

## Press Information

Contact: Sara Tagliarino  
518.359.7800 X103  
stagliarino@wildcenter.org



THE  
WILD  
CENTER

### **WILD CENTER WILL BE SITE OF MAJOR NATIONAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE ON CUTTING U. S. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Tupper Lake, NY (March 24, 2008) - New York State will be the site of a major conference to identify actionable solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Scheduled for June 25th and 26th in the Adirondack Park, the Conference will convene business leaders and experts on climate change economics, carbon finance, selected emissions sectors, and the carbon sink in the United States. Participants are also expected to produce a slate of possible policy and regulatory options to overcome market and other barriers that are inhibiting implementation of substantial low-cost greenhouse gas emission reductions.

"We know ways exist to materially cut greenhouse gas emissions. What we do not yet know is the policy and regulatory framework that can kick-start these solutions so they take hold across the U.S. economy," said Conference Co-Chair Carter Bales. Mr. Bales was a member of the McKinsey & Company team that recently published the report *Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: How Much at What Cost?*, which identifies ways to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by up to 28 percent with positive impact on the U.S. economy. Additional cuts are available at relatively low cost (ranging up to \$50 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents saved). "We finally have the facts in hand to move against greenhouse gas emissions in an economically sensible way," said Mr. Bales, "Achieving these reductions at the lowest cost to the economy will require coordinated economy-wide action, which is why we are assembling this group of climate leaders to work on the task."

The Conference is by invitation only, and will be limited to 125 participants. "Many past conferences have focused on identifying the problem and its causes," said Ross Whaley, the other conference Co-Chair. "This is not another of those conferences. This conference centers on finding the U.S. solution." Robert Socolow, the Princeton University physicist and co-director of the University's Carbon Mitigation Initiative called the planned gathering, "a serious opportunity to prove we can start to get ideas into the market. We are going to go beyond the theory that this will work, and into the reality of making it work."

Judith Enck, New York State's Deputy Secretary for the Environment is also expected to attend. "New York has long been a leader in protecting the environment," said Ms. Enck. "This Conference is going to look at the most cost-effective ways we can bring real reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions based on serious and thorough research. We are especially interested because the conference will focus on ways we can reduce emissions in a way that will create net economic benefits."

Conference organizers said New York State provides an ideal venue for the national conference in part because the state has offered to help advance a slate of pilot projects designed to test certain of the recommendations that might arise from the conference.

[\(more\)](#)

More than 70 major businesses and organizations are scheduled to participate. Businesses slated to date to participate include AES Corporation, Brookfield Power, General Electric, McKinsey & Company, National Grid, Honeywell, Bovis Lend Lease, (one of the world's biggest project management and construction companies), Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum (the world's largest architectural firm), and Credit Suisse Capital Markets. Conference partners include among others New York State, the New York Academy of Sciences, The National Geographic Society, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Yale School of Environment and Forestry, the US Green Building Council, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the American Museum of Natural History.

"Holding this conference in the Adirondack Park is no accident. It will bring together people from around the nation to a place where New Yorkers have taken leadership positions on many critical environmental issues over the years," said New York State's DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis. "Moreover, the Adirondack Park reminds us what is at stake if we fail to curb greenhouse gas emissions."

The Conference will be held at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake. The new museum complex was recently awarded a Silver LEED certification from the US Green Building Council. It was the first museum in New York to be certified and the first certified building in the Adirondack Park.

"The Wild Center is dedicated to the future of the Adirondacks," said museum president Donald Clifford Jr. "Science is telling us we have a problem in our near future, while experts tell us we have solutions that can mean economic opportunity. The Wild Center cares about the future of the Adirondacks for all its residents and visitors, so being the catalyst for a conference looking at how we can help people and nature achieve a better balance is something powerful that we can do to fulfill our mission."

The Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, responsible for one out of every six protected acres park-wide, will offer attendees from outside the region tours of protected areas in the Adirondacks the day after the Conference. "It's an excellent opportunity to take in this great, largely intact forested landscape, and to get a feel for on the ground conservation work that anticipates needs for species to move upslope and or northward in response to a changing climate," said Mike Carr, executive director of the Adirondack Chapter.

For a list of conference advisors and participants and more information about the Conference, please refer to the Conference website: [www.usclimateaction.org](http://www.usclimateaction.org).

The Conference information is also available [www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org) in the Events Section

For information on the McKinsey Report, *Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: How Much at What Cost?* see the McKinsey Special Climate Change Initiative at: <http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/greenhousegas.asp>

END