

## **NYS Sustainable Business Council, News Release: Praise for Poll of Small Business Owners on Climate and Energy Policy Reform**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New York State Sustainable Business Council Applauds Poll of Small Business Owners Revealing Strong Bipartisan Support for Government Action on Climate Change**

*\*\*Business Leaders and Small Business Owners Available for Comment\*\**

*June 25, 2014, NEW YORK --* The New York State Sustainable Business Council (NYSSBC), a business policy education and advocacy group, praised a new poll released today. The national, scientific poll found that a large majority of small business owners see climate change as a risk to their businesses. It also found that a majority wants the federal government to combat climate change by limiting carbon emissions from power plants, which are the largest single source of the carbon dioxide causing climate change.

The poll was commissioned by the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC), a national business policy group of which the New York State Sustainable Business Council (NYSSBC) is a partner organization.

**Hilary Baum, a founding member of NYSSBC,** said: “This confirms what we find throughout New York State, that businesses support both state and federal energy policy that cuts back on carbon emissions but also drives us aggressively towards the use of clean, renewable energy and away from further fossil fuel development. “

**Anne Sherman, Director of Sustainability, Staach,** said: “Our furniture company was founded on sustainability principles. The health of the climate is critical to the health of the trees, our feedstock. Government regulation of carbon emissions helps support our business and our mission.”

The ASBC poll found that 87% of business owners named one or more consequences of climate change as potentially damaging to their businesses. A majority of business owners (53%) expressed concern about higher energy costs, closely followed by power outages due to stress on the power grid and rising health care costs. In addition, 64% of business owners called for government regulation to reduce carbon emissions from power plants.

Other key findings from the report expand on the growing concerns of business owners about climate change:

- 57% said that the biggest carbon emitters should make the biggest reductions in carbon emissions and bear most of the costs of reduction efforts.
- 53% think extreme weather has harmed, or could harm, their businesses. One in five businesses has already been hurt.
- Two in five said they would rather pay more for energy than accept the consequences of climate change. Only 25% said they would prefer climate change.

This poll comes after other recent high profile national surveys showing that the American public supports taking action on climate by large and increasing numbers. The new ASBC poll finds that businesses too are strongly rejecting the climate denial argument and calling for action.

**Chris Burger, President, Horizon Enterprises, said:** "This proves once again that businesses across the nation are paying attention to the triple bottom line: people, planet, profits."

**Lou Vogel, President of Taitem Engineering** said: "We support government policy that regulates carbon emissions and promotes clean, renewable energy alternatives. This is important in New York State and across the nation as a way to counteract the negative impacts of carbon intensive industries."

ASBC's poll was conducted by Lake Research Partners and is available here:  
<http://bit.ly/ASBCClimatePollRpt>

*The **American Sustainable Business Council** and the **ASBC Action Fund** represent a membership network of more than 200,000 businesses nationwide, and more than 325,000 entrepreneurs, executives, managers and investors. The Council [www.asbcouncil.org](http://www.asbcouncil.org) informs policy makers and the public about the need and opportunities for building a vibrant and sustainable economy. The Action Fund [www.asbcaction.org](http://www.asbcaction.org) advocates for legislative change.*

*The **New York State Sustainable Business Council** is a newly launched state-wide network of business organizations and leaders that provides its members with education and opportunities to raise the voice of business on key public issues for New York such as fracking, toxic chemicals, renewables, and campaign finance reform.  
<http://asbcouncil.org/new-york-state-sustainable-business-council#.U6b6LY1dXiM>*

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