

SUMMARY – ‘Make Your Voice Heard on Climate’
Resistance Leadership Summit – Hudson NY July 8 2017

Mobilizing citizens to engender the necessary political will for our government(s) to urgently and meaningfully address the climate crisis is indistinguishable from the need to mobilize to accomplish all other justice-related goals Indivisible groups are addressing. The social/political/money forces that have resulted in the current disempowerment of citizens are the same forces that have brought us the climate catastrophe.

There are already significant, grassroots organizations active at the federal, state, and local government level that Indivisible activists can join.

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) (www.citizensclimatelobby.org) is very active at the federal level. It is organized by U.S. Congressional District, and there is a large, active NY-19 chapter (although it is called the Columbia County Chapter). CCL is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address the climate crisis, especially through enactment of a federal-level, upstream price on carbon. To generate the political will necessary for this, we train and support volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community. We especially interact with our Members of Congress in their districts and in Washington D.C.

NY Renews (www.nyrenews.org) is active at the New York State level. It is a coalition of more than 100 grassroots, state, and national organizations. It aims to make NYS the leader in tackling the climate crisis while protecting workers and lifting up communities. This group is building political will at the NYS level for the Community and Climate Protection Act (which calls for 100% renewable energy by 2050; all state energy decisions to undergo a 'climate test'; all state funded energy projects to abide by fair labor standards; and, that 40% of all state energy funded go to 'frontline' and 'disadvantaged' communities). It is now crafting a 'revenue-positive' carbon tax bill to be introduced into the NYS budget process this fall.

At the local level, many communities are becoming 'climate smart' and/or 'clean energy' by taking advantage of technical advice and funding through the NYS supported programs. Action at the local level is incredibly important to address climate. Indivisible members are encouraged to join their local climate smart/clean energy municipal committees or to start one.

A list of municipalities in NY-19 that have climate smart committees is available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html>

A list of municipalities that have clean energy committees is available at: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities/Designated-Clean-Energy-Communities>

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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