

May 27, 2022

Dear Dryden Town Board,

In our Climate Change class, we have spent the past semester learning about the impacts of climate change on communities. We have worked with members of the Dryden Climate Smart Task Force to learn about what our community is doing in regard to climate change and have been working on various projects to spread information and awareness about this issue and Dryden's plans. We have created a wide variety of ways to "get the word out," including a slideshow presentation, an informational video, social media posts, posters, and a Southworth Library outreach event.

The "Dryden 2045 Comprehensive Plan" update is a tremendous improvement from the 2005 comprehensive plan. It acknowledges the climate change effects and plans out real, feasible steps that we can take as a community to improve agriculture, provide greener solutions for industrial and commercial development, and effectively increase climate resiliency so that we can prevent disastrous climate change effects in the future.

As a community, investing in renewable energy and climate-safe procedures will save all of us money in the future. If we do not take action against climate change, we risk being affected by harsher floods, storms, and temperatures. We are seeing the effects of these changes already, as there have been observable changes in typical yearly weather patterns in the last two months alone. With such extreme conditions, we will see more frequent destruction of roads, buildings, and houses. Our homes, parks, and favorite restaurants will be subjected to these impacts, but we can change that now by enacting the Climate Action Plan. By doing this, we will not only work towards the safety of our own futures, but also the futures of the generations still to come.

In addition, the Climate Action Plan is a flexible framework that simply reflects where the community values stand at the moment, and is able to be changed at any point if the community feels as though it is not working or no longer the right choice. We are currently at a pivotal moment that generations in the future will

look back at and consider as either a saving or dooming point. Those that came before us have consistently ignored this issue, and now we have reached a moment where we have no choice but to act. The burden has fallen onto us, and we must stop it from falling onto our children and grandchildren. Investing in this plan is investing in the futures of our lives and our children's lives, so they may not be living in fear of the next tragedy to affect our town.

As students in our community, we feel that using our voices to show support for the Dryden Climate Action Plan is vitally important; we hope that the opinions and ideas that we share are impactful. This comprehensive plan will provide us with long-term guidance for Dryden's decisions and progress. In this way, we will know where we plan to go in the future as well as how to reach that objective.

Currently, Dryden has both the plan and the means to take big steps towards fighting climate change in our community, and the Town Board can make this goal a reality by voting the Climate Action Plan into place. You as Town Board members have the privilege of being able to make a difference that will not only contribute to the global fight against the climate crisis, but also improve life for generations to come in Upstate New York and our Town of Dryden.

Sincerely,

Ben Anderson, Parker Barrow, Emmaline Bennett, Kristina Busby, Jillian Couch, Bryant DePaull, Hollace F, Kassi Fish, Konnor Greene, Drew Grossi, Brendan McDaniel, Sophia Pushlar, Chloe Rocker, Abby Spano, and Zach Wisner

The Students of Dryden High School's Climate Change Class