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FROM THE CHAIR, RHEA JEZER, PH.D



Sierra Club is the most historic grassroots environmental organization in the country. For more than 130 years, we've gathered millions of activists and volunteers to fight for the places, people, and planet we all love. The CNY (Central & Northern New York) Group encompasses seven counties and has about 2500 members. Our board of eleven people work diligently to follow the particular environmental issues affecting our region, such as protecting our water, lakes, open space, forests, air quality, pollution from fossil fuels, and environmental justice issues.

Join us to help protect our planet! It is educational, fun and inspiring to work with our group. We are currently focusing on of such issues as promotion of electric school buses, holding Micron accountable to build and run its new chips plant with as little harm to the environment as possible, solar farm projects and several other pressing issues. **Want to help as well as learn about what interests you? Write to rjezer@gmail.com and tell us your ideas and interests.**

Our group offers programs throughout the year as well as in specific to the times of year. Right now, with Earth Day on **April 22nd**, you will see our members involved in several **Earth Day Events**.

April is also a particularly exciting month this year because we will be experiencing the **solar eclipse**. The CNY Group is joining with the MOST (Museum of Science & Technology) to experience this phenomenon together on **April 8th, 12-4pm, at the MOST**. Glasses to protect your eyes will be provided. Join us! We will have a booth to welcome you! See announcement below.

Also featured this month, our group is sponsoring and partnering with the award-winning **Annual Symposium on Energy in the 21st Century**, now celebrating its twentieth year. This Symposium draws attendees from throughout the state and is known for its cutting-edge topics, national speakers, and very interesting discussions. It is a prize of the region and includes attendees from interested citizens to leaders in the labor, corporate, environmental sectors. See the incredible speakers and topics in the announcement below and make sure to **register at www.energy21symposium.org** or contact rjezer@gmail.com for special Sierra Club members tickets.

JOIN THE CNY GROUP!

Sign up for our mailing list by emailing:
cny-group@newyork.sierraclub.org

To join the group, send your email, name, and address to:
group@newyork.sierraclub.org

If you've already joined, verify your information at:
<https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/MyAccountContactInfo>

FIND OUT MORE:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/cny/>

2024 CNY GROUP LEADERS

Group Chair and Political Chair - Rhea Jezer
Vice Group Chair and Newsletter Editor - Lara Heberle
Secretary and Treasurer - Robert Waters
Conservation Chair - Don Hughes
Website and Mailing Lists - Tasha Cooper
Nominating Committee Chair - Debra DeSocio
ExCom Delegate - Maggie Reilly
Alternate ExCom Delegate, Outings Chair - Peter Plumley
Assistant Political Chair - Lisa Lehman
Members at Large - Sarah Klee Hood, Martha Loew

UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTEND THE PHENOMENAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY ON APRIL 12TH.



REGISTER NOW! WWW.ENERGY21SYMPOSIUM.ORG OR USE QR CODE



TWENTIETH ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
CORPORATE, LABOR, ENVIRONMENTALISTS & GOVERNMENT
Working Together Toward A Renewable Energy Future

APRIL 12, 2024 - GATEWAY BUILDING, SUNY ESF - SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
IN PERSON REGISTRATION INCLUDES BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND TOURS. ONLINE OPTION ALSO AVAILABLE.

TOM DINAPOLI	NYS Comptroller <i>Economic Ramifications of Renewable Energy</i>
MARK RUTH	Policy Analysis, NREL <i>Are We Looking at "Green Hydrogen"</i>
DAVID FELDMAN	Senior Financial Analyst, NREL <i>The "IRA" Inflation Reduction Act - Incentives for Manufacturing, Non-Profits, Municipalities & Individuals</i>
GREGORY LANCETTE	President, Building Trades of CNY <i>Labor and the Climate Future</i>
JAY EGG	Author and Consultant, Egg Geothermal <i>Thermal Energy on Large Scale</i>
BART FRANEY	Vice President, Clean Energy Development, National Grid <i>Electrification of Transport & Decarbonization of the Grid</i>
JOANIE MAHONEY	President, SUNY ESF <i>Educating for the Future</i>
JONATHAN BINDER	Deputy Commissioner of DEC <i>NYS CAP & Invest Program Contributing To Our Energy Future</i>
RHEA JEZER, Ph.D.	President, Energy21, Symposium Director



PANEL DISCUSSION:

Corporate, Labor, Environmentalists, Government Working Together Toward a Renewable Energy Future

JONATHAN BINDER, Deputy Commissioner of DEC

KEITH SILLIMAN, Cypress Energy/ Chair, ACE NY

JULIE TIGHE, President, NYLCV

DAVE WASIURA, Director, Region IV, USW

MODERATOR: KIT KENNEDY, Senior Director Climate & Clean Energy Program NRDC

To REGISTER or for information and/or sponsorship: www.energy21symposium.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN THE CNNY SIERRA CLUB TO VIEW THE 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE!

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

12:00 – 4:00 PM

MOST EAST LAWN, 500 S. FRANKLIN ST., SYRACUSE, NY

FREE EVENT AND FREE ECLIPSE GLASSES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Visit the Sierra Club at the MOST (Museum of Science and Technology) Solar Eclipse Festival in downtown Syracuse. A free Eclipse Educational Program will be outside on the **MOST's East lawn from 12 to 4 PM on April 8, 2024**. This awe-inspiring event is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come together as we encourage wonder, celebrate community, and educate people of all ages about astronomy and space science.

