

THE GARDEN CLUB OF EAST HAMPTON
ANNUAL CONSERVATION MEETING
CLIMATE CHANGE – GLOBAL AND LOCAL IMPACT

The Nature Conservancy's Center for Conservation, East Hampton

Monday, August 7, 2017

For those who are interested in the information that was presented by the Panel of Speakers, below are websites, links, a video, and additional data submitted by the speakers for distribution to the members of The Garden Club of East Hampton.

GCEH INTERNS:

The interns blog is ... <https://bigreedpond.wordpress.com>

C-CHANGE CONVERSATIONS:

Website ... www.c-changeconversations.com

Facebook - in order to see posted articles, 'like' the page and 'follow' ...
<https://www.facebook.com/CChangeConversations/>

Links to two additional sites with excellent information ...
<http://www.climatecentral.org>
<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

There are a number of positive signs that the world is preparing to deal with Climate Change:

- 1 Greater efficiency/use of energy and release less CO₂
- 2 Natural gas is cleaner and more efficient than the use of coal
- 3 Renewables such as solar power and wind farms are gaining in popularity and efficiency
- 4 Clean technology such as wind, electric vehicles, LED lighting and solar power are gaining traction

Projections: 80% of the United States will have electricity generated by renewables alone by the year 2050, and electric vehicles will be cheaper to build by 2025.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY – LOCAL EFFORTS:

A short video narrated by Nancy Kelley features The Nature Conservancy's local work ...
<https://www.nature.org/photos-and-video/video/our-fates-are-linked-long-island>

TNC is working at a global and local level to combat the negative impact of a changing environment.

- I. Science-based and nature-based solutions to climate change on every continent.
- II. On Long Island, focus on conservation and improving water quality ... these actions will have benefits in a warming climate.

Plum Island

This federally owned property is vital for a variety of rare and endangered plant species, local and migrating birds and wildlife. A strong local coalition is working to stop the sale of this jewel by the federal government. A bill to stop the sale has passed the House. Now, the same success is needed in the Senate. Development of Plum Island would diminish much needed habitat, and add to water pollution in the Long Island Sound.

Water Quality

- 1 Create laws and funding to slow down the greatest single cause of nitrogen pollution ... leaking septic and cesspool systems.
- 2 Algae blooms exploding in our ponds and bays are fed by nitrogen, and exacerbated by warmer weather. Stemming the flow of nitrogen from septic systems and cesspools is especially vital in a climate change environment.
- 3 Grants of up to \$11,000 are now available through Suffolk County.
- 4 Information is available at the website ... **reclaimourwater.info**
- 5 Grants will be awarded to Suffolk County residents, with preference given to those living in high-priority areas. The map of high-priority areas is at ... **reclaimourwater.info**
- 6 To qualify for a 100% grant, household annual income must be \$300,000 or less. Those between \$300,000 and \$500,000 can apply for a 50% grant. The grants are for single family, year-round residences, which are not rented.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN – LOCAL EFFORTS:

East Hampton Town will also make money available, with different requirements. The Town Board plans to meet about septic rebates after Labor Day, with future announcements about the rebate program then.

GCA POSITION PAPERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE:



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Garden Club of America recognizes that global climate change is affecting the natural world, our economies, national security, and human health. Rapid loss of biodiversity, species extinction, ocean acidification, sea level rise, droughts, floods, storms, along with threats to clean air, to clean water, and the health of our national parks are all risks we face if we do not address the human activities that create global warming. Because individual and collective action can modify the course of climate change, The Garden Club of America is committed to educating members and communities about its causes and about constructive responses to them. The Garden Club of America is particularly concerned about the influence of climate change on biodiversity. Native vegetation is the matrix that sustains plant biodiversity and supports wildlife and ecosystem services. Therefore, The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy that addresses the following:

FUNDING

- Developing and implementing proactive strategies to protect biodiversity, especially at-risk species, to safeguard habitat, and to preserve options for future restoration.
- Identifying and addressing both the disruptions of co-involved relationships (such as those between plants and pollinators) and the increased incidence of disease and invasive species.

LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES

- International, federal, state and local greenhouse gas reduction legislation and regulations that reflect the social cost of carbon and have their basis in peer-reviewed science.
- Individual, corporate, and community initiatives to develop green infrastructure.
- Initiatives to support sustainable forest and wilderness areas (including National Parks), as these open lands sequester carbon, help ensure clean air, and protect watersheds.
- Accelerated promotion of renewable energy and advanced battery storage, as well as promotion of energy efficiency measures in the building and transportation sectors.
- Initiatives to protect, conserve, and maintain water quality and quantity, to prevent stormwater runoff, and to safeguard oceans.

ADAPTION

- Adaptation strategies for human, animal, and plant communities.
- Re-vegetation and re-forestation of disturbed areas, including green buffers near waterways.
- Development of sufficient supplies of native plant materials to meet this need.
- Proactive water management initiatives to conserve water and maintain water quality in response to the expected challenges of climate change to riparian systems and in-stream flow.
- Promotion of more localized systems of food production and consumption.

EDUCATION

- Public education about climate change, including the changing conditions for gardens, sustainable landscape design and gardening practices, and the reduction of energy-intensive products and maintenance practices.
- Recognition of implications of changed hardiness zones for agriculture and horticulture, including changes in phenology (date flowers emerge), migratory patterns, productivity, and crop yield.
- Awareness of individual energy use in day-to-day activities, as well as exploration of social, economic and environmental opportunities that will become available through research and development of new technologies.

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.