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**ANCA Clean Energy Director Named to NYS Climate Justice Working Group**

*Jerrod Bley is one of nine community members to guide implementation of new climate act*

**SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.** — Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) Clean Energy Program Director Jerrod Bley is one of three individuals from rural communities to be named to New York State's Climate Justice Working Group, which will help guide the implementation of New York's ambitious new [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#) (CLCPA).

As part of New York's efforts to address environmental justice and support disadvantaged communities throughout its clean energy transition process, the New York Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) has announced 13 members of the [working group](#), which includes nine community representatives.

"I am honored and humbled to serve with this group of clean energy experts and community leaders," said Bley. "I will do my best to represent the people who are touched by this complex and salient issue here in the North Country and throughout the state."

Bley has worked in the energy industry for over 15 years. He began his career with an engineering unit in the United States Marine Corps and gained experience installing solar PV, solar thermal and small wind systems in Nebraska and Montana. Prior to joining ANCA in July 2019, Jerrod served as a program coordinator and environmental health and safety instructor. Bley credits much of his insight and appreciation for the challenges facing rural communities to his upbringing on a working farm in Ohio and his years working in the Montana Weatherization Assistance Program through Montana State University Extension, where he worked with low-to moderate-income (LMI) and Indigenous communities.

Bley says he envisions a future structured on safe, reliable clean energy generation that benefits all sectors and populations.

"This opportunity comes at a pivotal time and place, where we can shape a clean energy future that addresses the most pressing issues of our day," Bley said. "We are currently facing multiple crises that must be considered in restructuring the energy sector. The COVID pandemic, racial inequity and global climate disruption all come with challenges that disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities. I look forward to working with other group members and State leaders to implement clean energy initiatives centered on diversity, equity and inclusion."

The working group will support the [CLCPA's New York State Climate Action Council](#), which is co-chaired by NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and Doreen Harris, Acting President and CEO at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), in implementing goals set forth through the 2019 climate act.

The CLCPA requires the State to achieve a carbon-free electricity system by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, setting a new standard for states and the nation to expedite the transition to a clean energy economy. The new law will drive investment in clean energy solutions such as wind, solar, energy efficiency, vehicle electrification and energy storage.

[ANCA](#) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. ANCA's community-informed, results-driven strategies for local food producers, small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs and municipal innovators offer targeted interventions that are designed to keep wealth and value in local communities.

**Attached: one (1) PDF document and one (1) image**

*Photo provided by ANCA: Jerrod Bley, who joined ANCA as Clean Energy Program Director in July 2019, is one of nine community members named to New York State's Climate Justice Working Group.*

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