**CLIMATE REALITY and the PATH TO 100% CLEAN ENERGY TALK SYNOPSIS Feb 26, 2018 v3**

Pat and Steve Miller, Climate Reality Leaders, will provide dramatic photo and video examples of the impacts of Climate Change, steps that are being taken to counter these impacts, and why the future (still) looks very hopeful, even in the face of climate deniers. Pat and Steve were trained as Climate Reality Leaders in a 3-day training given personally by Al Gore.

The impacts of global warming, caused primarily by burning fossil fuels, on humans and other animal and plant life on our planet, come in many forms: heat waves, warming of oceans that causes more extreme storm events with coastal flooding, such as Super-storm Sandy, “rain bombs” that cause inland river flooding, drought and resulting famine, and fires. Tropical diseases, such as Zika, are showing up in parts of the world that were previously too cold to sustain them, and sea level rise from melting glaciers is threatening the habitats of millions of people. These impacts are a threat to life as we know it for our future generations.

In mid to late 2017 there was catastrophic flooding in Bangladesh and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Ophelia, which swept back across the north Atlantic and drove forest fires in Portugal that burned 6% of the country, already scorched by long term drought. Fires this summer and into the winter in western Canada, Utah, Montana, Oregon and California were also likely related to and made more devastating by climate change.

The ability to change is here today, in the form of clean, renewable energy to replace fossil fuels. Wind and solar have grown so much in capacity that the lifetime cost of clean energy has finally dipped below that of fossil fuels. And renewable energy has created over 3 million jobs in the US already and is the fastest-growing jobs sector. Cities and even whole countries all over the world have already switched to 100% renewable energy.

In place of the U.S., which vows to drop out, a growing movement of states, businesses, and cities have pledged to meet the U.S. commitments to the Paris Agreement. Attendees to this talk are encouraged use the Sierra Club “Ready for 100%” campaign templates to help achieve “ready for 100%” pledges by their city mayor, and “Ready for 100%” resolutions by their city ruling body.

Most NJ cities have “Green Teams” using the “Sustainable Jersey” platform of green community Actions. Sustainable Jersey has created a special series of emission-reduction Actions leading to Electrical Aggregation which will transform entire cities to 100% renewable electricity. Each attendee is requested to ask their community’s Green Team leader to pursue Sustainable Jersey energy-related Actions.

The speakers are both retired Bell Labs engineers. Pat Miller is co-president of the Northern Monmouth County Branch of AAUW. Steve Miller is Climate Chair for the Sierra Club Shore Group. Partly as a reaction to last year's election outcome, they both decided to become more active in promoting causes they cared about, including climate justice and other human rights and social justice issues. Pat and Steve mold the talk to the audience, and have given versions well over a dozen times. The most recent were to Middletown’s 2018 Mayor, a Brookdale biology seminar of about 100 students and the AAUW-Freehold branch.