

RESOLUTION -2021

WHEREAS, An environmental condition adversely affecting Earth and its inhabitants once referred to as "climate change" has advanced to become a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, We are experiencing ocean acidification, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, and a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of coastal businesses and residences; and

WHEREAS, Extreme weather events, including extremes of temperature as well as increasingly devastating storms and wildfires are causing severe harm to America's agriculture, forestry, and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County was recently ravaged by Hurricane Ida, causing devastating flash flooding, which caused loss of life, homes, and businesses with little warning; and

WHEREAS, Climate change has and continues to cause adverse impacts on human health, as well as the introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, and species extinctions and related threats to biodiversity, with accompanying grave impacts on food and water security, economic security, and social-emotional wellbeing; and

WHEREAS The world's leading climate scientists predict that the climate crisis will catastrophically intensify if prompt public action is not taken through public policy and legislation to curb emissions, and remove atmospheric CO2 through natural and technological sequestration; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the Westchester County Board of Legislators are working to reduce Westchester's greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase and procurement of 78 diesel-electric public buses and by proposing a law that requires all purchases of Westchester County motor vehicles be plug-in-hybrid or electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County recently opened the County Compost and Education Facility ("CompostEd") to divert compostable food scraps from the waste stream and educate local municipalities on how to manage their food-scrap recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, County Executive George Latimer and the Westchester County Board of Legislators adopted and signed legislation to scale up Westchester's green infrastructure through the placement of electric-vehicle charging stations at County-owned garages and parking lots; and

WHEREAS, The Westchester County Board of Legislators and County Executive George Latimer have recently approved the installation of water bottle refill stations in our County Parks System in order to reduce the use of plastic bottles; and

WHEREAS, County administration is revising the Westchester Climate Action Plan which will recommend action steps to deal with the climate crises throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community as designated by New York State; and
NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators urges state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions and take appropriate action to implement the Declarations of Climate Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Westchester County's Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability and the

Westchester Climate Crisis Task Force work with Westchester's 41 municipalities to examine the local implications of the Climate Crisis and identify additional steps to mitigate the impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, all members of the Westchester County New York State Delegation, all members of the Westchester County Congressional Delegation, all of the Mayors and Supervisors of Westchester County Cities, Towns and Villages and all those deemed necessary and proper.

Dated: 2021

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEES ON: **Environment & Health** **Intergovernmental Services** **Planning, Economic
Development & Energy**