



Climate Change in New York's Hudson Valley

How Can Local Government
and Community Leaders Prepare?

December 4, 2006



Climate Science

We know enough to act now



Joint National Academies of
Science Statement
June 2005

*“The scientific understanding of
climate change is now sufficiently
clear to justify nations taking
prompt action.”*



Climate Impacts

Understanding What's at Stake





Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast

A Report of the
Northeast Climate Impacts
Assessment

October 2006

Climate Action

Reduce Climate Change Impacts



Choosing a Lower Carbon Pathway

Climate and Energy Policy Options

Reduce Energy Consumption

Promote Non-Carbon-Emitting Energy

De-Carbonize Fossil Fuel Energy

Increase Sequestration in Carbon "Sinks"

But what can states do? This is an issue for nations; for international bodies, you say. There is no arguing that the problem demands an international solution. But I submit that in the United States, we will have to rely on the states to carry out much our climate policy.

Consider what our options are for addressing the problem:

Reduce energy consumption. The delivery of energy has long been regulated on a state-by-state basis.

How many states have renewable portfolio standards?

How many have energy efficiency funds or the equivalent?

Climate Action

Adapt to a Changing Climate



Before I focus in on the ways that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will drive energy efficiency, I want to provide a little context by outlining what is at stake for New York State in addressing climate change.

I also want to touch briefly on some of the forward-thinking policies that New York has undertaken under the leadership of Governor Pataki—policies that will protect New York’s environment while securing its clean energy future and promoting its economy.

Adapt to Changing Climate

- Agriculture
- Water Supply
- Risk & Disaster Management
- Infrastructure Planning
- Ecosystems Management
- Public Health Responsiveness
- Much More



Today's Conference Agenda

- Climate Change Science
- Climate Change Impacts in the Northeast and Hudson Valley
- Lunch—Climate Change and Business
- How Communities are Taking Action
- ICLEI: Strategies for Action
- Synthesis & Wrap-Up

