



**East Hampton
Environmental Coalition**

2017 Environmental Survey of East Hampton Town Board and Supervisor Candidates

2017 Green Guide Participating Members

CONTRIBUTORS

Accabonac Protection Committee

Amagansett Springs Aquifer
Protection

Concerned Citizens of Montauk

International Dark Sky Association
– New York Chapter

Long Island, Businesses for
Responsible Energy (LIBFRE)

NYLCV Education Fund

Northwest Alliance

Renewable Energy Long Island

Quiet Skies Coalition

SUPPORTERS

Defend H₂O

Ditch Plains Association

Friends of Georgica Pond
Foundation

Group for the East End

Peconic Baykeeper

Perfect Earth Project

Surfrider Foundation: Eastern Long
Island Chapter

Third House Nature Center

OVERVIEW

As non-profit, nonpartisan environmental organizations concerned about the future of the East End, we have decided to once again become active in the upcoming election by raising awareness of the importance of these issues and will be collectively engaging the public in various ways.

The purpose of this activity is not to implicitly or explicitly support or oppose any candidate or political party, but to educate voters on local environmental issues and encourage them to be civically-active environmental advocates.

GUIDELINES

This questionnaire is designed to elicit your commitment to and ideas on addressing the important sustainability issues facing East Hampton.

Responses should be considered public. Complete, unedited responses will be reproduced and distributed publicly.

If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite.

For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, we will note as much in our public materials.

TIMELINE

Questionnaires are due by October 11, 2017

Completed questionnaires must be submitted via e-mail as Microsoft Word file or PDF to: Joshua Klainberg, NYLCVEF - jklainberg@nylcv.org

Questions or extension requests may be directed to: Laura Tooman, CCOM - LTooman@PreserveMontauk.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name: **Peter K. Van Scoyoc**

Position Sought: **East Hampton Town Supervisor**

EXPERIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND RELATIONSHIPS

- 1) Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that would indicate your commitment to advancing an environmental agenda for East Hampton. These may be professional or personal.

As Councilman and Deputy Supervisor, I initiated a Town-wide Waste Water Management Study which resulted in the adoption of Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. We are currently implementing the plan which includes:

Habitat restoration projects, storm water remediation, a septic system rebate program to incentivize residents to upgrade to low nitrogen septic systems, adopted the highest standards for wastewater treatment in all of Suffolk County.

I have been directly involved with acquiring hundreds of acres of wetlands, farmland, and open space through our Community Preservation Fund, 20% of which can now be used for water quality projects. I helped form the Town's Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee which reviews and recommends all CPF water quality projects for funding by the Town Board.

I have helped secure millions of dollars in grant funding for acquisition of flood prone areas, Coastal Assessment and Resiliency Planning (CARP), water quality improvement projects, renewable energy and sustainability, and "Green" infrastructure.

I am proud to have been instrumental in East Hampton's adoption of 100% renewable energy goal by 2020. We have been designated a "Clean Energy Community" by NYSERDA, the first community of its size to have this designation in NY as well as a "Climate Smart" community

My candidacy has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Sierra Club.

- 2) What do you believe is the role of town government regulation and enforcement in maintaining a natural, sustainable environment? What, if any, changes are the most important?

Town government plays a crucial role in protecting our local environment by ensuring the regulations are enforced and by legislating further protections when there is a demonstrated need.

- 3) What resources, experts or opinions will you consult when making decisions that affect East Hampton Town's environmental resources?

I will consult with Town staff, environmental organizations, refer to published studies, and/or engage recognized experts when necessary.

ISSUE QUESTIONS

The 2017 East Hampton Green Guide details opportunities and approaches to persistent environmental sustainability challenges facing the town. The following subjects come straight from the agenda where action items of critical importance to the environmental community can be found.

- 4) On Long Island, our economic prosperity, public health and safety, and quality of life rely upon a clean and sustainable supply of drinking water. Similarly, as an island blessed with bays, harbors, and beaches on every shore, the quality of our surface waters defines our outdoor experience. The consequences of over-development on a small ecosystem have been devastating to not only our groundwater but also our surface waters.

