



## Climate Change in the Adirondacks: The Path to Sustainability

A new book by Jerry Jenkins  
Foreword by Bill McKibben

A project of the  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Adirondack Program  
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Thanks to Jerry Jenkins, I think the future has been plotted more firmly for the Adirondacks than perhaps any other region on the planet. With his trademark ability to work across disciplines, he paint(s) a devastating picture of where we are headed. This book's careful considerations of our indigenous options for energy are both apt and welcome.

This book is a great resource, and a great gift; we are all in his debt.  
- Bill McKibben, from the foreword

Release: July, 2010

Availability: Cornell University Press;  
(607) 277-2338 as well as most book  
retailers

Contents: 182 pp., hundreds of  
illustrations, photographs, diagrams, and  
maps

Although global in scale, the impact of climate change will be felt, and its effects will need to be fought, at the local level. Refocusing our attention away from the ice shelves disintegrating in the Antarctic, the flooding of Pacific islands, and carbon inventories measured in billions of tons, Jerry Jenkins turns to changes that are already occurring much closer to home – changes that threaten to transform one of America's great wildernesses, the Adirondack region, into a damaged and unfamiliar landscape.

### Contents

#### *Part I: The Climate Problem*

We have a climate problem  
The weather is changing  
The climate problem is an energy problem  
How much could the Adirondacks change?  
What we might lose  
Biology and recreation are changing

#### *Part II: An Adirondack Strategy*

Assessment: Adirondack carbon emissions  
Reduction: Low-carbon transport  
Reduction: Low-carbon buildings  
Replacement: Low-carbon energy  
Offsets: Carbon in Adirondack forests  
Can the Adirondacks become energy independent?  
How can we finance energy independence?  
The path forward

With the aid of color illustrations, graphs, charts, and maps, Jenkins explains the problem and maps a possible solution. In the first half of the book, he demonstrates the fundamental reality of climate change on a local level and analyzes the available data for the Adirondacks. The region's culture, biology, and economy are already shifting rapidly: boreal species such as the spruce grouse are in decline, pests such as the hemlock wooly adelgid are moving in, and nearby ski areas are suffering from lack of snow. In the second half of the book, he delivers a critical message: the tools are available to free our households and our communities from fossil fuels. If we want to alter the present trajectory of global warming, we must start using them, and start using them soon.

Climate Change in the Adirondacks is thus a portrait, a warning, and a map. It shows that the natural and human communities of the Adirondacks, like many others around the world, are in grave danger. It says that the tools already exist that could eliminate fossil fuels and avert this danger. And it challenges the people who care about these communities, in the Adirondacks and beyond, to take up these tools and lead the way to a sustainable future.

#### About the author

Jerry Jenkins is an ecologist and author with the Wildlife Conservation Society Adirondack Program. Jenkins brings decades of research experience in the field and the library to his current projects. In addition to focusing on energy and climate, his work has included botanical and ecological inventories, research on sugar maple regeneration and acid rain, and a focus on the ecological value of conservation easements.

Jenkins is the lead author of several comprehensive books on the Adirondack region, including *The Adirondack Atlas: A Geographic Portrait of the Adirondack Park*, coauthored by Andy Keal, and published as a project of the Wildlife Conservation Society in 2004. The *Atlas* is cited as one of the most comprehensive volumes of information available on the Adirondack region. Jenkins is also the lead author of *Acid Rain in the Adirondacks: An Environmental History*, published in 2007.



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