



PRESS RELEASE: RECOGNITION AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT; WINNERS REVEALED AT 2:10 PM TODAY

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For Immediate Release

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The Virtual Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (SBR) 2021 [Summit](#) Brings Together Local, Regional and National Thought-leaders in an interactive virtual platform

May 5 & 6 2021 – The Virtual 2021 Summit will introduce the framework of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); what they are, why you should care and how the SDGs create value when they are used as a strategic north star in guiding direction and sustainability work. National, regional & local business leaders will provide their thought-leadership on the best sustainable business practices, and creative ways to leverage the SDGs. A keynote interview and three Summit keynote panels will be intertwined with networking opportunities and topic discussions. On Day one, the main theme is “Why & How Can the SDGs Drive the Business Plan?” and Day two is called “How SDGs create value for people & prosperity”. The WNY community is welcome to share their experiences and lessons in a new virtual conference platform built for interaction.

Highlights of the Summit include the annual **Recognition Award Ceremony** and networking sessions. Organizations recognized at the Summit embody SBR’s Principles, with members committing 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:

- **Platinum Level:** National Grid, Tesla, University at Buffalo
- **Gold Level:** NYPA, Niagara Malt, M&T Bank, Harmac Medical Products, Curbell, Goldfarb Financial, Perry's Ice Cream, Wendel, Erie County
- **Silver Level:** BNMC, Catholic Health, Triad Recycling, Montante Solar, ARCA, Chudy Paper, Eaton, Environmental Advantage, Guard, LED Energy Solutions, Rich Products, SWBR, Sunnking, Tapecon, WSP
- **Bronze Level:** ECIDA, FIFCO, MaterialsIn, NOCO Energy, OXBO, WNY Land Conservancy

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

- **Most Innovative Sustainability Project** is awarded to **NOCO Energy**. While NOCO serves many customers with needs for conventional fossil fuels, it has long acknowledged the changing needs of society and the communities it serves. To that end, NOCO has implemented food waste composting and invested in developing a food waste and organic biomass recycling program. The food waste and biomass recycling program involves a traditional composting facility and a food waste to black soldier fly protein processing facility. The goal of the insect facility is to commercialize technology developed in-house, consisting of a series of processes designed to stabilize and preserve food waste and convert it into a safe feed for insects. Screw pressed black soldier fly protein meal and oil will be processed into whole rations for aquaculture, and dried larvae will be feed supplements for chickens, wild birds, reptiles and other species.
- **Community Impact Award** is awarded to **Rich Products**. Rich Products secured funding for Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP) to combat unprecedented threats to local food security from farm to family table through their Mobile Market Food Access Initiative. The funding enabled MAP to fight for food justice, security and receding access stemming from the economic fallout of COVID-19. In the extraordinary year of 2020, MAP served 1,596 customers from mid-August through December, and implemented a dual solution approach with an "All Access Pass" customer discount program and a Food Box concept. MAP's Food Box was a pre-built kit, available in small and large sizes, containing seasonal produce selections from local farms. The Rich's grant offered a \$5

discount enabling the kits to be around \$6 and \$10 respectively. Together, these strategies maximized food equity in our unpredictable new reality.

- **The Board of Directors Choice Award** honors **University at Buffalo**. Over the past three years, the University at Buffalo has reduced its carbon footprint by 33%, putting themselves well on their way to achieving their goal of carbon neutrality. The University at Buffalo has reduced its carbon footprint by replacing 671,594,561 kilowatt hours of electricity to renewable sources. That equates to a greenhouse gas reduction of 474,844 metric tons of carbon. UB has accomplished this by focusing on the university's electricity source and transitioning 100% to clean and renewable sources. This work began with two early projects that created a critical foundation for UB to build from, the Norton Solar Rooftop in 2005 and the UB Solar Strand in 2010. Since then, the university has continued an identical path of directly procuring RECs to cover all of its electricity use (minus its direct projects) and thus has achieved generating and purchasing 100% of their electricity from clean and renewable energy sources. In addition, UB has integrated renewable energy and climate mitigation efforts into its curriculum, leading the way with key initiatives such as the Carbon Reduction Challenge, The Education and Leadership Fellows in Sustainability and the REV Campus Challenge.
- **The 2021 Eric Lindstrom Sustainability Star Award** goes to **Steve Davis**, President of **Tapecon**, for his strategic mindset to maintain sustainable business and job growth in Buffalo. With a company mission rooted in enhancing lives of others, a long list of initiatives includes a companywide Health & Wellness Program, Transportation Benefits, Workforce Development opportunities in Western New York, and participation in WNY Clean Production Leaders program.

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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