



Bill Ulfelder © Jonathan Grassi

From Our Executive Director

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we're focusing our energies on the health of our people, our economy and our environment. Natural climate solutions—conservation, restoration and improved land management practices that increase nature's carbon storage—play an important role. Combined with innovations in renewable energy, these approaches help minimize the harmful effects of climate change and provide benefits to local communities. Increased clean-energy adoption efforts like those at our Uplands Farm Sanctuary are offering a model for the changes we need, now. As our new New York Board Chair Susannah Kagan shares, this is a pivotal time for tackling climate change, and for The Nature Conservancy. Thanks for all that you do to make this work possible!

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

DONATIONS:

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New solar panels at Uplands Farm Sanctuary, along with other clean-energy changes, will help cut energy use by as much as 10 percent.

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A Clean Energy Makeover at Uplands

Scientists tell us that to combat the worst effects of climate change, we need drastic cuts in greenhouse gas production over the next 10 years. Uplands Farm Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy's preserve and offices in Cold Spring Harbor, on Long Island, is modeling those changes now, with a clean-energy makeover that was completed last fall, thanks to a grant from the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club, an organization that advances sustainability through nonprofit partnerships and grants.

Uplands has weatherized its offices; replaced its oil heating system with efficient, electric heat pumps; swapped leaky windows for air-tight ones; and installed a smart thermostat system that, all on its own, can cut energy use by as much as 10 percent. With new solar panels on Uplands' roofs

and an electric vehicle charger in its parking lot, the offices are now projected to produce as much clean energy as they use all year, saving more than 54 tons of carbon pollution in the process.

"This kind of transition isn't just a dream for the future but something we can do now," says Jessica Price, New York renewable energy strategy lead. Uplands' team members hope to inspire visitors, local leaders, businesses, community institutions and nearby residents. "The social science literature shows that seeing solar panels in your neighborhood is one of the biggest factors in motivating people to install solar," Price says. "We hope that when it comes to clean energy, the improvements we've made here will inspire our area to think big."



Clockwise from left: Susannah Kagan © Nina Drapacz; © Charles Gleberman; © Mat Levine/TNC

Making a Difference in New York and Beyond

Meet New York Board Chair Susannah Smetana Kagan

What are you most looking forward to in your new role as New York Board Chair?

The Nature Conservancy in New York can make a significant impact with our scientific expertise, depth of experience, and our ability to bring stakeholders together. I'm looking forward to helping lead the strategic thinking around how we can continue these efforts with the greatest impact for nature and people throughout the state, across the country and around the world. This is a critical time for tackling climate change and a pivotal time for The Nature Conservancy to make a meaningful difference.

How do you view The Nature Conservancy making a difference for the communities it serves?

The Conservancy is well positioned to make a difference in communities by bringing people together across the public and private sectors, grassroots organizations, and other community constituents. In New York, we are deepening our efforts related to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice to meaningfully impact our conservation outcomes. It is important to make a difference for all people and communities through our collaborative approaches to conservation, advocacy for new policy and providing science where it has the most positive outcomes.

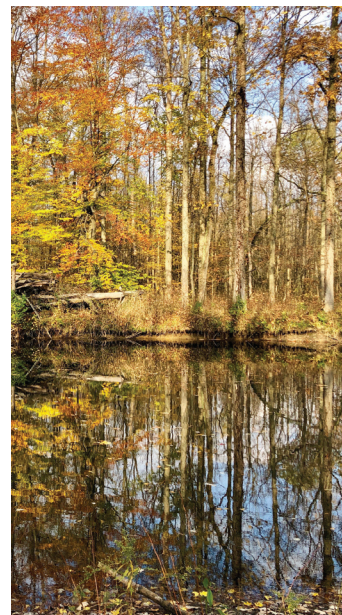
Given your long interest in the environmental sector, how do you seek to motivate the next generation to get involved?

It's critical that we engage with students and other young volunteers and advocates, as they are our future environmental leaders. We are very lucky that this generation is already motivated around environmental issues, with a driven focus on tackling climate change. The Conservancy is and can continue to be a strong resource to inspire and educate this cohort. I'm inspired by the passion I see in my own two teenagers, who continually demonstrate the motivation of their generation to tackle the challenges of climate change.

NATURE NEW YORK

New Land Improves and Protects Water Quality in Owasco

The Owasco Lake watershed, an integral part of the Finger Lakes region, is a key source of drinking water and outdoor recreation for thousands of people. In partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Nature Conservancy is excited to announce a new land acquisition in the town of Locke, Cayuga County—a critical step in improving water quality and protecting source waters throughout the region, helping all of nature thrive. "Owasco, like many of the Finger Lakes, faces urgent water quality challenges," says our central and western director Jim Howe. "The strategic protection of these lands, which play a major role in safeguarding the lake, is an investment in the region's health and quality of life." Your support helps make this work possible. Thank you!



The new parcel, located in the town of Locke, will help protect public water supplies and the overall health of the Owasco Lake watershed.

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