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2009 Environmental Questionnaire

For the Capital District

CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name Phil Barrett

District: Town of Clifton Park, Town/County Supervisor

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PERSONAL INITIATIVES

Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that would indicate your commitment to advancing a sustainability agenda for the Capital District.

I am now serving in my tenth year in office and the last decade has been a time of advancement in Clifton Park, regarding environmental issues. My administration has a strong and lengthy record of accomplishment in the important categories listed below. Each initiative is important to the future of our Town as well as the world community. We have not and will not rest on our laurels. We consider each initiative below to be a work in progress and current projects, when completed, will add to our past successes. I have listed past accomplishments and future initiatives in bullet form to reduce the length of my answers for your convenience.

Issue Questions

Our sister organization, the NYLCV Education Fund, identified key principles of urban sustainability in its

recent [Blueprint for a Greener Capital District](#). By building constructive policies around these core areas, we believe the Capital District can get on the path toward a sustainable future. NYLCV has endorsed these goals and others that promote the following core principles that represent a sustainability agenda for officials seeking elected office.

Please articulate specific policy and budgetary proposals that would advance the following goals:

Combating climate change by reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption:

Established a GREEN Committee and implemented some simple, but important initiatives: -

a) Replaced all lighting in Town buildings with energy saving lights and installed motion detectors-replacing traditional light switches.

b)-Established Town plastic bag recycling program

c)-Established plastic container recycling program at Clifton Common Sports Complex

d)-Established white paper recycling program in Town buildings

e)-In an effort to urge residents to switch their home light bulbs to more energy efficient lighting we provided a light bulb calculator on the Town's website, allowing residents to calculate the amount of money they would save by switching

2)-Recently won a NYS grant to replace the aging furnace system in Town Hall to a modern, energy efficient system.

3)-Currently working with a New York company to study the possibility of constructing a solar field on the Town's capped landfill. This initiative would allow us to derive revenue from a land lease and invest in the creation and storage of energy through solar equipment.

4)-Coordinate a mulching operation, recycling all resident yard waste into a usable product.

Promoting sustainable land use policies:

Completed a GEIS on more than 15,000 acres to study impacts of possible future development

a)-created Conservation Residential Zoning to reduce overall housing density and significantly reduce the number of future housing units that can be constructed.

b)-emphasize Cluster Zoning to afford more open space

c)-GEIS provided a vision for the future of our most rural areas of Town and ensured any future development would be a vast improvement to past practices. This vision was crafted during multiple public meetings and public input sessions.

d)-Town received two awards from statewide organizations for our Smart Growth Policies

Protecting natural resources and open space:

Completed a comprehensive Open Space Plan, several years ago, to create a vision for the Town regarding land protection and environmental issues

a)-Permanently protected 850 acres of property, including the creation of the 250 acre Dwaaskill Nature Preserve located in the heart of Clifton Park in close proximity to the Northway

b)-Completed PDRs with two working farms, ensuring the protection of active farming/open space in Clifton Park.

c)-Conducted first Town Bio-Blitz, on 80 acre parcel purchased to expand Veteran's Park. This interactive, environmentally instructive event was attended by over 125 people.

d)-Purchased 150 acres along busy RT 146 for future park development

e)-Actively pursuing the purchase of the Stoney Creek Reservoir Property, currently owned by the Town of Colonie

2) Town has a Hazardous Waste Day to collect harmful substances, with hundreds of residents participating. In recent years, we began a Bulk Waste Collection Day to ensure unwanted items are disposed of properly.

3) Town received an award from Saratoga PLAN, for work our crews performed to protect and enhance a Karner Blue Butterfly habitat.

4) Our continued support of the Town's Conservation Easement Program has resulted in over 2000 acres being included in the program.

Transportation infrastructure:

1) Added over 10 miles of trails in Town over the last several years, with additional projects in the works.

*2) Created a Highway Safety committee in 2008 to review projects, potential problem areas and consider ways to make our Town even more conducive to travel by pedestrians and bicyclists
-Committee has over 200 years of combined experience.*

Supporting sustainable economic development, i.e., clean-tech industries, "green collar" jobs:

We feel Town Government should and must take the lead regarding the establishment of renewable energy projects and initiatives. Our recycling and energy saving initiatives have set the example for others to follow and our use of the Town website has been helpful in spreading

the message. Our new solar field initiative that we are studying, has spurred creative ideas within Town Hall and great interest from outside parties, who want to work with a Town open to vital renewable energy and general energy saving initiatives. We look forward to partnering with other entities, including NYSERDA to promote new ideas.