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Roadmap for a Low-carbon Transportation Future

ANCA's ON-RAMP to jumpstart northern New York's clean transportation sector

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — In his State of State address on January 9, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo affirmed his commitment to advancing New York State's clean transportation sector and expanding its electric vehicle (EV) industry. In response to the Governor's ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide and the North Country's particular concerns in this arena, the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will convene experts and stakeholders to launch the development of a clean transportation roadmap for the region.

A two-day summit, "Clean Transportation: the Adirondack ON-RAMP," will address topics related to EV infrastructure, public transportation and commercial vehicles, as well strategies and policies for making clean transportation more accessible for residents and communities in northern New York. ON-RAMP will include a keynote address on clean transportation as a driver of economic development, plenary and breakout sessions, and the opportunity to test drive EVs as part of National Grid's Ride and Drive Program.

The event will take place on Earth Day, April 22, and April 23, 2020 at the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake. A public screening of the 2011 documentary *Revenge of the Electric Car*, director Chris Paine's sequel to his 2006 film *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, will precede the summit on the evening of April 21.

"We're thrilled with the growing momentum around clean transportation at State and local levels," said Jerrod Bley, ANCA Clean Energy Program Director. "ANCA is committed to bringing stakeholder interests to the table as we transition to a low-carbon future. This gathering of experts will help provide a holistic plan for our region's transportation system moving forward."

Bley cited the 2023 World University Games as a motivating factor for holding the summit. The 11-day World University Games will be based in the Village of Lake Placid, which, along with the greater Olympic Region, was awarded a gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Design) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council in December 2019. The multi-sport event provides an opportunity for the region to demonstrate its commitment to environmentally sustainable development, including a low-carbon transit system to serve over 2,400 athletes and their spectators during the Games — as well as the transportation needs of residents, businesses and visitors into the future.

“The Adirondack region has made significant strides with electric vehicle technologies over the last several years, but we have work to do to catch up with opportunities available in more densely populated areas,” said James McKenna, chief executive officer of the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST).

“We still see significant gaps with EV charging stations and access to electric vehicles,” he said. “We’re excited about the momentum of the 2023 World University Games for driving investment in the infrastructure and vehicles needed to provide low-carbon transportation for the event and, ultimately, for the region well into the future. This summit is an important opportunity to develop that roadmap.”

Data collected for the 2013 [North Country Sustainability Plan](#) indicate that transportation accounts for 42% of the North Country’s energy consumption and 40% of its greenhouse gas emissions, with passenger vehicles producing 72% of the region’s transportation-related GHG emissions.

Clean transportation has been a growing focus of ANCA’s Clean Energy Program (CEP) as the economic development nonprofit continues to bring renewable energy programs and opportunities to communities throughout northern New York.

“In 2011, ANCA identified the clean energy sector as a key component to our region’s economic growth and resilience,” said ANCA Executive Director Kate Fish. “Since then, we’ve supported millions of dollars of clean energy investments in the North Country. It’s critical to prioritize our regional economy and the transportation needs of our residents, businesses and communities as we transition to a clean energy future. This summit ties in directly with the State’s mandate to decarbonize our transportation systems.”

In addition to clean energy goals set out in his [State of the State Proposals](#), Governor Cuomo has set ambitious GHG reduction targets in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which was signed into law in June 2019. The CLCPA sets specific targets for reducing carbon emissions and adopting clean energy technologies statewide. The State has pledged to eliminate net GHG emissions by 2050 and to transition its electricity generation to renewable and carbon-free energy sources.

John Lochner, Vice President of Technology and Business Innovation at NYSERDA said, “Building on New York’s leadership in clean transportation, Governor Cuomo’s four-point State of the State proposal to expand the electric vehicle industry is central to the State’s overarching strategy to combat climate change and grow our green economy. Community engagement will continue to be a focal point in NYSERDA’s approach to making clean transportation a more accessible and affordable option for all New Yorkers. We look forward to collaborating with partners like ANCA who are leading these efforts locally.”

ON-RAMP is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23, 2020 at the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake. Wednesday’s program will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday morning’s intensive implementation sessions are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration costs \$150 per

person, with an Early Bird rate of \$130 for those who register by March 1, 2020. ANCA members receive a reduced rate of \$120.

The screening of *Revenge of the Electric Car* is free and open to the public. The film, which tells the story of three major car manufacturers and leaders in the global resurgence of electric vehicles, will be shown in the Hotel Saranac Grand Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. In addition, there will be times available for the public to test drive EV vehicles through National Grid's Ride and Drive program.

For more information about ON-RAMP and to register, visit www.adirondack.org/onramp.

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA's community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

Attached: one (1) PDF document and one (1) photo

Photo courtesy of ANCA: An electric car charges at a downtown Saranac Lake EV charging station, not far from a hydroelectric dam that generates a portion of the Village's electricity.

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