



NORTH COUNTY

CLIMATE-READY

WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE

SUNY-Adirondack, Queensbury, NY, October 23, 2025

8:30 am - Registration Opens

9:30 - Welcome and First Facilitated Group Exercise: Education, Adaptation and Resilience Venn Diagram

- Mark Watson, Interim President, Adirondack Research Consortium and Program Manager of Environmental Research, NYSERDA (retired)
- Jen Kretser, Director of Climate Initiatives, The Wild Center & Zoë Smith, VP of Strategic Initiatives, Paul Smith's College
- Sunita Halasz, Clean Water Community Advocate, Adirondack Council

10:00 - Keynote Address

- Ana Williams-Bergen, NCPR's North Country At Work Coordinator

10:30 - State Agency Panel

- Moderator: Samantha Adkisson, Dept of Labor Office of Just Energy Transition
- Panelists: Dana McClure, DEC Office of Environmental Justice; Adele Ferranti, NYSERDA; Jillian Lee, NYS Tug Hill Commission.

11:35 - Tabling and Networking

- Get to know our sponsors, including Champlain-Hudson Power Express, AES, Fisher Associates, Adirondack Community Foundation, Paul Smith's College, The Wild Center, Adirondack Council, Adirondack North Country Association Clean Energy Hub, Adirondack Diversity Initiative, North Country Public Radio, Empire State Forest Products Association, Disability EmpowHer Network, and more!

12:00 pm - Lunch

12:25 - Lunch Keynote Address

- Frank Niepold (Speaking in a personal capacity), Senior Climate Education and Workforce Programs Leader (NOAA Climate Program Office - affiliation for identification only) (via zoom)

1:05 - Second Facilitated Group Exercise: Building Bridges Along the Workforce Pathway

- Share-out by Tamara Jolly, Adirondack Diversity Initiative

1:35 - Education Panel

- Moderator: Keith Kaplan, SUNY Adirondack Vice President for Administrative Services, Sustainability Coordinator, and Treasurer
- Panelists: Sarah Maroun, VP of Academic Affairs, North Country Community College; Zoë Smith, VP of Strategic Initiatives, Paul Smith's College; Turina M. Parker, Ed.D., District Superintendent and CEO, WSWHE BOCES; Dr. Michael Burgess, Expeditionary Studies Department Chair, SUNY Plattsburgh.

2:45 - Educational Workforce Pathways Keynote Address

- Billy Jones, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Workforce Development, Clinton Community College, and former NYS Assemblymember for the North Country's 115th District (via zoom)

3:00 - Third Facilitated Group Exercise: Building Multidimensional Workforce Partnerships

3:30 - Businesses and Organizations Panel

- Moderator: Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association
- Panelists: Jen Kretser, Director of Climate Initiatives, The Wild Center; Dillon Klepetar, Working Lands Advocate and Project Leader for Essex Farm Institute, Adirondack Council; Dave Plante, Director of Energy, Fisher Associates; Maeghan Farnham, Owner, St. Regis Canoe Outfitters.

4:40 - Summary of Themes

5:00 - End

5:15 - 6:00pm - Optional walking tour of "The Farm @ SUNY Adirondack." Proper footwear for walking in grassy fields is required. This on-campus student farm is about 1.5 acres, with an orchard, greenhouse, high tunnel, and outdoor production space. It is used as an outdoor lab for classes, and produce is sold to the campus community and student-run restaurant in Glens Falls. The tour, led by farm managers Tommy Donolli and Kim London, will start from the conference room.

Speaker Bio's

Scan the QR code below, or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/59tpnf83>

Paper copies available at the
registration table

