn.com

DATE: December 8, 2026

EVENT: Climate and Sustainability Workshop

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA: Sponsored by OCM BOCES and OCRRA, the workshop features an interactive session covering the role of Onondaga County's waste system in climate change and sustainable resource use. Credit for teachers available.

LOCATION: 200 Elwood Davis Dr., Liverpool (adjacent to main campus). [INFO and Registration HERE.](#)

Articles of Interest

SUNday Still a Sunny Event!

Submitted by George Lorefice, CCAA President (loreficegj@gmail.com)



Despite the rain showers, the **SUNday!** event sponsored by CCAA and DACC went on as planned at Cedar Bay Park in Dewitt, NY on September 20!!

Supported by *Clean Communities of CNY* and *Nickles Energy Solutions*, the day provided all who attended information from the tablers and music by the *UNiTY Street Band*, the *Dram Fools* and Colleen Kattau & Van Cleary-Hammerstedt (one of our own!).

Free sundaes prepared by Jen & Kerri's were delicious and the organizations that tabled presented information on a range of topics, mostly related to solar energy. Cheers to All Saint Church, APEX Solar, Clean Communities of CNY, Dewitt Highway & Parks Department, Energy Smart CNY, Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville, Nickels Energy Solutions, Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse and the Sierra Club. Thanks to all who participated in organizing: Roseann Loreface, Van Cleary-Hammersstedt, Peter Wirth and Sonia Kragh, and to those that attended!

Next year **SUNday!** will be an international event promoted by thirdact.org and climate activist Bill McKibben. We are already preparing for the event and hope the sun cooperates!

A Timeline for Action

Or: How All Saints Church Got Solar Panels and Saved

Submitted by Kathy Gosh, Parishioner at All Saints Church(kgosh49@gmail.com)

Fall 2023: The Church's task force initiated a proposal for installing solar panels.

Early 2024: The parish worked with Solar Liberty in Buffalo to determine needs and possible funding.

June, July 2024: The project was approved by the committees and parish leadership, presented to the entire parish, approved and fundraising began. A formal contract was made with Solar Liberty.

Summer, Fall 2024: Worked with NYS's Capital Region and Finger Lakes Region Climate Reality Project staff to obtain funding through the Inflation Reduction Act.

November 2024: Changes in federal administration led to roadblocks; Solar Liberty had difficulty getting panels from overseas.

January - November 2025 – Many delays. Finally, November 2025, panels installed but not yet connected to National Grid.

February 2, 2026 - Up and running!!

August 2026 - 6 months in. Church has **not** bought a single kW of electrical energy. BONUS: we're a full three megawatts into the credit column with the overproduction that has gone out into the electrical grid!!! (Editor's Note: It takes FAITH and a lot of hard work to do this but SO WORTHWHILE!!)



Photos provided by Kathy Gosh.

Smoke Signals

Submitted by Dale Sherman, CCAA Energy Wright (wingsinger@gmail.com)

The Haudenosaunee Faithkeeper Chief Oren Lyons has spoken for decades of a future where the maple trees die from the top down, the rivers run backwards, and the skies are on fire. But by caring for Mother Earth in a sustainable way, those nightmares would always remain in the future, and we would never see that future if we lived our lives in a way that cared for future generations.

But it seems the religion of greed and gluttony has overcome the religion of sensible sustainability. It appears we are approaching one of many tipping points where the elevated levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are not only contributing to more radical weather patterns but also to a loss of critical reasoning among our leaders and representatives.

Yet there is still time to climb out of this growing hellhole even though we're still digging. For every year we continue down a path of unsustainable behavior, it will take 10-100 years to correct. Some sectors of our existence will take 1,000 years to correct. But just because it will be difficult doesn't mean it shouldn't be done; it means we need to get started correcting every aspect of our lives today. Some of the fruits of our labors won't be seen in our lifetime, but our descendants will appreciate them. Indeed, it's the best legacy we can leave them.





BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

What are Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)?

BESS are devices that store electricity produced at one time so it can be used later. They enable energy from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most.

→ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/what-is-battery-storage>

BESS FACTS



BESS ARE SAFE AND RELIABLE.

