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BPU Announces Fall Dates for Premier Climate Tech Conference in Jamestown

A premier conference focusing on opportunities in the growing Climate Technology manufacturing sector is scheduled for October 17-19, 2022 at Jamestown's Northwest Arena. This event is one part of the Retool WNY initiative to encourage business growth and development in the climate technology sector in the Western New York/Southern Tier area.

"This conference will bring together manufacturers, investors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders to explore the opportunities and challenges in the climate technology and clean energy sectors in New York State and specifically, the Western Southern Tier," Jamestown Board of Public Utilities General Manager David Leathers said in making the announcement.

"We are excited to have the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); the Gebbie Foundation; the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA); the Jamestown Local Development Corporation and the City of Jamestown; the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF); the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier (MAST), and the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau (CCVB) on board to bring this conference to Jamestown," continued Leathers.

"We are proud to support the Retool WNY initiative and conference as they connect manufacturers and climate technology companies in the Western Southern Tier. This initiative will facilitate full utilization of the region's broad manufacturing capabilities to help climate technology companies accelerate their development as we work together to advance the State's climate and clean energy goals," said New York State Energy and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Director of Technology to Market Katie MacDonald.

The event will introduce regional manufacturers and business leaders to speakers who will outline the market opportunities that exist in the climate technology sector, entrepreneurs who are fostering innovative ideas into new business ventures, and investors who see this market as an historic opportunity. Representatives from secondary and higher education institutions will focus on how to re-tool the workforce to capitalize on new careers and work assignments in climate technology manufacturing.

Gebbie Foundation Chief Executive Officer Greg Edwards said the Climate Tech Conference is a great way to showcase the Foundation's strategic focus on economic development and investments in downtown Jamestown. "The long and successful history of manufacturing in and around Jamestown is a key part of our economy. This conference will highlight new opportunities created by the trillions of dollars in local, regional and national funding dedicated to green energy development and transmission."

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“The County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency is pleased to participate as a sponsor of this important event,” said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CEO of the CCIDA. “Clean technology is a burgeoning industry, and our manufacturers are poised to take advantage of this unique opportunity. The Climate Tech Conference will act as a launching point for companies to pivot toward supplying products and services for this new sector, and I’m glad we can contribute.”

CRCF Executive Director Tory Irgang emphasized the conference’s focus on both immediate and long-term opportunities for manufacturers and entrepreneurs who want to move into the climate tech sector. “We intend to utilize our tremendous scholarship program to support students to acquire the skills needed to work in this emerging field. Generous donors have positioned the Foundation with scholarships that support training and certification for the immediate pipeline to career opportunities. This can be our way to support local manufacturers and encourage entrepreneurship.”

The multi-day event in Jamestown will include networking events at the National Comedy Center, the Robert H. Jackson Center, and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, as well as the Northwest Arena. Jamestown Mayor Edward Sundquist called the conference an opportunity to showcase the city and its many assets, including the numerous restaurants and hotels that will host the 350 attendees. “I am thrilled that Jamestown will be hosting the Climate Tech Conference. As a city with a proud industrial heritage, Jamestown is well positioned to be a leader in manufacturing for the green economy, both through our existing and new businesses. I thank all the event sponsors and welcome this exciting economic development opportunity to Jamestown.”

Registration details will be released **June 1** with an online link that includes hotel discounts and options for all conference events. Attendance at the conference is limited to 350 individuals. Sponsorships are available for manufacturers and businesses who wish to showcase their products and services.

A series of three webinars will be held this summer to introduce programs and people who are involved in the climate technology manufacturing sector. These online events will lead into the in-person event October 17-19 at the Northwest Arena.

Multi-year funding was awarded to the Jamestown BPU under the Accelerate the Southern Tier program to spearhead economic development efforts in this area and advance technologies and training that support New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.