



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 8, 2021

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ANCA Annual Meeting Focuses on Climate Justice

Panelists include leaders in environmental justice, food systems, clean energy and climate action

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The *climate justice* movement acknowledges that the global climate crisis is having and will continue to have more severe negative impacts on marginalized populations — including low-income communities and communities of color — and that strategies must be developed to address these inequities. Here in northern New York, the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) and other organizations are working to make the region’s transition to a clean energy future as equitable and just as possible.

At its 2021 annual meeting, ANCA will bring together experts in environmental justice, food systems, clean energy and climate action to discuss the importance of climate justice in shaping the region’s economic future. The meeting, which will take place virtually on Friday, September 17 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., is open to all. Participants are invited to register at www.adirondack.org/2021AnnualMeeting.

“Climate justice has been a growing focus across all of ANCA’s programs as we’ve been actively addressing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in our work,” said ANCA Executive Director Elizabeth Cooper. “Our hope is that meeting participants will come away with a better understanding of why climate justice is critical for our region’s future and how we can all play a role in promoting environmental justice in our communities. We have an exceptional panel of experts to guide the discussion, which will undoubtedly help shape ANCA’s work moving forward.”

Meeting panelists include Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, public outreach specialist for the New York State Department of Conservation’s Office of Environmental Justice; Michael Reilly, executive director and co-founder of Foodshed Capital; and Adam Ruder, assistant director for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s Clean Transportation Group. Jen Kretser, director of climate initiatives for The Wild Center, will moderate the discussion.

“ANCA’s annual meeting offers a timely opportunity to learn from experts whose collective knowledge and experience with climate issues is helping to create real solutions for businesses and communities here in the North Country,” said Kretser. “I look forward to learning more from Alanah, Michael and

Adam about the important work they are doing to make equity and justice a major focus of these solutions. I'm grateful to ANCA for hosting this important conversation."

Topics for the panel discussion are based on a survey ANCA conducted regarding climate impacts on local residents, businesses and communities. Panelists will speak about current challenges in our region's energy and food systems, as well as initiatives and solutions for increasing equity in these arenas. Speakers will discuss efforts that are improving access to electric vehicle (EV) technology, supporting small-scale and regenerative farms and advancing New York State's goals, as presented in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, to reduce carbon emissions statewide.

Cooper said the conversations from the meeting will help inform ANCA's ongoing work in its three program areas — clean energy, food systems and the entrepreneurial economy — and advance the organization's goal to increase diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) across those programs. ANCA has served as the home of the Adirondack Diversity Initiative since December 2019, when the initiative hired its inaugural director, Nicole Hytton-Patterson.

The annual meeting will take place via Zoom on Friday, September 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and will include opportunities for questions and answers via chat. ANCA invites community members, business owners, industry stakeholders, elected officials and nonprofit leadership throughout the North Country region to register for a fee of their choice, from \$10 to \$100, at www.adirondack.org/2021AnnualMeeting.

[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: Jen Kretser, director of climate initiatives for The Wild Center, will moderate a panel discussion about climate justice at ANCA's Annual Meeting on Friday, September 17, 2021.

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