Modern battery storage systems are designed with multiple safety layers — including thermal management, gas detection, fire suppression, and remote monitoring. Fire incidents are very rare, and when they have occurred, they were contained within the facility and did not spread to the surrounding communities.



BESS ARE REGULATED IN NEW YORK AND FOLLOW SAFETY STANDARDS.

Energy storage is governed by federal and state safety standards. These standards help ensure safe design, fire protection, and risk mitigation for deployed systems. In 2025, NY published the State's updated safety rules, positioning itself as a national leader through updated building and fire codes, third-party reviews, and rigorous oversight.

→ https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/07/2025fcnys_noa_2025-07-24.pdf



BESS PROVIDES LONG-TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

Energy storage helps utilities avoid the costs of running “peaker” fossil-fuel power plants, reduces operations and maintenance costs, and provides grid services like frequency regulation. This lowers system costs and saves ratepayers money over time.

→ <https://www.cesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Energy-Storage-Benefit-Cost-Analysis.pdf>



BESS PROJECTS BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Storage installations not only provide grid benefits – which can help reliability – they also create jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance, and contribute to local tax revenue.

→ <https://keycaptureenergy.com/energy-storage-industry-could-provide-over-26000-jobs-to-new-york-by-2030/>

Additionally, by storing clean energy, BESS can reduce reliance on fossil-fuel peaker plants, leading to cleaner air, and reduced asthma rates.

→ <https://www.sandia.gov/app/uploads/sites/163/2022/04/Issue-Brief-2020-11-Peaker-Plants.pdf>

News Bites and E info

Governor Gavin Newsom, in a recent interview, condemned Democrats' "climate hushing." According to him, it's a mistake for Democratic politicians not to talk about [climate change](#), and the reason they don't is "because they don't know *how* to talk about it", the California governor said. Check out his comments [HERE](#).

As New York Gov. Kathy Hochul looks to balance climate action and affordability, it's a tough balancing act. Check out some of the details [RIGHT HERE](#).

Climate goals missed, the U.N. says. A new report says the world will exceed the 1.5-degree C. target and says rapidly cutting emissions while removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at massive scale is now essential to bring temperatures down. [HERE'S THAT INFO](#).

For some of America's rarest animals, a single forest is their whole world. But the places they depend on could become more vulnerable to logging and roadbuilding. [HERE'S THEIR STORY](#).

Antonio Guterres, the departing Secretary General of the United Nations, has been a passionate voice in efforts to mitigate climate change. Calling it "the defining issue of our time," He has steadfastly urged nations to embrace renewable energy and phase out the fossil fuels that are warming our planet. You can [READ THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW HERE](#).

THINKING OF SOLAR? Prices have dropped dramatically for panels and rooftop solar has become very popular. Lots of good information [RIGHT HERE!!](#)

