



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor

Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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845.838.5011 | mayor@CityofBeacon.org

BEACON TO HOLD CLIMATE RESILIENCE VISION MEETING FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Beacon, NY: On Wednesday, June 10 at 7pm, the City of Beacon will hold the first of two Climate Resilience Vision remote planning meetings for city residents. The meeting will be led by Danielle Salisbury, Environment and Energy Resource Educator at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. Cornell Cooperative Extension applied for a grant to support this as part of the Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project. Green Beacon Coalition and the City's Conservation Advisory Committee are co-hosting the event. Beacon residents can register for the event here: https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpcu6srDojHNL9lmi7u4hOTofjHRr3_mPd.

This virtual community workshop is designed to gather input on how climate events such as drought and flooding have affected city residents. Attendees will hear a short presentation and then break into small groups to determine what a climate resilient Beacon looks like. The results of the Climate Resilience Vision project will be shared with residents after both meetings have happened and will be included in the City's future Climate Action and Sustainability Plan.

Said Mayor Lee Kyriacou, "This is yet another example of the City of Beacon government safely moving forward with to improve the City despite the COVID-19 emergency. This meeting is a chance for City residents safely to share their thoughts and ideas about how to make the City as resilient as possible, and I encourage everyone who can make it to attend. We are grateful for Cornell Cooperative Extension and Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project for working with us on this project."

Said Danielle Salisbury, "We are very excited to be working with the City of Beacon again towards their goal of becoming more climate resilient. Having a Climate Resilience Vision, where the focus is on community participation, is an important step in planning for climate resiliency in the future."

The Climate Resilience Visioning process is part of the City's larger goal of becoming the greenest community in the Hudson Valley. It aligns with the Sustainable Beacon working groups currently focused on recycling, composting and renewable energy. There will be a second Climate Resilience Visioning meeting later in 2020 if you cannot make this meeting. Details to come at a later date.

Please submit any questions about the technology and/or specific workshop content to: Danielle Salisbury of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dutchess County at: ds778@cornell.edu

Please submit any questions about the City of Beacon's sustainability efforts to: Eleanor Peck, City of Beacon Climate Smart Coordinator at beaconclimate@gmail.com

The Hudson Estuary Watershed Resiliency Project is a program of Cornell Cooperative Extension in partnership with the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program, and the NY Water Resources Institute at Cornell University with support from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

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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