

**GEORGE LATIMER**  
County Executive

June 28, 2021

Westchester County Board of Legislators  
800 Michaelian Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

I respectfully request that your Honorable Board adopt the attached Declaration Climate Emergency Resolution to properly address the intensifying local conditions associated with the climate crisis and environmental hardships associated with this crisis.

As you know, many of the world's leading climate scientists predict that our planet's climactic conditions will catastrophically intensify unless prompt public action is taken through public policy and legislation to curb emissions. With this in mind, we enclose the following resolution. It calls for state and local policy-makers to adopt and publicize a Declaration of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions. If passed it shall be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, and all additional federal, state and local legislative partners.

This resolution reflects the views of my administration and the seriousness with which we perceive this matter. This resolution is in line with many Westchester communities, such as the City of New Rochelle which passed a similar resolution this past May. To properly address the climate crisis, we must couple localized solutions with long term systemic change. While this resolution is a preliminary step, I'm confident that it echoes the concerns of thousands of Westchester residents.

I respectfully ask that your Honorable Board review and adopt this Declaration Climate Emergency Resolution.

Very truly yours,



George Latimer.  
Westchester County Executive

**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 is causing severe harm to America’s agriculture, forestry, and tourism industries; and

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

**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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, all members of the Westchester County New York State Delegation, all 45 Mayors and Supervisors of Westchester County Cities, Towns and Villages and all those deemed necessary and proper.