Solar Eclipse Background: Any solid body (like our bodies!) between the sun and the Earth blocks solar rays and causes a shadow – a body eclipse. Similarly, the Moon, a large orbiting body approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of Earth, does the same when its path crosses in front of the Sun. The Moon orbits approximately 239,000 miles above the Earth, and at that distance the shadow (path of totality) cast on the Earth will be approximate 70 miles wide. Outside of that path you will experience a twilight effect.

In the region of totality, observers in Central New York will see a total solar eclipse. It will appear as nightfall. Syracuse falls within this zone, and due to the shadow of the orbiting moon, we will experience approximately one minute of darkness beginning around **3:23PM**. **The next total eclipse in New York State will not take place until 2079.**

In addition to viewing the eclipse at the MOST, the Sierra Club (and many CNY High Schools) will be monitoring the effect on animals (especially birds) and specific weather parameters. Despite the brevity, we expect to see a drop in temperature and changes in wind speed and direction. The MOST has a real-time weather station on the roof (<https://www.cnyweatherlab.org>) which you can monitor on your phone.

Very important:

During the eclipse, **do not look directly at the sun**. Even viewing through a camera lens or a telescope with a solar filter will cause eye injury. Safe viewing can be done through a projected pinhole or by using **eclipse glasses from a trusted source** (NASA approved glasses) which block out 100% of harmful ultra-violet rays, 100% of infrared, and 99.999% of intense visible light. **Regular sunglasses are NOT a replacement for eclipse glasses!** Do not use eclipse glasses while walking or driving, they are specially designed for viewing eclipses.

For more information about how to view the eclipse safely, go to: <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety>

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22! CELEBRATE WITH CAZENOVIA AND THE TOWN OF MANLIUS AT THE EARTHFEST ON MAY 4TH, 10AM-3PM AT FAYETTEVILLE CANAL LANDING PARK!

There will be an electric vehicle showcase, food trucks and vendors, booths, music, and a raffle!

HEALTHY WATER SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE AT THE SUNY-ESF GATEWAY CENTER ON MAY 15TH (4-8PM) AND 16TH (8:30AM-3:30PM).

FREE TO ATTEND, BUT PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

Don Hughes from our own CNNY group will be presenting a talk on PFAS!

Registration at: <https://www.healthywaters.org/annual-meeting> or with the QR code.



CHIPS AHOY! MICRON TO SET UP SHOP IN CENTRAL NY

BY DON HUGHES, CNNY GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

In early 2020, just before the Covid pandemic hit, newly elected Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon was trying to woo high-tech industries to move into a vacant business park in the northern suburbs of Syracuse. Two-and-a-half years later he hit the jackpot. In October 2022, Micron Technology announced plans to spend up to \$100 billion to build a complex of computer chip plant - called “fabs” - at said park. Micron’s new facility would be the largest yet of its eleven manufacturing facilities, and the largest private investment ever made in New York state history. The impetus for building this and other semi-conductor fabs in U.S. is the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act. which provides \$52 billion in grants and loans to expand domestic semiconductor production.

While the new facility promises 9000 new direct jobs, thousands more related jobs, and many economic benefits, it comes with numerous risks to both workers and the environment. So much so, that the Sierra Club, together with Communication Workers of America and 50 other organizations, wrote a letter to the CEOs of all of the major semi-conductor companies. They wrote: “Our concerns stem from the semiconductor industry's well-documented history, starting in Silicon Valley and expanding globally, of polluting the environment, harming workers and their offspring as well as community residents, busting unions, avoiding taxes, and burdening host communities with significant problems.” They asked the industry to set a higher standard.

The complete facility, a set of four “fabs,” would occupy over 1000 acres. They plan to fill in 226 acres of federally regulated wetlands and consume nearly 50 million gallons of water per day, more than is used by the entire city of Syracuse. This would be drawn from Lake Ontario via a new pipeline installed next to the existing pipeline. Wastewater would be pre-treated at the fab complex and then further treated at the county’s wastewater plant.

The semi-conductor industry relies heavily on a class of compounds known as perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). Nicknamed “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment, they bioaccumulate in animals and are highly toxic. Drinking water standards have been set at 4 parts-per-trillion (pptr) for two types of PFAS. To put this in perspective, 2000 gallons of a liquid mixed into all of Lake Ontario gives you 4.0 pptr.

Micron’s facility will consume vast amounts of electricity: 2 Gigawatts, equivalent to the entire output of the two nearby nuclear power plants, Nine Mile 1 and 2. Micron has secured an agreement with NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, to get a substantial amount of hydropower from Niagara Falls and the St. Lawrence power dams. The remaining power will be supplied through purchased Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

Micron has set laudatory goals for sustainability, by “mitigating our impact on the environment, bolstering our team members and the communities in which they live, respecting human rights, driving transparency and accountability in our supply chain...” They aim to be net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. They have made significant progress at their existing facilities. Can they do the same here?

Two types of environmental review are underway. As of December 2023, an Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared by Micron’s consultants under New York state’s SEQRA law. The second review is being conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers as required by the federal EIS legislation (“NEPA”). NEPA comes into play because federal wetlands are to be filled in and federal CHIPS Act funding is being used. The CNNY Sierra Club Group has teamed up with several other environmental and labor organizations to submit comments on the SEQRA scoping document and will be commenting on the NEPA process. You can send comments for the NEPA document (USACE number LRB-2000-02198; be sure to include this!) to celrb-icron.public.comments@usace.army.mil. We expect both Environmental Impact Statements to be put out for public comment this coming summer.