What actions will you take to protect groundwater and surface water?

I will continue to work to protect our waters through habitat restoration projects such as our shellfish programs, macro algae pilot program, through storm water remediation, septic rebates, construction mandates for low nitrogen systems, and through public outreach efforts to emphasize that chemical products and land use patterns can adversely affect our waters.

- 5) Beaches, water-based tourism and the most productive fishing port in New York State anchor East Hampton's economy. Erosion, sea level rise, and more frequent catastrophic storms are reshaping East Hampton. A sustainable, thriving community requires protecting natural buffers such as beaches, bluffs and wetlands and upgrading and adapting our infrastructure.

What actions will you take to achieve coastal adaptation and resiliency planning?

I sponsored and supported the both the Coastal Assessment and Resilience Planning C.A.R.P. and Hamlet Planning studies in order to develop adaptive strategies to deal with sea level rise, more frequent catastrophic storms, and coastal erosion. Phase 1 of C.A.R.P. has provided in-depth computer modeling of inundation scenarios and the risks that they pose. Phase 2 will explore adaptive strategies and engage stakeholders in discussions of what actions will be necessary to maintain the viability and security of our people and infrastructure.

- 6) Wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, dunes, fresh water ponds, kettle holes, creeks, bays, and beaches abound in East Hampton, but are becoming increasingly rare nationwide. These ecosystems are not only a major draw for tourism and the area's economy, but are also valuable and vulnerable habitats that provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a wide array of creatures. Because of new development, the incursion of invasive species, the use of chemicals for fertilizers, pest and weed control, and increasing stresses of extreme weather and rising water levels, our native flora and fauna are stressed and in decline.

What actions will you take to address habitat stewardship?

As Town Board Liaison to both the Natural Resources and Aquaculture departments, I supported the creation of a community oyster gardening pilot project which engages residents in the growing of oysters in local waters, increases understanding of our aquatic ecosystems, provides habitat, helps purify water, and results in a delicious healthy food. The program has tripled in two years and has a waiting list for next year. Identifying and acknowledging the causes of degradation through scientific means and conveying this important information through public awareness campaigns is crucial.

- 7) The State of New York has recognized the urgent need for action to mitigate climate change by dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Additionally, the state has directed electric utilities in the state to provide at least 50% of its electricity supply from renewable energy sources. In recognition of these mandates, the Town of East Hampton, in 2014, adopted a goal to meet 100% of community-wide electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 and further set a goal to meet the equivalent energy consumption in all sectors (electric, heat, transportation) 100% from renewable sources by the year 2030. At the same time, our grid is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and from time to time the siting decisions for the generation of power and its distribution have been incompatible with the government's mission to protect public health and safety.

What actions will you take to create a 21st century sustainable energy policy and grid?

I will continue to advocate for: renewable energy solutions, reducing consumption through better energy efficiency, and greater resiliency.

- 8) The Town enacted an outdoor lighting ordinance in 1984 in order to preserve the nocturnal environment, community character, and quality of life from the effects of misdirected, excessive, unnecessary and inefficient outdoor lighting. There have been updates to the code but more are needed. Also the code needs to be fully enforced for new and existing installations and the municipality itself needs to conform to the standards set by the code.

What actions will you take to improve outdoor lighting policies to make our skies darker?

I believe that the most recent code revisions have improved our lighting policies. There is always more that can be done so we are working to improve street lighting and future lighting designs for Town buildings as well as gaining greater

public compliance with our regulations.

- 9) In order to ensure the peaceful enjoyment of East End residents' homes and properties; and the reduction or elimination of harmful noise and avgas emissions on protected wildlife and their habitat, further action is needed.

What actions will you take to reduce aircraft noise which will result in quieter skies?

I have long supported the effort to gain meaningful relief from aircraft noise for those who are affected. We have exhausted all legal remedies and are now committed to pursuing a Part 161 application with the FAA in order to achieve meaningful relief through reasonable restrictions.