



# EMC News

May 3, 2000

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## Great News!

*On May 2, 2000, the County Board of Representatives voted to approve the installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof on the new County Library!*

### **Library Solar Panel Committee**

Several of us attended the public meeting in Lansing that AES Cayuga held to announce the proposed installation of a catalytic NOx reduction system. This will reduce NOx emissions by over 90%, but use will be limited to the "ozone season", May through September. Dan Rothhaupt, president of AES, assured us that AES, the world's largest power company, is concerned about the environment, and tries to achieve US emissions standards in all their installations.

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

### **Education Committee**

The UNA Landowner notification letter will hopefully be sent out before July 1st. Members have agreed to stuff envelopes, as there are 4,500 parcels involved. In collaboration with the UNA committee, we are developing the report to municipalities. Earth Day 2000 was fun but poorly attended, due to awful weather. The EMC had the largest display, including a UNA map, EMC pamphlets, and solar panels microwaving popcorn (with the help of batteries). There were almost 40 groups involved, and it was great to have so many environmentally minded folks in one pavilion! Robert Wesley prepared information on the invasive species in Tompkins County that will compliment the invasive species list. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 16 @ 7 PM, at Cooperative Extension.

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

### ***On April 18, 2000, the Tompkins County Board of Representatives proclaimed:***

WHEREAS, for decades now Earth has been sending out distress signals, and

WHEREAS, the natural world -- its land, resources, and capacity to absorb waste -- is increasingly stressed and threatened by both increasing numbers of humans and human activities, and

WHEREAS, we all make our home on this unique planet and should pay attention to what we as individuals and governments do that adversely affects our common environment and threatens the legacy for our children's children, and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day, inspired by former Senator Gaylord Nelson, and Earth Day provides the opportunity for us to focus attention on the wonders of the natural world and what needs to be done to counter the stress on Earth's natural systems, and

WHEREAS, nationwide the Earth Day theme this year is "clean energy now", since only a rapid transition to energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources (such as solar and wind power or fuel cells) will cut global warming and protect our health, air, water, wildlife, and economy, and

WHEREAS, locally Earth Day will be observed and celebrated in many ways, including a community-wide exposition in Stewart Park at the south end of Cayuga Lake on Saturday, April 22, where more than thirty local groups will have displays and educational materials promoting solutions to pressing environmental problems,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Barbara Mink, Chair of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 22, 2000, as

### EARTH DAY IN TOMPKINS COUNTY



and urge all residents and visitors to both enjoy the day and vow to "think globally, act locally" in the spirit of preserving and restoring Earth to health.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the great seal of the County of Tompkins this 18th day of April, 2000.

Barbara Mink, Chair  
Board of Representatives

## ***Municipal Reports***

### **Town of Caroline**

In March, the Town of Caroline instituted a 180-day moratorium on subdivisions. This will give the Town time to finish preparing subdivision regulations to address possible impacts on water quality, water supply, erosion, flood control, transportation, utility services, and agriculture. Developers must pay the costs associated with these regulations. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th at 7PM at Caroline School to review and allow comments on the proposed regulations.

The proposed 180' tall County communication tower on Taft Road would violate the Town of Caroline's law restricting tower height to 140'. The site is also within two miles of two UNAs. Re-engineering of the proposed system, and/or alternative sites are being explored. The high cost of the system has been questioned by town residents as well as its affect on property values in the immediate area. The Watershed Committee has recommended three projects to the County's Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee based on the following criteria: (1) danger to a building, (2) applicant ability to share cost, and (3) information available to the committee.

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

*No Reports Submitted*

*Chair's Report*

*Environmental Review Committee Report*

*Towers Committee*

*Coordinator's Report*

*Executive Committee Report*

*Water Resources Committee Report*

*Unique Natural Areas Committee Report*

## ***Upcoming Municipal Reports***

**June 14**

T. Danby, T. Dryden, T. Lansing, T. Enfield

**July 12**

T. Caroline, T. Groton, T. Ithaca, V. Lansing

**August 9**

Summer Break

## ***Upcoming Submissions to the EMC News***

**June**

T. Newfield, T. Ulysses, V. Cayuga Heights, V. Trumansburg

**July**

V. Dryden, V. Freeville, V. Groton, C. Ithaca

**August**

Summer Break