

2019 IN REVIEW



Western New York
Sustainable Business Roundtable



2020 VISION



Kris Ann Bolt
SBR President

Dear SBR Member,

During this time of thanksgiving, we want to extend our gratitude for your membership and support of SBR. With the holiday season just around the corner, SBR wanted to reflect on what our sustainable business community has accomplished during 2019, and at the same time let you know about what we have planned for 2020!



WE THANK YOU!

A VERY BUSY YEAR!



During 2019, we welcomed 8 new members: ARCA, Chudy Paper, Green Home Innovations, Hillcrest, McCallum Sather, NYPA, Niagara Chocolates and Nottingham Advisors, and we now have 53 dues paying members in total. We sincerely hope all new and old members are looking forward to continuing their support to SBR, a 510(c)(3) non-profit organization! Invoices for 2020 membership will be sent out shortly.

In the beginning of the year, we welcomed our new coordinator (Asa Guilamo), and mid-year a new board director (Sarah Quintal) as well as many new committee volunteers. This year SBR arranged 15 educational and networking events, all centered around the semester themes in our 2019 Education Calendar: Energy Conservation, Chemical Footprint, Community Impact, and Transforming Waste.

Many of you participated and I would like to thank all active members and partners whom made all the great content possible, especially SBR's Education Committee which puts a lot of thought and energy into creating these experiences. Thank you all! Along with our own events, SBR partnered and participated in a number of bonus events like UB's Speaker Series, Borderland Music + Arts Festival, Facilities Management Expo and the Eric Bloch Symposium, just to name a few.

NEW FACES & UPDATES!

SBR's annual meeting in June elected our new board member, Sarah Quintal from Ecology & Environment, and I took over as SBR president at the following board meeting in July. SBR's Board of Directors conduct monthly meetings, and so do all of our active committees: Membership, Education, Communications, Finance, Summit & Recognition. You may have noticed that we ramped up our presence on social media, and revised the member webpage. We would also like to take this opportunity to ask all our members for links to their sustainability program and/or plan. Please send updated links/documents to asa@wnysustainablebusiness.org, by January 1st. More updates to come!

We also launched our new program offering: WNY Clean Production Leaders, a lean chemical management program for clean air and waterways, in collaboration with our partners Clean Production Action, NYSPollution Prevention Institute, Niagara Share and CoRE.

And last but not least, we can look back at another successful Sustainable Business Summit. This year's summit sold out (!) and offered a distinguished keynote speaker and an impressive list of exhibitors, in addition to several educational tracks, networking opportunities and a recognition award ceremony. Thanks to all your support in making our annual marquee event possible, and especially our generous summit sponsors!



If you are interested in becoming more involved with SBR, please reach out to Asa Guilamo at asa@wnysustainablebusiness.org. We are always looking for talented people to assist us with business development, event planning and graphic design!

WHAT'S NEXT?



WNY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
ROUNDTABLE

2020 RECOGNITION PROGRAM APPLICATION

INVEST - CONNECT - LEARN -
RECOGNIZE

We will continue our work to continuously improve our overall offering and ensure we are providing value for our growing membership. We survey our members, research new trends and push ourselves to create programming designed to achieve our collective goals. We welcome and truly appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

The 2020 Education Calendar was informed by the educational themes brainstorming session at our annual meeting.

Next year's themes are: Carbon Footprint, Land & Lakes, Rethinking Buildings, and Transforming Transportation. We are currently in the process of planning different type of events centered around these themes – please let us know if you have any input.

We are also preparing to re-launch our Recognition Program, and will present a revised application during a kick-off workshop soon. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the program and to prepare your company's application during January-March 2020!

I encourage everyone to fill out an application. In addition to highlighting local sustainability leadership and projects, it is a great tool to benchmark your progress and will help SBR to identify ways we can support your organization's sustainability journey. Awardees will be recognized at the Sustainable Business Summit, in front of 200+ local leaders, and in other forums.

The 2020 Summit will take place in early May, and a save the date will be sent out soon!

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We are working hard on ensuring our own sustainable future. In the past, SBR has been dependent on EPA grants. Membership dues are vital, but we need to supplement them. One way we are doing that, and also distinguishing members from non-members, is our new policy to charge non-members for events, something you will see more of in the new year.

We are also looking into securing funding through corporate sponsors and individual donors. Sponsorship packages will be sent out during the spring, and we hope some of you will consider this form of support, further enabling us to help companies **INVEST** in their economic and environmental future, **CONNECT** organizations to resources, educate businesses and communities so we can together **LEARN** best practices for sustainability, and **RECOGNIZE** achievements, with the goal of creating an economically and environmentally resilient Western New York.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon at one of our events! Don't miss our annual Holiday Cocktail on December 12th, a great opportunity to get together to celebrate and explore future ways of collaborating with continued dedication to our joint vision of creating an environmentally and economically resilient Buffalo-Niagara!

**Kind regards,
Kris Ann Bolt
SBR President**

