

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
RESOLUTION #XX, 2020
CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES
FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22, New Lebanon, New York, duly called and held on the 11th day of February 2020, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by _____
Seconded by _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
ADOPTING THE NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES
PLEDGE**

WHEREAS, the Town of New Lebanon (hereinafter “local government”) believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

WHEREAS, the Town of New Lebanon has already taken the following 5 actions that are considered certification actions under the Climate Smart Communities program that we will obtain credit for under this program:

- Benchmarking the Town’s energy usage
- Adopting the NYS Unified Solar Permit Process
- Taking Energy Code Enforcement Training
- Switching to LED Streetlights (in progress)
- Installing an EV Charging Station (in progress)

WHEREAS, a task force will be formed with the New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council, the New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council and 5 members of the community which will

work with the Town and residents on implementing the elements of the pledge which benefit our community,

WHEREAS, this resolution is a statement of the intent of the town board to support green initiatives in New Lebanon and it does not obligate the town or its residents to any future expenditures, as such expenditures by the town requires authorization by the town board,

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate any resident or business to take any actions whatsoever, however it may result in opportunities for residents and business to take sustainable actions but it does not obligate anyone to participate,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town of New Lebanon, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

- 1) **Build a climate-smart community.**
- 2) **Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.**
- 3) **Decrease energy use.**
- 4) **Shift to clean, renewable energy.**
- 5) **Use climate-smart materials management.**
- 6) **Implement climate-smart land use.**
- 7) **Enhance community resilience to climate change.**
- 8) **Support a green innovation economy.**
- 9) **Inform and inspire the public.**
- 10) **Engage in an evolving process of climate action.**

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted “Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Norman Rasmussen	_____
Councilmember Deborah Gordon	_____
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	_____
Councilmember Jesse Newton	_____
Councilmember John Trainor	_____

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: February 11, 2020

Marcie Robertson
Town Clerk
Town of New Lebanon

