



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From Our Executive Director

Three simultaneous pandemics have been revealed in stark clarity—fast-moving COVID-19, slower moving climate change, and deeply rooted systemic racism. We have also had the financial blow of a recession that has hit our state hard. All four disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. A key to addressing all four is nature. We can only have a vibrant, sustainable natural world with equity, justice and peace for all of humanity. Whereas COVID-19 requires a vaccine, tackling climate change and racism, and stimulating the economy, require deeper and longer-term commitments. As we seek to address climate change with clean, renewable energy that is good for the economy and the planet, we seek to create a world where all of nature, including all of humanity, can thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ulfelder". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

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Advancing the clean energy economy while protecting natural resources © Getty Images

New York Leads on Climate

In response to the climate crisis, New York State has set ambitious goals to reduce carbon pollution, the driver of climate change, and create a cleaner and safer energy future. For the last several years, we've worked closely with elected officials and partners to help realize the vision of a clean energy economy and protect the natural resources we all depend on.

Recent laws like the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act will benefit millions of New Yorkers by improving public health, creating local jobs, and protecting the world for our children. We're excited to bring our conservation expertise to the fight against climate change.

In 2018, we launched the Long Island Solar Roadmap with Defenders of Wildlife to

make it easier to install solar panel installations on already disturbed sites like parking lots and large rooftops. The roadmap will help decision makers identify the best locations to site clean energy projects.

But knowing where to build isn't enough. Bringing clean energy to communities requires local guidance and support. To that end, in collaboration with New Yorkers for Clean Power, we are developing a clean energy toolkit to help community members learn more about projects proposed in their town, provide input, and organize support for local projects.

This year, we were thrilled to welcome Echo Cartwright to The Nature Conservancy as our New York Director of Climate Mitigation. Learn more about our work from Echo on the next page.



Clockwise, Echo at Crystal Cove Beach in Newport, CA © Courtesy of Echo Cartwright; © Kent Mason; © David Lauridsen

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The number of species whose movement routes across the U.S. were plotted by researchers from The Nature Conservancy and University of Washington. This work shows New York is a pinch point for preserving the ability of species to move.

Source: Migrations in Motion;
<http://maps.tnc.org/migrations-in-motion>

Advancing the Clean Energy Economy

Meet New York Climate Mitigation Director Echo Cartwright

Where and when did your interest in nature begin?

I grew up in Schoharie County and have always had a deep connection to the outdoors. Some of my fondest memories are of being out on the water with my father while we fished and watched the sunset in our shared canoe. These activities strengthened my appreciation for our natural resources. Throughout my career advancing renewable energy, which includes serving as a senior energy advisor for two Governors, I've helped lay the groundwork for protecting natural areas while we make the statewide transition to clean energy technologies.

As New York leads the nation for advancing renewable energy, how are we thinking about the communities that are affected by this work?

Our global health pandemic has laid bare the social inequities that disadvantaged communities face. They have historically been disproportionately impacted from a health perspective, and we're also recognizing the hardships they face as a result of fossil fuel energy infrastructure often having been located in these more vulnerable areas. As we build and advance a renewable energy future, we must do so with greater thought and care to equity. This will bring many benefits, including cleaner and healthier air, increased community resilience, and community involvement, as well as green jobs.

What are you most hopeful about in this work?

Our state has the nation's most aggressive climate mitigation goals. I'm excited for the work this allows us to do for smart renewable energy siting. The Conservancy is working with partners across the state, as well as developers, to help find suitable locations for these technologies that are protective of our natural resources. We are on the cusp of a major electricity generation transition, showing that we can reduce our carbon footprint while driving the clean energy economy forward. It's a win-win for everyone—environmentalists, the clean energy sector, and society at large.

Protecting Critical Wildlife Corridors in the Face of Climate Change

A place of vast beauty and abundant wildlife, and one of the world's last remaining intact temperate forests, the Adirondacks serve as part of a critical natural corridor of landscape running from New York to Nova Scotia. As the climate changes and disrupts ecosystems across the East Coast and beyond, wildlife will need to move in search of food and habitat as a means of survival. As part of the Staying Connected Initiative, we're collaborating with 65 partners across five states and three Canadian provinces to conserve a vast network of rivers and forests on which these species depend. These wildlife corridors are critical habitats for black bears, bobcats, moose and more—and your support helps these species thrive as hospitable climates shift.



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