



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2020

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Beacon Estimates Greenhouse Gas Reduction of 25 Percent from 2012

The City of Beacon has released the City's community and municipal operations Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The inventories measure greenhouse gas emissions from human activity. There are four inventories completed: 2012 and 2018 GHG inventory for the municipal operations and 2016 and 2018 GHG inventories for the community as a whole.

"Fighting climate change is critical for a strong economy and a healthy future," said Mayor Lee Kyriacou. "We are pleased to show a significant decline in our City's greenhouse gas emissions, but this inventory also shows us the work we have left to do."

"Beacon has made incredible progress towards reducing our emissions through the creation of the solar farm on the old Denning's Point Landfill and converting our street lights and traffic signals to LEDs," said City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero. "Using the inventory, we can estimate that in 2019, Beacon reduced emissions from municipal operations by more than 25% from 2012 levels. The economic benefits have been tremendous; since 2012 we have saved around \$300,000 thanks to our LED Streetlight program and the solar farm on the City's Landfill."

These inventories will serve as the first step to creating two climate action plans: one for Beacon's government operations and one for the community. These action plans will create a roadmap for how to reduce emissions. Beacon will participate in a Climate Action Planning Institute this year with other Dutchess County municipalities and Hudson Valley Regional Council.

The City's sustainable initiatives, ranging from the solar farm to the LED lights to the purchase of electric vehicles, will save significant taxpayer money over time while reducing pollution and lessening the damages we will incur in coming years from climate change.

About the City of Beacon:

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19th and 20th Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21st Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition spaces in the country for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill Creek and

Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

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