

May 9, 2007

**Call for Global Warming Action Plan OK'd**

A Democratic proposal for a Rensselaer County Local Action Plan to address issues related to global warming was approved at the May meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature.

The legislation directs members of the County's Environmental Management Council and its Director to evaluate the environmental impact of current county, city, town and village policies and programs. Recommendations on new policies, legislation and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of global warming will become the County's Environmental Action Plan.

According to Peter Grimm, a member of the Legislature's Environmental Committee, "I am pleased to see bipartisan support when it comes to the importance of our environment and the serious threat of global warming. We are providing a leadership role to local governments, businesses and citizens in developing and encouraging specific action steps to alleviate the impacts of global warming locally."

He noted that "It's understandable that people are overwhelmed and discouraged by the magnitude of global warming. They need to know that we can all take individual steps to make a difference locally and send a message to push energy policies at the state and national levels."

Co-sponsor Flora Fasoldt said, "In the past, the County's Environmental Management Council served as an educational resource to municipalities in our county and I am pleased that with the passage of this resolution the county will be taking a leadership role." She said, "The EMC can bring localities together to maximize energy conservation efforts and share information and resources."

Minority Democrats are committed to enhancing and expanding the scope of services of the County's Environmental Management Council, to benefit residents and municipalities.