

# Notes for Discussion Section

## *Participants Name (affiliation) - Suggestion or Question*

Laura Walls (Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress) - Hold a conference targeted toward emergency management teams and local government to focus on mitigation and adaptation strategies. Use this information to plan local capital budgets.

Simon Gruber (Gruber Environmental Services)- We need to inventory and monitor septic systems and other local public works/infrastructure in towns and use the data to get the attention of municipal officials.

Ivan Vamos (AICP)- Upcoming conference on safe bicycle and pedestrian travel. Creating Walkable Communities, April 17-18, Corning, NY. More information at [www.ITSMR.org](http://www.ITSMR.org)

Lou Sebesta (Department of Environmental Conservation)- Use more urban trees, incorporate wise sidewalk design and green design, institute tree protection ordinances. Contact Lou if you would like more information on how to do this. He works at the Region 3 DEC office.

Manna Jo Greene (Clearwater/T. of Rosendale)- We should insure that all public funds in the future include green energy criteria. Interested parties can participate in the green building and renewable energy working group. Contact Manna for more information. Long term cost/benefit analysis should be done for any new building or renovation project and used as an example of green design principles.

Linda Harris (C. of Kingston)- How do you get municipalities with fewer funding resources to move forward on this issue?

Ann Davis (Marist College)- Thanks to all the presenters. This program has emphasized a lot of important information.

Scott Chase (Dutchess County) - We need a speakers bureau to reach municipal officials, chambers of commerce, etc. in the Hudson Valley with this information.

David Gilmour (Gilmour Planning, LLC) - What is the role of local schools in this discussion? We need to bring students into this conversation and involve them in

public process. They are a good source of fresh ideas. We also need to involve families.

Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley)- We need to bring economic development experts into the conversation. We also need to organize “how to” trainings, a clearinghouse of local climate change information, and resources for seed money to address these issues locally and regionally.

Jeff Main (Westchester County Parks Dept.) - There is a need to create a more environmentally literate society. Perhaps we should send a letter to the Governor-elect and ask him for his support.

Kim Notin (Institute for Ecosystem Studies) - I would like to work on developing a climate change curriculum for teachers. Please contact the Institute for Ecosystem Studies (IES) for more information.

Jessica Barry (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) - I am the NYSERDA contact for communities in the Hudson Valley. I have resources to help communities with green building projects and to benchmark energy savings for new buildings and existing buildings that have been retrofitted. We need more funding for communities who want to retrofit existing buildings.

Linda Richards (Clearwater) - I had a great experience today. The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is developing education workshop programming on Hudson River and incorporating climate change into it. Teachers need a conference like this to help them understand the issue and that there is hope for change.

Eli Schloss (Clearwater) - We need to help local governments work together to address this issue. Perhaps we could have a climate change liaison for local governments. County governments can also serve as a conduit for getting this information out to towns and villages.

Russell Urban-Meade (Chazen Companies) - The morning presenters were a great first step. We need a white paper that goes into this information in more detail. We need more concrete examples of what we can expect and what harm we are likely to experience in the Valley.

Jim Baker (Town of Kent CAC) - Enforcement of SEQR is not well supported at the local government level. Town Environmental Conservation Commissions

(ECC) often have the role of enforcement recommendations and ECC members are not always well trained. How can we handle an issue like climate change?

Patty Lee Parmalee (T. Gardiner/T. Shawangunk) -We need a followup conference with break outs groups or task forces that can discuss/share this information by expertise. There is a lot of knowledge in this room that we can build upon to develop strategies for the future. Expert group topics could include: Land use planning and zoning, Habitat protection, species migration, funding resources, flood and emergency management personnel.

Debi Clifford (Mohonk Preserve)- We should organize on this issue by community location as well as topic areas. We need to take this conference to each community and their organizations.

Gerry Chartier (DEC and T. Of Berne)- We should work with the Department of State ( DOS) on model zoning ordinances that are more respective of climate change issues for both rural and urban community planning.

Other suggestions:

We need to incorporate low income, minority, and youth communities into this conversation. I challenge all of us to get them involved.

We need to update the SEQR process to incorporate this issue. How can we bring flooding and sea level rise into the discussion with developers?

We need a website clearinghouse for data on climate change issues. There is data on rising river water temperatures and species change in the River.

IES is coordinating a “Changing Hudson” program for high school and community college level.

Biodiesel should be in the discussion. We need better information on solutions for our discussions.

