The Western New York Environmental Alliance
Climate & Energy Working Group
September 3, 2015-Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Introduction of Attendees and Groups Represented

III. Alliance Business

2016 Action Agenda planning & the RISE UP FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE Campaign
Wednesday, September 16, 2015
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Larkin at Exchange, 726 Exchange Street, Suite 525, Buffalo, NY 14210

IV. Action Agenda Adopted Planks

a. 2015 Report on Progress of Adopted Planks:

I. Citizens’ Campaign for Climate Smart Communities

League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara

Specific Tasks: Encourage member organizations and their individual members to initiate or join grassroots campaigns for Climate Smart Communities, a NYS sponsored program to lower the “carbon footprint” of counties, cities, towns and villages. Creation of community-based committees to lobby and assist municipal governments.

Outcome: Increase in number of municipalities signing the Climate Smart Community Pledge (4 currently in Erie County, plus (new!) Erie County itself), increased engagement towards objective of municipal Climate Action Plans, targeting a significant reduction of GHG emissions via increased efficiency, conservation and conversion to renewable energy, as well as preparing for unavoidable climate change.
II. Advocate for Carbon-free public transit along the Niagara River Greenway

Citizens for Regional Transit

III. Feed In Tariff

Specific Tasks: Act as grassroots lobbyists to educate our Federal Congresspersons and Federal Senators and their staffs to the advantages of amending the PURPA Law Section 210 to permit a Feed-In Tariff in NY State.

Outcomes: Political support from our Federal Elected officials for permitting the most effective method for promoting renewable energy development for use in NY State.

IV. Municipal Wind Energy for WNY

Wind Action Group

Specific Tasks: Develop a report documenting the economics of municipalities investing in wind energy to meet their electricity needs and recruit a delegation to educate elected municipal officials on this issue.

Outcome: Generate interest on the part of municipalities to reduce their Carbon footprint and reduce their exposure to volatile priced fossil fuel electricity through municipally owned wind power.

V. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy)

Sierra Club Niagara Group

Specific Tasks: To work with Erie County to implement a PACE in the county with the support of the Energy Improvement Corporation to facilitate conservation and renewable energy financing for commercial properties.

Outcomes: Low cost long term loans for businesses and regional reduction of carbon emissions.

b. 2016 Schedule to Adopt Planks:

c. Report from any Members who have submitted planks

V. Member Reports

VI. Open Issues Discussion

VII. Adjourn – Set meeting for November 5, 2015