



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCA Hires New Clean Energy Program Director

Jill Henck brings energy and policy experience to regional economic nonprofit

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) has hired a new Clean Energy Program Director. Jill Henck will lead the economic development organization’s efforts to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, as well as energy and climate justice policy, across New York’s North Country region.

Henck joined ANCA’s growing staff, which now includes 21 people, on December 1, 2020. As director, she leads a team of four “energy circuit riders” (ECRs) who work with local communities to expand clean energy opportunities for their residents and businesses.

“Jill’s brings with her a diverse background that will help us grow our region’s clean energy economy,” said ANCA Executive Director Elizabeth Cooper. “Her direct experience with New York’s energy landscape is invaluable as ANCA expands our community-based projects and our broader systems-level efforts to guide the development of energy infrastructure, programs and policy. We’re so glad to welcome Jill to the ANCA team.”

Henck most recently served as Sustainability Planner and Clean Energy Communities Coordinator with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). Prior to moving back to New York State in 2017, she created and implemented land use policies in Park County, Colorado around the region’s largest cash crop, recreational marijuana.

Henck earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental policy from Union College in 2010 and a master’s degree in urban and regional planning with a focus in environmental planning from the University of Colorado Denver in 2015.

She grew up in the Mohawk Valley of New York and currently works from her home just north of the Catskill Mountains. She intends to move closer to ANCA’s Saranac Lake office in 2022.

“I’m honored to be joining an organization with such a strong reputation for community engagement and regional collaboration,” said Henck. “In my work with CDRPC, I looked to ANCA as a leader in clean energy and sustainable economic development. I’m excited to help guide the Clean Energy Program as interest in clean energy continues to gain momentum across the North Country.”

ANCA’s Clean Energy Program (CEP) focuses on expanding clean energy opportunities in North Country communities and growing investments in the region’s renewable energy systems, including grid and transportation infrastructure. ECRs work directly with municipalities, school districts, businesses and residents to plan and implement clean energy projects such as energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, LED lighting, electric vehicle charging stations and community solar campaigns.

The CEP also works closely with State and regional stakeholders to develop systems that will support a just and equitable transition to a low-carbon future across New York. Henck now holds a position with the State’s Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG), which was previously held by her predecessor at ANCA, Jerrod Bley. Henck is one of three individuals who represent rural communities in the group, which is tasked with helping guide the implementation of the New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). In her role with the CJWG, Henck will address energy-related needs and interests of North Country communities, including people of color, low- to moderate-income households and other marginalized groups.

The CEP also collaborates with staff from ANCA’s other program areas: food systems, the entrepreneurial economy and the Adirondack Diversity Initiative. The CEP is actively addressing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in its work by engaging in State-level climate justice conversations and developing and supporting projects that provide equitable access to clean energy opportunities.

“This is a critical time for ANCA and our partners as we work together to advance clean energy opportunities across the North Country,” she said. “I’m honored to be part of this team and look forward to building upon their important work for the benefit of our communities.”

[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, aspiring 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 of Jill Henck courtesy of ANCA

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