

**EXTREME WEATHER, CLIMATE CHANGE, MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION: AN
ACTION-ORIENTED CONFERENCE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS OF THE
SOUTHERN TIER OF NEW YORK**



**Friday, September 13, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Kopernik Observatory & Science Center
698 Underwood Road
Vestal, New York**

Extreme weather, linked by many climate scientists to climate change, has been increasing in frequency and intensity globally, nationally, regionally, and, within New York State, in the Southern Tier. According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in the Southern Tier:

- **Average temperature will rise 3.5 to 5.5° F by 2050 and 4.5 to 8.5 ° F by 2080.**
- **Precipitation will increase 10% by 2050 and by another 5 to 10% by 2080.**
- **Milk production will decrease because of heat-induced stress.**
- **Adverse effects from invasive insects, weeds, and other pests will rise.**
- **Flooding in the Susquehanna River basin will increase in frequency.**

Designed specifically for elected and appointed municipals, the conference begins with an introduction to extreme weather and climate change followed by an exploration of weather and climate projections for the coming 50 to 75 years. The conference then moves to the policies, programs, and projects municipalities may implement to *adapt* to our changing climate thereby increasing community resilience to extreme weather. The conference concludes with a review of practical cost-beneficial measures Southern Tier municipalities may implement to *mitigate* or reduce their carbon emissions. These actions, combined with similar actions by other municipalities, states, regions, and nations have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions thus avoiding the more extreme adverse consequences of climate change.

Program Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. “Extreme Weather and Climate in the Northeast”: Mark Wysocki--Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University. With emphasis on the practical uses of meteorology, Mark has worked with governmental and environmental groups to help them better understand climate change and associated weather patterns. Mark will discuss the causes and consequences of extreme weather and climate change with projections for the Northeast through 2050.

11:00 to 12:00 noon: “The Southern Tier: Extreme Weather and Climate Change: Perspectives on the Past, Present, and Future”. Dave Nicosia. Dave is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He is associated with “Storm Ready”, the national community preparedness program that uses a grassroots approach that helps communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather from tornadoes to floods. Dave will focus on extreme weather in the Southern Tier, steps that municipalities can and should take to increase preparedness and reduce loss of life and property.

12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch and break. Comments from NYSERDA representatives

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: “Proactive Adaptation for Extreme Weather in the Southern Tier”. Art Degaetano. Art is with the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell. He directs the Northeast Regional Climate Center whose mission is to enhance the use and dissemination of climate information to a wide variety of sectors in the Northeast. Art will identify and address the policies and programs that Southern Tier municipalities can initiate and implement to become more resilient to extreme weather and climate change, including changes in transportation, utility, and communication infrastructure.

3:00 to 4:00 p.m. “Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Achieving Sustainability in the Southern Tier”. A presentation by Southern Tier East of its program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. STE will identify specific policies and programs to reduce climate changing greenhouse gas emissions.

4:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Plenary Session: Wrap-up, Discussion, Questions and Answer Period.

This conference is sponsored by Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, WSKG Public Media, and the Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board.

Preference will be given to the first 120 guests. Seating is limited.

On-line advance registration at <http://kopernik-conference.eventbrite.com> is \$25.

Registration the day of the conference is \$30. Lunch and refreshments included.