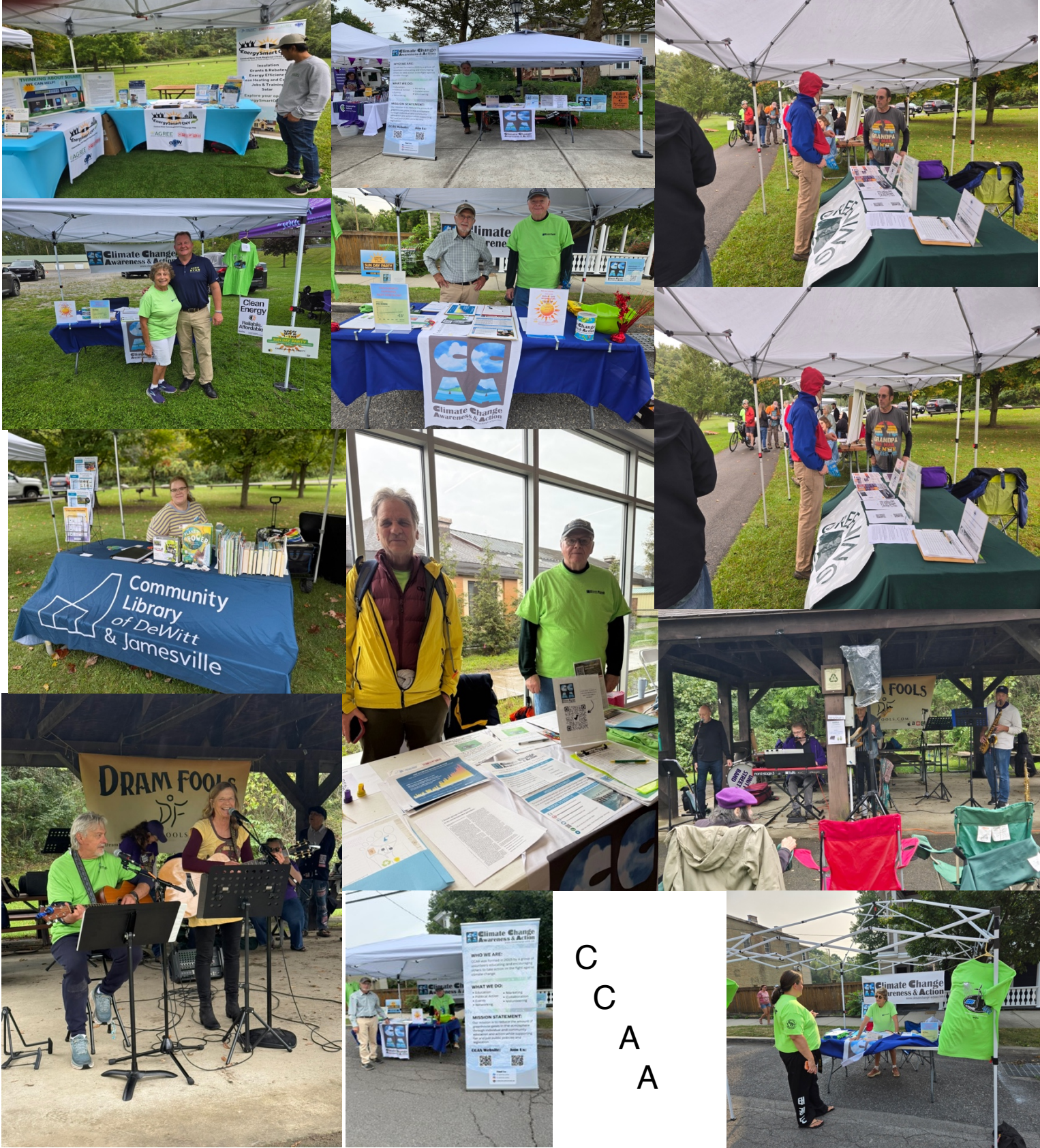
Solar. Did you say solar? Here's everything you always wanted to know about solar but were afraid to ask!!
Seriously, just [CLICK HERE](#).

Want to learn more about climate change and how you can be part of the solution? Look no further than these books recommended by Yale Climate Connections journalists. [CLICK HERE](#) for our favorite climate books.

Interested in wildfires and Canada?

FACT: Accelerating climate change, largely from the burning of fossil fuels, makes wildfires bigger, hotter, and more destructive.

FACT: With Canada warming twice as fast as the global average and home to more than a quarter of the world's boreal forests, the country is experiencing this consequence of global heating firsthand. YOU can learn more about this [BY CLICKING HERE](#).



CCAA was there... Party in the Plaza... Fayetteville Festival ...Minoa Festival...

SUNday...Westcott Cultural Fair... Manlius Swan Fest...

Help CCAA's Mission: Purchase a t-shirt

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

Volunteers offer time and energy but the reality of the costs of providing materials, sponsoring attendees at conferences, attending tabling events, maintaining our website, etc. have mounted and so we're reaching out to you. Can you help? Purchasing a CCAA t shirt not only supports our efforts but promotes more awareness every time you wear it. It's available online [ON THIS SITE.](#)



THANK YOU

...to Nickels Energy Solutions, Clean Communities of Central New York and the Dewitt Advisory Conservation Council for their support of our recent SUNday Celebration on September 20, 2026. Their financial help contributed to a very successful celebration of **solar**.



Dewitt Advisory
Conservation Council

FOLLOW US



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