

**PRESS EVENT/RELEASE: NYS DEPT.OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AWARDS TOWN OF MAMARONECK DESIGNATION AS
CERTIFIED CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY**

DATE: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 11:00 AM
**LOCATION: HOMMOCKS CONSERVATION AREA OBSERVATION
DECK, HOMMOCKS ROAD, LARCHMONT, NY (in back of
Hommocks School)**

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 AT 11:00 AM AT THE HOMMOCKS CONSERVATION AREA, THE ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF NYS DEC, KELLY TURTURRO, WILL JOIN TOWN OFFICIALS TO ANNOUNCE THE AWARD TO THE TOWN OF MAMARONECK OF BECOMING A CERTIFIED "CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY" FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ENERGY USE.

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "We all have a role to play in reducing energy use and the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. I applaud Mamaroneck's commitment to reducing energy use in government operations. The Town of Mamaroneck has one of the most comprehensive climate programs in New York State and achieved certification points under every one of the 10 Climate Smart Communities pledge elements. The town's decreased energy use not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, it saves taxpayers money. And Mamaroneck's land-use policies protect local trees, wetlands, and waterways, making it a more beautiful place to live, play and conduct business. Mamaroneck is demonstrating what is possible with committed leadership, and I congratulate Supervisor Nancy Seligson, her staff and volunteers."

The Climate Smart Communities Certification program, announced in 2014, recognizes demonstrated accomplishments in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use, and adaptation to changing climatic conditions. DEC has designated eight other Certified Climate Smart Communities. The Town of Mamaroneck has earned designation as New York State's ninth Certified Climate Smart Community.

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor, Nancy Seligson, said, "I'm proud to say that the Town of Mamaroneck has been a leader in environmental initiatives for many years. In 2014 the Town entered into an Energy Performance Contract renovating the ice rink, Town Center and Fire House that included reducing energy use and costs. The Town also converted 100 percent of its streetlights to LED technology".

Mamaroneck also advanced creative solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including running the town's sanitation trucks on vegetable oil recovered from local restaurants. Since 2008, these innovative trucks have displaced fossil fuels, saved taxpayer dollars through reduced fuel costs, and kept resources cycling at the local level.

The Climate Smart Communities program, launched in 2009, provides guidance and technical support to communities to take locally driven climate action. The program is jointly sponsored by DEC, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Department of State, Public Service Commission, and the departments of Transportation and Health. There are 187 registered Climate Smart Communities, representing 6.6 million New Yorkers, who have pledged to be Climate Smart Communities and are taking advantage of State agency support to mitigate emissions and adapt to climate change. New York is also implementing the groundbreaking Community Risk and Resiliency Act and is protecting vital resources in the State through climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Supervisor Nancy Seligson said, "The Town of Mamaroneck has a great volunteer Sustainability Collaborative that works to improve sustainability, resilience and quality of life in the community. I also want to thank our summer intern, Zoe Kaldor, for working so diligently to complete the certification process."

New York State is leading the nation in the transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy through innovative strategies including the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy and the Clean Energy Standard, a mandate to generate 50 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources. These efforts are developing new economic opportunities and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and by 80 percent by 2050.

"Across the state, New York communities are already experiencing the effects of climate change, ranging from extreme storms like Sandy and Irene to rising sea levels," said Seggos. "Thanks to efforts like Climate Smart Communities, New York is out in front, building resiliency to our changing climate county by county, town by town, and village by village, helping local governments, business owners, and residents reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change."