



Assemblymember

Anna Kelles

Assembly District 125



July 24, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

It has been another fulfilling week in our new Assembly district office on the Ithaca Commons, meeting with constituents, community leaders, and other State and Federal offices to keep moving our positive change agenda forward. Once all the dust has settled in our new office, we look forward to hosting an open house!

Legislative Update

Part of our work in the summer and fall is to gather support for my legislation in the next year's session. I have been honored and pleased to see more and more of my colleagues in the Assembly sign on as co-sponsors each week to several key environmental bills including The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act ([A4333](#)), EV Charging Stations on State Parking Facilities ([A4871](#)), and the Just Energy Transition Act ([A4866](#)).

Around the District

Rethinking Waste in Tompkins County

Tompkins County has released its Draft Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP), titled *Rethinking Waste in Tompkins County: Fostering a Local Circular Economy*. I had the opportunity to attend the public meeting, listen to concerns of our community, and share a little about my PFAS Disclosure Act, which requires the identification and reporting of PFAS at publicly owned treatment facilities. PFAS, or forever chemicals, continue to be a collective concern, but we cannot intervene if we do not know where they are coming from.

Thank you to the county staff and community members for their extensive work on the plan, and I applaud their efforts to move us away from single-use materials and toward building a circular economy. I encourage you to [watch a recording of the public meeting](#), [read the plan](#), and participate in the public comment period. Comments will be received until Aug. 7, 2023 via email to rethinkingwaste@tompkins-co.org or via mail to Leo Riley, Interim Director, Tompkins Co. Department of Recycling and Materials Management, 122 Commercial Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850.

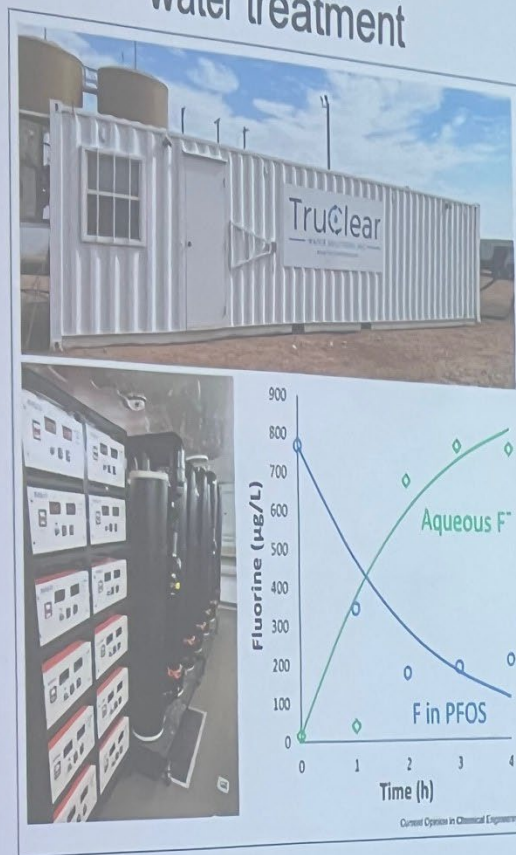


Image by Freepik

Cayuga Lake Summit and Watershed Forum

PFAS DESTRUCTION

electrochemical
water treatment



plasma treatment

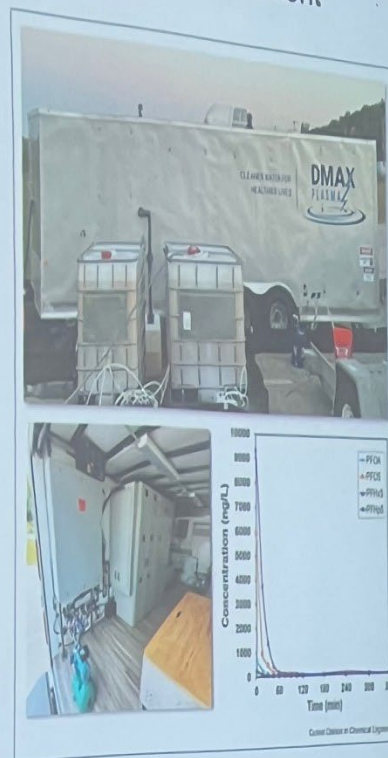


Image source: Blotevogel et al. 2023
DOI: 10.1016/j.coche.2023.100944

13

PFAS were also a prime focus of the Cayuga Lake Summit and Watershed Forum, hosted this week by [Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now](#) (CLEAN). I appreciated the information shared by keynote speaker Dr. Damien Helbling in his presentation, *How Is PFAS Affecting Our Drinking Water*, and the opportunity to connect with local groups working to protect our lake and water systems. As the event concluded and the sun set over

our beautiful Cayuga Lake, I was reminded of how interconnected our freshwater systems are, how the health of our water impacts the health of thousands of New Yorkers, and how critically important this work is.



Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary

This week on July 26, we celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This important civil rights law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The New York Assembly [passed a series of legislation](#) on Disability Awareness Day earlier this year to continue to support New Yorkers with disabilities.

As a community, we will recognize the day both in Tompkins and Cortland Counties with ADA celebrations marked by food, crafts, and trivia:

Cortland: Join me at Access to Independence on Wednesday, July 26 from 1 - 4 p.m. at 26 N. Main St., Cortland.

Tompkins: Join Finger Lakes Independence Center on Friday, July 28 from 1 - 4 p.m. at 215 Fifth St., Ithaca.



Community Resources

4-H Youth Fair

From July 25 - 29, local 4-H members will showcase their projects at the 4-H Youth Fair, an event planned and run by our youth members themselves. On the last day of the fair, Family Fun Day offers the public a chance to experience the best of the fair!

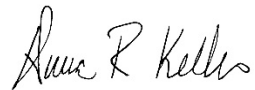
All are invited to 4-H Acres (418 Lower Creek Rd, Ithaca, NY) to meet animals raised by 4-H members, see displays of creative projects in the arts and sciences, join in hands-on activities, watch the 4-H Olympics and other fun competitions, and enjoy chicken BBQ.

Admission and parking are free.

Find the schedule for the week at [Cornell Cooperative Extension's website](#) or visit the [Share the Fair website](#) to stream events.

During this summer, I hope you have a chance to slow down and enjoy the beauty of our district that is all around us. Hike, swim, relax at Cayuga Lake, eat some fresh, straight-from-the-farm food as well as some ice cream!

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

**ALBANY
OFFICE**
LOB 833
Albany,
NY 12248
518-455-
5444

**CORTLAND
OFFICE**
83 Main St
Cortland, NY
13045
607-208-2024

**ITHACA
OFFICE**
130 E.
State St.
Ithaca,
NY
14850
607-277-
8030