

League of Women Voters of Albany County Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM

Bethlehem Town Hall, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar

“CLIMATE CHANGE: THE END? OR THE BEGINNING?”

Guest panelists will include Congressman Paul Tonko, Dr. Jeff Corbin, Chairman of Environmental Science at Union College.

Climate change has already been well-documented by scientists. This program will, therefore, move forward to focus on the exciting new innovations currently happening in the field of environmental conservation and to explore new opportunities in business and science in addressing climate change.

In his February town hall meeting at Schenectady County Community College, Congressman Paul Tonko called for efforts to provide clean air, clean water, clean soil. Congressman Tonko will be part of the evening's panel discussing green energy as good business as well as providing a greener future for the planet. In addition to several other panelists, Dr. Jeff Corbin, department chair of Environmental Science at Union College will discuss impact of climate change and the growing need for young people to fill career opportunities in the field.

There will be a focus on the opportunities for growth in business. CEO Jeff Immelt recently stated that GE believes that “climate change is real and the science is well accepted,” and that “industry must now lead and not depend on government to create technology and solutions that address climate change...” Several types of current business innovation will be presented, i.e., “solar sheds” for homes not adaptable for solar roof panels. A zero-emission hydrogen-powered sedan by Honda now available in California. The Long Island “Anaerobic Digester Project” which is currently converting food waste into convertible energy, vehicle fuel, and electricity as well as fertilizer. Energy efficient prefab homes are now available that are projected to having annual heating and cooling costs of about \$200 per year. Existing commercial buildings like the Times Union Center can be “refitted” at estimated annual savings of \$450,000 and reduction of 3,100 metric tons of greenhouse gas.

The program is free and open to the public. Young people are especially encouraged to attend for their commitment and involvement can offer a greener and brighter future.