

Breakout UCAN 2025 CLIMATE SUMMIT

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

During breakout sessions, participants split into four groups to brainstorm potential climate actions and goals for the coming year.

Following the work session, the groups reported on their conversations. Three categories were identified to condense the ideas generated in the breakout sessions.



Educate

These items focus on **raising awareness, providing knowledge, and training** individuals and organizations on climate change issues, solutions, and best practices.

- Climate Change issues need to be ever-present in what the public sees/hears.
- **Elevate science** in all we do (Mentioned twice).
 - Find the best ways to elevate science and knowledge, and **advocate for support/change**.
- Connect Climate Change issues to mental and personal health (Ticks, Asthma, Heat Affects etc.)
- Address Vampire Energy (using electricity without purpose) - Again, **education and implementation**
- Encourage young peoples' involvement: K-12 and in college - **first through education** and then supporting them to become advocates for change and assist them in getting their new-found knowledge out to their peers and others.
 - Incorporating Climate Change into HS Biology (or other classes)
- Incorporate energy efficient technology in the new Town of Caz office building, and use it as an **educational model for the citizenry**.
- Secure funding to have Climate Change related **articles in the Caz Republican, and other news/information outlets**.
- Create a “**Clearinghouse**” with **information and contacts** on all organizations/initiatives dealing with climate change and environmental issues. Highlight grants available.
- **Education booths with “stewards”** setting up at events/festivals/farmers markets etc. - to enlighten people on the issues and voting, as it all pertains to environmental concerns.

- Encourage/host **seminars** on different aspects of Climate Change - to reach the widest audience.
- Recognize that people bring their own issues (and biases) to this topic, and work on incremental change.
- Find a good way to engage with those with opposing views on climate change.
- Recognize that this is a political issue. We need to find ways to muffle the misinformation and **instill fact-based information** in the skeptical among us.



Advocate

These items involve **using one's voice, influence, and collective power** to push for policy, legal, or systemic change from government, institutions, or other powerful entities.

- **Vote** - for candidates that support real Climate Change initiatives.
- Voice our concerns through various media - and - **demand positive climate action from our elected officials**.
- **Pressure politicians to build on, not tear down, laws** that protect the environment and open spaces.
- Push to bring light to **ideas/legislation/politics/actions** (both established and needed).
- Use our collective voices to inculcate, in our **elected officials**, the mindset that includes climate change in every decision they make, via laws (zoning, development permits etc.), charging stations, walkable community development etc.
- **Support incentivizing renewable energy development and use** (NYS needs to move forward with more programs and incentives).
- Encourage Partnerships between Organizations/Communities/Government to work together.
- Push for **environmentally positive regulation on crypto mining and data center development**.
- Frame climate change as a **monetary issue** - highlighting the cost of natural disasters, and the cost of suffering from, and paying for, health issues resulting from climate degradation.



Action

These items represent **direct, tangible steps and implementation** (both large and small) that individuals and organizations can take to reduce environmental impact and build community resilience.

- Help develop and **improve Comprehensive Plans** that build in climate change in all that's done - at the Village/Town/County levels - - and SHARE information - Regularly update.
- Develop programs and **natural areas to encourage public participation** - this to build a connection to nature which might well lead to activism.
- **Do what you can as individuals** - electric transportation (EV's), walking/biking, home energy changes (insulation, convert to heat pumps etc., use less energy), reuse and recycle.
- **Incorporate energy efficient technology** in the new Town of Caz office building.
- **Reimagine your lawn** - plant shrubs and flowers/walkways/no chemicals.
- **Compost**
- Forge relationships with other organizations and assist each other.
- Engage County Health Dept for information and assistance.
- Encourage **expansion of volunteerism** - expand the network of individuals and organizations.
- **Expand the Town of Cazenovia's Climate Report** to include Health Impacts.
- **Publicize other organizations' actions** on the climate.
- Work with National Grid to **install "Smart Meters"**.

This article focuses on specific actions suggested by participants in breakout sessions at the 2025 summit. To access the full report which includes participants' discussion of climate change indications and what various agencies and organizations are doing to address climate change go here: <https://unitedclimateaction.org/2025/11/12/3586/>