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From Our Executive Director

Whether you're strolling along Long Island's shorelines, hiking the Finger Lakes or enjoying a shady, tree-lined New York City street, I hope YOU are proud of the tangible results you help make a reality by supporting The Nature Conservancy. Read on to learn about a new initiative to study seabirds and advocate for solutions that center nature as we expand New York's much-needed renewable energy infrastructure. And you'll hear from a new team member who brings a fresh perspective to tackling ambitious climate change goals. Your continued generosity allows us to innovate and deliver results as we care for 81,000 acres of nature preserves, lead game-changing research, boost community resilience, advance legislation, and so much more. Thank you!

Bill Ulfelder, Executive Director

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LEFT: Juliet Lamb, marine scientist, and Carl LoBue, New York oceans & fisheries director, catching and tagging Northern gannets © Kimberly Williams; RIGHT: A Northern gannet in flight © Brian Doherty

Groundbreaking Seabird Research That Will *Tern* Heads

New York passed the most ambitious climate legislation in the country—the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act—to build a carbon-neutral economy by 2050 and achieve 70% renewable energy generation by 2030. This goal has accelerated the state's need to build solar and offshore wind at a rapid pace. The Nature Conservancy is studying how renewable energy development may impact local nature so we can collaborate with partners to balance the need for these energy infrastructure improvements with the need to keep communities, plants and wildlife healthy and thriving.

Juliet Lamb, a marine scientist for The Nature Conservancy in New York, is researching how seabirds and their habitats might be affected by offshore wind energy development up and down the east coast, and specifically across the New York Bight—the area of ocean extending from the south shore of Long Island to the continental shelf break. This winter, Juliet tagged Northern gannets off Long Island's Jones Beach and Rockaway Beach in Queens to collect data that is shedding light on how these birds breed, eat and travel.

"Collecting, analyzing and sharing this data now, before turbines are installed, will allow renewable energy partners to make informed decisions that protect nature, while achieving meaningful climate change goals," Juliet explains. "We're learning so much more about Northern gannets—an understudied bird—and this research could have additional applications when thinking about our changing climate, the health of our fisheries, avian flu and more."

Northern gannets are just the beginning. Juliet is continuing her research, tracking shearwaters, gulls and common terns next. Shearwaters spend time farther off shore, and large populations of gulls and terns can be found on Great Gull Island, located along an active ferry route. Expanding the study will provide valuable perspective as we advocate for a variety of climate change solutions.

FROM TOP: Renewable energy in action © Mathew Levine/TNC; Solar installation in progress © Eric Aldrich/TNC; LeAnna Roaf

Welcoming a Fresh Perspective

Meet LeAnna Roaf, Our New Climate Mitigation Advisor

LeAnna, what brought you to The Nature Conservancy?
Before joining this team, I worked at Climate Group and the United Nations—focusing on big-picture planning and problem solving, including supporting efforts for the UN system to integrate climate and biodiversity goals into global operations. While climate change is a global phenomenon, it's felt locally—and that's why I joined The Nature Conservancy. Our organization is uniquely positioned to make significant change because we work globally and in local communities throughout the world.

What does climate mitigation look like? What do we mean by it?
As a climate mitigation advisor, I look at the root causes of greenhouse gas emissions and support inclusive and equitable efforts that rapidly advance lowering emissions. New York has passed a historic Climate Act, and now attention has turned toward implementation—deploying renewable energy so we can lessen climate change impacts and embrace a greener economy. My work at The Nature Conservancy sits at the intersection of clean energy, conservation and community engagement, as we discover new ways to build solar and wind facilities that benefit people and nature.

Climate goals often look far into the future. What keeps you energized?
Knowing that this work is not only meaningful but that it's an adventure! The climate crisis is an urgent, all-hands-on-deck moment, and everyone—from scientists and advisors, to municipal leaders, to frontline communities—plays a crucial role.

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10%

The Caribbean is home to 10% of the world's coral reefs.

A diver examines elkhorn coral in Jardines de la Reina, a national park located off the Southeast side of Cuba. © Ian Shive

CoralCarib Project Brings New Hope for Caribbean Coral Reefs

The future of the Caribbean is inextricably linked to the health of its coral reefs. But coral cover in the Caribbean has declined by 60% due to growing threats, including warmer and more acidic oceans, pollution and unsustainable fishing practices.

Launched in 2023, CoralCarib aims to conserve critical reefs in four priority areas: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. The program takes a groundbreaking approach—combining local input with scientific modeling of temperatures, hurricane impacts and coral connectivity—to identify where CoralCarib activities will take place. The selected areas are coral habitats that are predicted to be more resilient to climate change and that have a high capacity to restore nearby coral reefs.

Over the next six years, CoralCarib will implement conservation and restoration projects that will increase marine biodiversity in more than 4,600 acres of coral reef ecosystems. The program will provide tangible benefits to people living in coastal communities throughout the Caribbean.

The Nature Conservancy

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