

## Session Descriptions

### **Staying Engaged with Climate Change Action: Even When it is Tough**

We need all hands on deck to address climate change. We need to work together both in our personal spheres and in policy. But being engaged can often feel overwhelming. Sometimes we fail to notice or take action because it is too difficult to face the seriousness of the situation. However, we can take care of ourselves and our friends and build the resilience necessary to stay engaged and be fulfilled personally, even as we work to fight climate change and seek environmental justice. This is the focus of this session – the science of sustained engagement.

### **The Transition of a Traditional Electric Utility Company to an Innovative Energy Service Provider**

An insider's look at the changes occurring as a result of Green Mountain Power's transition to an energy services provider for the future. The focus moves away from the traditional utility infrastructure and embraces sustainability, resilience, and community building throughout the process.

### **Music and Climate Change**

Music has been an inspiring companion to social movements throughout history. Marches and music in the civil rights movement, anti-war movement, and environmental movement co-created a sustaining synergy for all. What will the anthem of our activism sound like, feel like, be like? Join us in a reinvigoration of American Folk for social change through poetry in lyrics and music that raise awareness of climate change and social activism.

### **Local Community Action to Address Climate Change Now and in the Future**

What can local government officials do to facilitate climate solutions? What barriers do they face in doing so? And what can citizens do to help officials move forward?

### **Relocalization of Production & Evolutionary Culture Design in an "America First" World**

Let's keep our eyes on the prize and not be distracted. Let us remain focused, not only on surviving the current presidential administration, but on building the foundation for thriving in the oil-constrained future on the horizon. We have choices. We can choose to purposefully live into the relocalization of production to meet our basic needs wherever we are. This is the "outer work" which is all the more imperative for the most vulnerable and marginalized among us who are scapegoats in an unabashedly, "America First," world. Yet in the final analysis, internal self-transformation is the engine of authentic social change, and it is the quality of our relationships that will get humanity through the eye of the climate change needle.

### **Student Panel**

Students from around our region will report on their climate initiatives and provide insight into their sustainability priorities. Education has the strong potential to be seed regional solutions, and student energy can help these seeds grow.

### **The Role of the Media**

Media play crucial roles in informing the public about regional issues and shaping public opinion. Where public opinion is deeply divided, newspapers have to provide balanced coverage while also presenting the facts. Ken Tingley will present an insider's view of how newspapers make decisions about how to present climate change information, what editorials papers will run, and how citizens can influence media to build powerful regional stories about climate solutions.

*The 3rd Annual North Country Climate Reality Conference will empower participants to create climate solutions in their lives and in their communities. Inspiring speakers and musicians will motivate action-planning sessions. Participants will leave the conference energized and with purpose to help make the North Country a model for citizen action on climate change. Join us on April 21st for this exciting gathering.*



Visit: North Country Climate site for more Information <http://northcountryclimate.org>



Register: <http://bit.ly/2mDzF2a>  
Register Early, seats will fill up quickly!

## Directions

The North Country Climate Reality Conference will take place in Withy Hall on the Green Mountain College Campus on 1 Brennan Cir, Poultney, VT. The conference is hosted by SUNY Plattsburgh at Queensbury and Green Mountain College.

**From NY:** Take I-87 to exit 20. Take a left at the light (or two lefts NB exit) onto Route 9. Proceed to light at Route 149 and turn right onto 149. Follow 149 to the town of Fort Ann. Turn left onto Route 4 North. Proceed to Route 22 South. Follow 22 to blinking light at Route 22A. Continue on 22A for approximately 6 miles. Bear right at sign for Poultney and proceed to GMC.

### **Within Vermont:**

**Burlington:** Take Route 7 South. Turn right onto Route 22A in Vergennes. Follow through Fair Haven and New York. Turn left at Poultny sign. At red blinking light bear right and proceed to GMC.

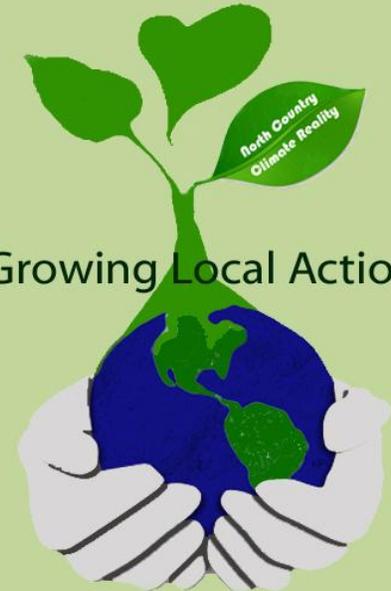
**Brattleboro:** Follow Route 30 North to Manchester, VT, approximately 40 miles. In Manchester, continue on Route 30 North to Poultny, approximately 30 miles. Once in Poultny, turn left onto Main Street at red light, follow to end of street, Green Mountain College is across College Street at the end of Main Street.

**Bennington:** Route 7 North to Exit 4. Turn left onto Route 7A. Turn left onto Route 30 North, follow to Poultny, approximately 30 miles. Once in Poultny, turn left onto Main Street at red light, follow to end of street, Green Mountain College is across College Street at the end of Main Street.



