



120 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180
T: 518.767.9051 F: 518.767.9076
W: www.auduboninternational.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- November 2020
CONTACT: Kim Hill
(518) 767-9051, Ext. 102
kim@auduboninternational.org

Seabrook Island Property Owners Association Recognized for Environmental Excellence

SEABROOK ISLAND, SC – The Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Sustainable Community" through the Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program. Heather Paton, Executive Director of SIPOA, led the effort to maintain certification status for this association and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. The Seabrook Island Property Owners Association was designated as an Audubon International Certified Sustainable Community in 2017 and is one of ten communities in the world to receive the honor.

“Recertification of the Audubon International Sustainable Communities designation is a recognition that all Seabrook Island Property Owners can be proud of,” said SIPOA Board President Dan Kortvelesy. “The program recognizes our commitment to plans that benefit residents, visitors, and the environment. Designation by Audubon International as a Sustainable Community proudly illustrates that commitment.”

The Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program provides information and guidance to help communities preserve and enhance what makes them healthy and vibrant places to live, work, and play. Certified members have defined a vision for their future founded in the three pillars of sustainability—a healthy local environment, quality of life for citizens, and economic vitality. Mr. Kortvelesy noted that the three pillars remain the emphasis of the annual SIPOA comprehensive plan.

"The Seabrook Island Property Owners Association has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," said Christine Kane, CEO at Audubon International. "As the *first* Certified Sustainable Community in the state of South Carolina, they are to be commended for implementing and encouraging sustainability practices such as sourcing local foods, rebuilding boardwalks with sustainable materials, hosting virtual education events, and much more."

To maintain certification, a community must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a majority of areas. Members maintain certification status in the Sustainable Communities Program by demonstrating continuous progress towards goals in the plan under fifteen focus areas. Communities go through a recertification process every three years. For more information on about sustainable community efforts, visit www.auduboninternational.org/sustainable-communities-program.

About Audubon International

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources. To meet this mission, the organization provides training, services, and a set of award-winning environmental education and certification programs for individuals, organizations, properties, new developments, and entire communities. Through the Sustainable Communities, Audubon International works to help community leaders and stakeholders embrace environmental stewardship and sustainability as a central element of planning, policies, and practices.

For more information, contact Audubon International at (518) 767-9051 or scp@auduboninternational.org, or visit the website at www.auduboninternational.org.