



Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable

Creating an environmentally and economically resilient Buffalo-Niagara

www.WNY SustainableBusiness.org

For Immediate Release

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The Virtual Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (SBR) [Summit 2020](#) Brings Together Regional and National Business Leaders To Share Best Sustainable Business Practices

September 22 & 23, 2020 – The SBR Summit 2020 focuses on the intersection between resiliency and sustainability, which is of particular interest during this period of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic fallout. The Summit welcomes four prominent keynote panels to discuss the value of **business resiliency** in our region. Topics include **supply chain resiliency, climate leadership in a post-COVID-19 world, the value of leadership during uncertain times** and **moving towards a future of net positive impact**. The WNY community is welcome to share their experiences and lessons.

Highlights of the Summit include the annual Recognition Award Ceremony and networking sessions. Organizations recognized at the Summit embody their SBR Member Pledge to become thriving and resilient businesses as they reduce material waste, protect our waterways, optimize use of energy, and invest in our communities with an overall goal to reduce their footprint and become role models in the business community.

The following organizations are recognized for their outstanding work in sustainability:

- **Gold Level:** Curbell Inc., Niagara Malt, Perry's Ice Cream, Triad Recycling, Wendel
- **Silver Level:** Buffalo Zoo, Goldfarb Financial, Harmac Medical Products, Inc., Erie County
- **Bronze Level:** Montante Solar

Three companies and one individual are recognized in specific categories. Those include:

- **Most Innovative Sustainability Project** is awarded to **Niagara Malt**. Niagara Malt has installed a wood pellet boiler and a hydronic heat exchanger to tackle the energy intense process of malting. Malting at Niagara Malt was originally supported by an all-electric system, creating extremely costly electric bills. Niagara Malt soon took action by installing the boiler system, which reduced the company's electric use by 65-75% and uses wood pellets (which is considered carbon neutral by the EPA). In addition, in 2018 Niagara Malt installed a solar rooftop system from Solar Liberty, which they had met at the 2018 SBR Summit. Through the combination of the initiatives, Niagara Malt has

generated a total of 20.28 MWh of electricity, saving an estimated 14,258 kg of CO₂ emissions. As of March 2020, Niagara Malt has generated an excess of 1,240 kWh of electricity.

- **Community Impact Award** is awarded to **Montante Solar**. Montante's project is the "Solar Park 2": 7 MW Community Solar Array located on Grand Island, NY. The project broke ground in March 2019 and is currently operational. This is the largest community solar array in WNY and produces 8,930,000 kWh annually, which has the capacity to power over 1,000 homes in the area. Montante partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to plan around the protection of natural habitat and wildlife during construction. It built a bridge that spans over the state wetland that runs through the site in order to connect the two halves of the site and not disrupt the habitat. Furthermore, Montante integrated native plant species into the design and planted them among the solar panels to increase habitat for native pollinators, and also cut down on maintenance to the vegetation in the array.
- **The Board of Directors Choice Award** honors **Perry's Ice Cream**. Perry's most recent project is their 20-year continued upgrade to energy efficient lighting was the upgrade of their truck garage lighting in 2019. The purpose of this project was to reduce energy consumption - it replaced nine 400-watt HID fixtures with nine LED 162-watt high bay motion sensor light fixtures. The original light fixtures consumed an estimated 7,488 kWh annually, while the LED fixtures only consumed an estimated 3,120 kWh annually, a 58% annual energy saving. Perry's installation of LED light fixtures in their Akron truck garage is in addition to their continued upgrade to more efficient lighting and their newest policy to replace light fixtures with LED technology when replacements are needed. Perry's has also implemented a new energy efficient heating process for heating their 20,000-gallon tank used for cleaning. They capture waste heat generated from their ammonia compressors that are used in their refrigeration process to heat the water used for cleaning, which needs to be heated to 140 °F. The heat captured from the compressors is able to heat the cleaning water from 50 °F to 90 °F, saving 40 °F of heat that would otherwise be generated through the use of natural gas. Through this process, Perry's has saved 213,581,200 BTU's annually which has saved 165,564 CCF of gas annually. This has avoided the release of 9.1 metric tons of CO₂ annually.
- **The 2020 Eric Lindstrom Sustainability Star Award** goes to **Zandra Cunningham**, CEO of **Zandra Beauty**, for her exemplary efforts to build a business based on sustainable products manufactured in Western New York. Zandra Cunningham is a true inspiration for all youth (and others!) to take action and make things happen for themselves and their communities. Her journey to create natural products started when she was only nine years old. Zandra Cunningham handcrafted her own skincare as a result of her dad's refusal to buy her beloved lip balm. With the assistance of her family, she started her business a few days shy of her 10th birthday. Today, Cunningham operates her skincare and beauty line from Buffalo, NY, where she manufactures natural skincare products as an alternative to commercial products with unhealthy ingredients. Zandra Beauty is committed to sustainable practices; the company's mission is to create premium, sustainable, plant-based skincare products without all of the unnecessary "yucky stuff and chemicals". Zandra Beauty is now worth over \$1M and some of the world's biggest retailers including Target and Walmart are now carrying the company's

products as part of their efforts to respond to increasing consumer demand for healthier beauty products.

About the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable

The Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable, wnysustainablebusiness.org, is a collaborative group of public and private sector organizations in WNY that work together to help businesses take a lead in integrating sustainability into their operations to benefit staff, the environment, and their bottom line.

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