# North Country Climate Reality

Friday, April 21, 2017  
8:00 am—4:30 pm



Growing Local Action

At Green Mountain College

Presented by

SUNY Plattsburgh at Queensbury

Green Mountain College

8:00-8:25	Check-in, coffee and snacks	
8:30-8:45	<i>Welcome, Introduction, Logistics</i>	
8:45-9:15	Michelle McCauley	<i>Staying Engaged With Climate Change Action: Even When it is Tough</i>
9:20-9:50	Dan Mackey	<i>The Transition of a Traditional Electric Utility Company to an Innovative Energy Service Provider</i>
10:00-10:15	Break, Please return promptly	
10:15-10:45	Juxtapoze	<i>Music and Climate Change</i>
10:45-11:15	John Strough	<i>Local Community Action to Address Climate Change Now and in the Future</i>
11:15-12:00	Breakout Session I	<i>Action Planning Teams Prepare for Upcoming year</i>
12:00-12:55	<i>Lunch in the Withey dining hall. (Optional tour of renewables on campus at 12:30)</i>	
1:00-1:40	Keynote: Pamela Boyce Simms	<i>Relocalization of Production &amp; Evolutionary Culture Design in an "America First" World</i>
1:45 - 2:30	Student Panel	<i>Students Report on Climate Initiatives</i>
2:30-2:45	Break, move to breakout session	
2:45-3:10	Breakout Session II	<i>Action Teams Reconvene to Prepare Goals for Year</i>
3:15-3:45	Ken Tingley	<i>The Role of the Media</i>
3:45-4:15	Report Out	<i>Action Teams Report Out</i>
4:15-4:45	Wrap-Up	<i>Summaries and Closing Music Performance</i>

## Presenters



**Michelle McCauley** is Professor of Psychology at Middlebury College, where she chairs the Department of Psychology and directs the environmental studies conservation psychology major. Her research focuses on how psychological

theory applies to social issues such as environmental engagement. She is part of a working group on contemplative environmental studies, and faculty liaison for the *Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers Conference*. For fun, Michelle contributes to *Hurry Up Please It's Time*, a web comic about the environment, culture, and science, and hangs out with her partner, two fabulous boys, two cats, and a few thousand bees.



**Dan Mackey** is an Energy Innovation Champion at Green Mountain Power. As a seasoned employee with over 20 years of service to Central Vermont Public Service, Dan stepped up to the challenge in 2012 to take on a new role with GMP in the midst

of a changing climate, and a work force in transition. Dan utilizes his experience to seek out and implement innovative changes to transform GMP from a traditional electric utility company to an energy service provider that will set the standard for a more resilient and sustainable future in Vermont.



**Juxtapoze** is a music trio from the Adirondacks, featuring Vinnie Leddick, Tim Ellifritz and Michelle Howland. They perform original music filled with emotion, turning everyday experiences into timeless melodic journeys in the spirit of good storytelling.

Together they have several decades of experience as professional musicians performing in the region. Their newest EP *Change* features lyrics and themes that touch on environmental and personal introspection.



**John Strough** is an educator who taught at Queensbury High School for twenty seven years. In 2004 he was elected Town Councilman and served in that role until 2014 when he became Town Supervisor. John helped write and design the town's

zoning code, Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Open Space Plan, and he wrote the region's first shoreline buffer design and fertilizer use limitations law. He also initiated the effort to install rooftop solar panels on six town buildings. John serves on the board of many organizations including: Lake George Watershed Coalition, SUNY Adirondack, Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycle Organization, Warren County SPCA, Lake George/Lake Champlain Regional Planning, Warren County Economic Development and Capital region Community College Council.



**Pamela Boyce Simms** is an evolutionary culture designer who convenes the Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub, –a six-state network of environmental activists. She is a veteran of local, regional, and

national resilience-building with the Transition environmental movement, and currently works with international Quaker, Buddhist, and African Diaspora Earthcare networks. Pamela builds social transformation movements from the inside out, and from hyper-local to supranational levels.



**Ken Tingley** is Managing Editor of The Post Star; he guided the newsroom to national prominence as one of the best under 50,000 circulation newspapers in the country, including recognition as the 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner for editorial writing. The newspaper also received six National Headliner Awards, three ASNE awards, one National Journalism honor and was six times named Newspaper of the Year in New York in AP's annual contest. Tingley writes a column twice a week that has regularly been honored on the state level. This past year the column was honored by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists with first place honors.

## Break-out Sessions

Interactive breakout sessions will build momentum for our locally grown initiatives. People will leave empowered to take specific actions to advance climate solutions. They will review current activities, inspire each other, and join in planning for the next year.

Action Teams		
1	Social Media and Messaging	
2	Renewable Energy and Weatherization	
3	Local Campaigns to Shift Common Practices	
4	The Role of Music and The Arts	
5	Political Action	

## Thanks to Our Sponsor



SUNY Plattsburgh at Queensbury  
Regional Higher Education Center  
640 Bay Road  
Queensbury, NY 12804  
Phone: 518-792-5425  
Fax: 518-792-3868  
E-mail: [branchcampus@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:branchcampus@plattsburgh.edu)



Green Mountain College  
1 Brennan Circle  
Phone: 800-776-6675  
Fax: 802-287-8099  
Email: [admiss@greenmtn.edu](mailto:admiss@greenmtn.edu)  
URL: <http://www.greenmtn.edu/>