

EDITORIAL

# Americans can lead on climate

Long Islanders are seeing changes now

Most Long Islanders didn't need another report on the devastating impacts of climate change. We know what's going on. We've seen it firsthand. We've seen beaches disappearing. And more frequent flooding of our streets and yards at high tide. And more intense rainfall. And lobsters vanishing from our waters.

Even given that, the analysis released Friday by the Trump administration was eye-opening, the grimmest assessment yet of the impacts of unabated climate change. It's not a matter of whether to believe the evidence. It's time to understand its implications and act — to slow the march of climate change and mitigate its inevitable effects.

The latest National Climate Assessment, written by 13 federal agencies with input from more than 300 climate scientists, detailed a raft of climate change impacts in, for example, the Northeast. Like more than 30 days per year of high tide flooding in many Northeast cities by 2050. Like 650 more premature deaths per year from extreme heat by 2050, when the average

annual temperature in the region is expected to be 4 degrees warmer than recent averages. Like a projected probable sea level rise of 2 to 4.5 feet by 2100, with some parts of the shoreline eroding inland at 3.3 feet per year. Like more pine beetles and more mosquitoes carrying Lyme disease and West Nile virus, fish stocks declining, and air quality worsening, with up to 300 more ozone-related deaths a year by 2050.

RANDIE DADDONA



Streets in New Suffolk flood during Sandy in 2012. It was among the severe storms seen more frequently with climate change.

The national outlook is no better: By 2100, climate change could shrink the economy by 10 percent and force 13 million Americans, many in our region, to move from their homes because of rising seas. That's disruption on a massive scale. It isn't just a future problem. The New York Renews environmental coalition says climate change already costs New York more than \$10 billion per year.

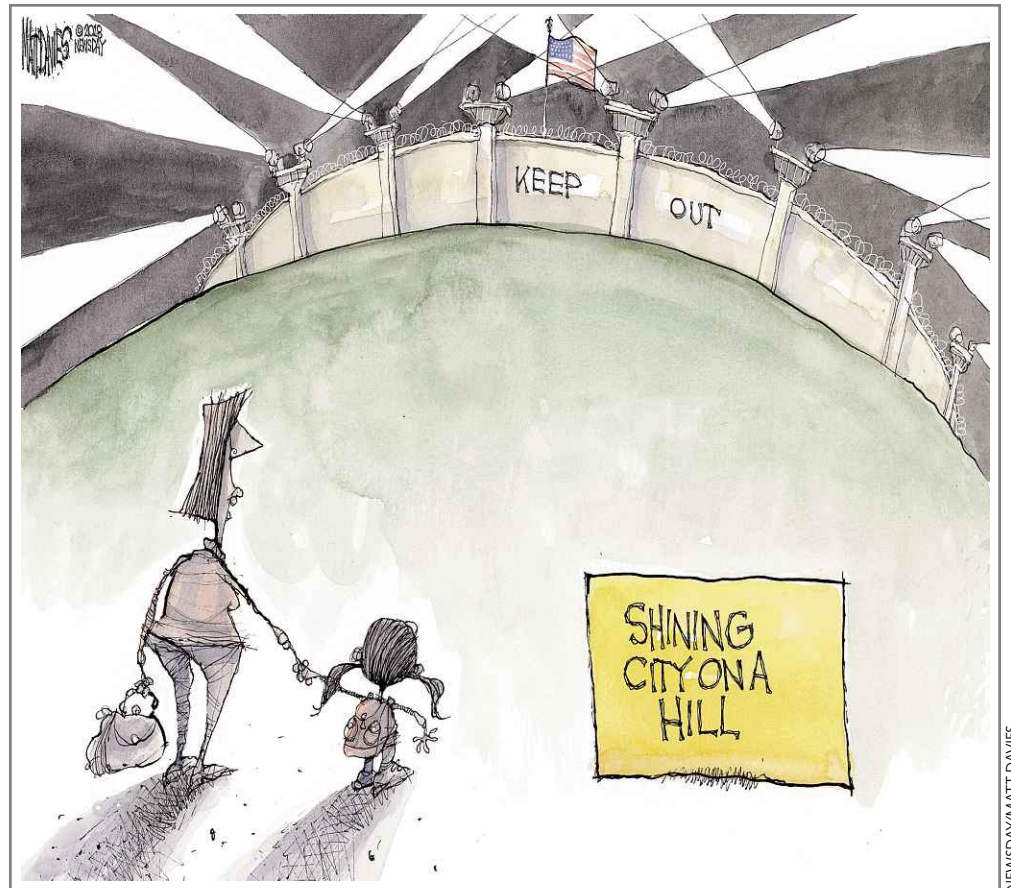
No use waiting for President Donald Trump to wake up and smell the consequences. There is plenty that can and must be done now. In the absence of federal government action — more accurately, in the face of federal actions that would make climate change worse — state and local governments can lead. Some states, New York and California prominent among them, have done just that with ambitious plans to convert part or all of their electric supply to renewable energy sources. New York should turn its aspirational goal to get 50 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2030 into law.

All levels of government should strengthen their infrastructure to withstand the increased precipitation and flooding to come. Places like New York — with aging power, transportation, drainage and sewer systems — are particularly vulnerable. Better building codes would enable smarter decisions about where to build. The report itself — written by career federal scientists whose politically appointed superiors are seeking regulatory rollbacks that would exacerbate the problem — will be potent ammunition in court fights against those rollbacks.

The rest of us should do our part, too — by using less air conditioning, line-drying some of our clothes, taking public transit, riding bicycles, buying local products including food, installing programmable thermostats.

There is no shortage of ways large or small to help stave off a crisis that has no shortage of ominous consequences. — *The editorial board*

## MATT DAVIES



NEWSDAY/MATT DAVIES

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## LETTERS

### Trump willing to sell out journalists

Journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who lived in the United States and worked for The Washington Post, made the mistake of his life by entering the Saudi Embassy in Turkey on Oct. 2. According to the Turkish government, he was assassinated and dismembered in that embassy.

President Donald Trump claims he asked the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, whether he was responsible for this barbaric murder, and according to our president, the crown prince more than once said no! So, Trump simply believes him.

Even more important, since the United States has some very large financial deals with the Saudis, the president is ignoring U.S. intelligence information that the crown prince ordered

the killing ["President: Saudi prince not found culpable," News, Nov. 23].

So it seems that the United States will start selling journalists' lives if the price is right. Shame on our country if we simply stand by and allow the president to do this.

Maureen Marotta,  
Hempstead

with three reporters and a defecting Jonestown member. Speier was shot five times and left for dead overnight until she was rescued. She wrote a book about her experience and overcame incredible odds to be elected to Congress in 2008.

Sherry Eckstein,  
Huntington

### Jonestown victim reached Congress

Your article about the Jonestown massacre in Guyana in November 1978 did not mention that Jackie Speier, now a member of Congress from California, was one of the participants in the congressional fact-finding delegation that was shot at by Jones' followers ["LI connection remembered, 40 years later," News, Nov. 18].

At the time, she was a legislative counsel for Rep. Leo Ryan, who was killed along

### Why didn't all-star girls get any ink?

I am writing to express deep disappointment with Newsday's extreme display of sexism. My daughter, Kate Cimino of Hicksville High School, played in a Nassau-Suffolk Girls Senior All-Star soccer game on Friday in Cold Spring Harbor. The girls played their hearts out.

My daughter was excited to read about the game the next day in Newsday because the paper had written an article on the boys ver-