

Panel Probes “Doing Business in a Changing Climate”

At a well attended event organized by CEAC in March 2020, three Addison County business leaders discussed how their companies are adapting to survive and thrive during climate change. “Doing Business in a Changing Climate” brought over 30 local business people, legislators and advocates together for a panel held at Danforth Pewter in Middlebury.

On the panel were **Bram Kleppner**, CEO of Danforth Pewter; **Sarah Kaeck**, founder and head of Bees Wrap; and **Spencer Blackwell**, co-owner of Elmer Farm. Moderating the event was **Amy Sheldon**, a CEAC board member, natural resource planner and one of Middlebury’s two representatives in the Vermont House of Representatives.

“The role of our local business leaders will be crucial if Addison County is to successfully adapt to the changing climate and have a sustainable local economy,” said **Steve Maier**, CEAC board president. “While several other local groups are working on climate change, CEAC is playing the vital role of communicating about and coordinating with all of those groups and the local business community. This panel was part of our outreach to the county’s economic leaders.”

“Many Vermont business leaders now recognize that addressing climate change can be part of a sound business strategy,” said CEAC board member **Spencer Putnam**.

The event was co-sponsored by:

- Addison County Chamber of Commerce
- Addison County Economic Development Corporation
- Acorn Energy Co-Op
- Bees Wrap
- Danforth Pewter
- Elmer Farm

CEAC promotes a healthy local economy through deep carbon reduction in Addison County. Recent activities have included neighborhood energy audits, provision of free EV chargers in cooperation with Green Mountain Power; testimony to the state Public Utilities Commission; participation in planning for local renewable energy; and research into climate innovations in Europe that could be adapted to Vermont.