

# What Can I do About Climate Change?

## Interfaith Climate Justice Community

There are many things you can do as an individual or family. Here are a few of the many ways you can help with the energy transition to renewables and help halt climate change.

- **BE INFORMED.** There is a lot of material available on line that explains the science and politics. Check out the Sierra Club Niagara Group website.
- **BUY RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR YOU HOME, BUSINESS OR CHURCH:** Change the supplier on your electricity bill to one that offers renewables such as solar, wind, and hydro water. Go on line to review options <[www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com)> and click on Energy Efficiency Services. Have your energy bill handy.
- **HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW**  
Get in touch with PUSH Green, a local neighborhood advocacy group, who will connect you with a certified Building Analyst to find out where your home is losing energy, how to make it more efficient, and how you can pay for conservation and renewables through special programs and incentives.  
<http://www.pushgreenwny.org/how-it-works>
- **PUT SOLAR ON YOUR ROOF!!! CONSIDER GEOTHERMAL!!** NYSERDA Incentive Program for Residential Solar and Wind Power: <http://ny-sun.ny.gov/> OR check out local installers such as Solar Liberty, CIR Electric, Frey Electric, TM Montante, Niagara Solar and Wind! Geothermal heat pumps for home/business heating use the cooler temperature from the earth to heat and cool buildings. For information see: <<http://ny-geo.org/>>
- **DISINVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS** < <http://gofossilfree.org/>> Join the 350.org campaign to have colleges, universities, churches, pension funds and individuals take their investment out of fossil fuels and nuclear and put those funds to work saving the planet. Contact your schools! Also check your own investment and pension portfolio!. Are you contributing to global warming? For information on how to disinvest in your personal portfolio, check out <<http://gofossilfree.org/mymoney/>>.
- **TRAVEL SMART** by driving a little as possible, having a very fuel efficient car, and/ or using alternatives. Carpooling, as well as bike route and bus info in Erie and Niagara Counties. Walking is good for you!! Check out: [www.goodgoingwny.com](http://www.goodgoingwny.com)
- **THINKING ABOUT FOOD** *The general rules:* Local because it travels less far in order to get to your plate, organic because it doesn't use the petroleum derived pesticides and herbicides that endanger the ecosystems soil, water and air.
- **PLANT NATIVE PLANTS** which are the foundation of the food chain in our region. Plants, insects, birds and all life are being stressed by climate change -- give them the best chance possible by planting their native food and shelter. <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>
- **PROTECT EXISTING ECOSYSTEMS** - Give natural systems a chance to adapt.

**GROUP ACTION** Climate change is happening right now, and although individual actions will help, they will not be enough to bring down carbon emissions. Addressing **CLIMATE CHANGE WILL TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION** --community action and yes, political action - to ensure that the energy transition is just to all members of our community, to future generations and indeed, life on earth. Here are some ways for you to get involved in the **CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT** happening right here in Western New York and indeed, across the globe.

**JOIN A GROUP** that is working on some aspect of climate change -- whether renewable energy, or stopping gas infrastructure or nuclear. Individuals can help, but it is going to take collective political action to transition off fossil fuels and onto renewable sources. Here are few groups in WNY specifically working on climate:

Sierra Club Niagara Group, <http://niagarasierraclub.com/>;  
[Facebook.com/RiseUpforClimateJustice](https://www.facebook.com/RiseUpforClimateJustice); [twitter.com/RU4CJBuffalo](https://twitter.com/RU4CJBuffalo)

League of Women Voters, Climate Smart Communities <http://www.lwvbn.org/>; [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html)

PUSH Buffalo Energy Democracy < <http://www.pushgreenwny.org/what-is-energy-democracy>

**JOIN A CAMPAIGN!!!** There are many opportunities to get deeply involved on projects of climate change and climate justice in our community. We always need volunteers and people with specific abilities to help out to make a cleaner, safer, healthier and sustainable community through renewable energy and climate justice. Please consider helping out:

- *Climate Justice Coalition of Western New York:* Lynda Schneekloth <lhs1@buffalo.edu> and PUSH and NY Renews: Clarke Gocker ([clarke@pushbuffalo.org](mailto:clarke@pushbuffalo.org)): Work with alliances on addressing climate justice and energy democracy.
- *Interfaith Climate Justice Community of WNY:* Roger Cook ([rogercook@wnycosh.org](mailto:rogercook@wnycosh.org)) Work with other faith based groups on care for creation and protection for future generations.
- *Stop the Bomb Trains:* Charley Bowman [renewableenergy@wnypeace.org](mailto:renewableenergy@wnypeace.org): Keep highly explosive bakken oil trains from coming through Buffalo and NYS. Currently 27/day.
- *Stop the Northern Access 2016 Pipeline:* Diana Strablow [dstrablow@gmail.com](mailto:dstrablow@gmail.com) Keep fracked gas from PA from moving through WNY to Canada, causing damage to communities, land and water.
- *Sierra Club Energy Committee:* [ebanks@daemen.edu](mailto:ebanks@daemen.edu) Work to promote renewable energy
- *Sierra Club Writer's Group:* Bill Nowak [billnowa@gmail.com](mailto:billnowa@gmail.com). Help with communications, LTE and other media to get the Climate Justice message out to the community.
- *Electric Vehicles and Electric Buses:* Sara Schultz ([sjws1979@gmail.com](mailto:sjws1979@gmail.com)) and Robert Ciesielski [rmciesie@yahoo.com](mailto:rmciesie@yahoo.com)

## **ADVOCATE: CALL OFFICIALS, SIGN PETITIONS, JOIN DEMONSTRATIONS**

Keep track of local and statewide events through your membership in groups concerned with climate justice!!! Yes, join the Sierra Club! There are often calls for action on specific issues.

**Climate Change is the moral issues of our time!  
We are the generation who has to act!!**

You can find more information on all of these campaigns at the Sierra Club Niagara Group website:  
[www.niagarasierraclub.com](http://www.niagarasierraclub.com)