

**LI People
ON THE MOVE**



MERRICK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meredith Kelly of Sayville has been appointed assistant principal of **Norman J. Levy Lakeside School** in Merrick. She was a FLES (foreign language in the elementary school) and ENL (English as a new language) teacher at the school.



KARTHI SHANMUGAM

Karthi Shanmugam of Hauppauge has been hired as a senior associate at engineering firm **Nelson + Pope** in Melville. He was a senior project manager at Bohler Engineering in Hauppauge and Manhattan.



NY STATE SOLAR

Evgeny Im of Glen Cove, director of engineering/technology at **NY State Solar** in Hicksville, has been promoted to chief operating officer.



NY STATE SOLAR

Lauren Birck of Bayside, Queens, director of operations at **NY State Solar** in Hicksville, has been promoted to vice president of operations.

— DIANE DANIELS

Send submissions and color headshots to **peopleonthemove@newsday.com**

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EU SEEKS UNIFORM CHARGER FOR MOBILE DEVICES

The Associated Press

LONDON — The European Union announced plans Thursday to require the smartphone industry to adopt a uniform charging cord for mobile devices, a push that could eliminate the all-too-familiar experience of rummaging through a drawer full of tangled cables to find the right one.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, proposed legislation that would mandate USB-C cables for charging, technology that many device makers have already adopted. The main holdout is Apple, which said it was concerned the new rules would limit innovation, and that would end up hurting consumers. iPhones come with the company's own Lightning charging port, though the newest models come with cables that can be plugged into a USB-C socket.

The push by the EU will certainly be cheered by the millions of people who have searched through a jumble of snarled cables for the one that fits their phone. But the EU also wants to cut down on the 11,000 metric tons of electronic waste thrown out every year by Europeans.

The commission said the typical EU resident owns at least three chargers, and use two regularly, but 38% of people report not being able to charge their phones at least once because



GETTY IMAGES / WACHWITZ

The EU initiative could hurt Apple, whose iPhones use the company's Lightning connector.

they couldn't find a compatible charger. Some 420 million mobile phones or portable electronic devices were sold in the EU last year.

The draft rules also call for standardizing fast charging technology and giving consumers the right to choose whether to buy new devices with or without a charger, which the EU estimates will save consumers 250 million euros (\$293 million) a year.

After attempting for more than a decade to cajole the industry into adopting a common standard — efforts that whittled dozens of different charging plugs down to a hand-

ful — the EU's executive commission is pushing the issue.

"Chargers power all our most essential electronic devices. With more and more devices, more and more chargers are sold that are not interchangeable or not necessary. We are putting an end to that," Thierry Breton, the EU's internal market commissioner, said. "With our proposal, European consumers will be able to use a single charger for all their portable electronics — an important step to increase convenience and reduce waste."

Companies will get two years to adapt to the new rules once they take effect. The

rules would apply only to electronics sold in the European single market's 30 countries, but, like the EU's strict privacy regulations, they could end up becoming a de facto standard for the rest of the world.

Apple said it shared the European Commission's commitment to protecting the environment but questioned whether the proposals would help consumers. "We remain concerned that strict regulation mandating just one type of connector stifles innovation rather than encouraging it, which in turn will harm consumers in Europe and around the world," the company said in a statement.

Slash ordered in climate-warming refrigerants

The Associated Press

In what officials call a key step to combat climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency is sharply limiting domestic production and use of hydrofluorocarbons, highly potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators and air conditioners.

The new rule announced Thursday follows through on a law Congress passed last year and is intended to decrease U.S. production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years, part of a global phaseout designed to slow global warming.

The administration also is taking steps to crack down on imports of HFCs, greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more powerful than car-



AP / JENNY KANE

Hydrofluorocarbons, potent greenhouse gases, are used in air conditioning systems.

bon dioxide. They often leak through pipes or appliances that use compressed refrigerants and are considered a

major driver of global warming. President Joe Biden has pledged to embrace a 2016 global agreement to greatly reduce HFCs by 2036.

White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy, a former EPA administrator, said the new rule was "a win on climate and a win on jobs and American competitiveness. It's really, frankly, folks, a very big deal."

The rule, set to take effect in late October, is expected to reduce harmful emissions by the equivalent of 4.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2050, McCarthy said, a total similar to three years of emissions from the U.S. power sector.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the phasedown is backed by a coalition of industry groups that see it as an op-

portunity to "supercharge" American leadership on domestic manufacturing and production of alternative refrigerants. The industry has long been shifting to the use of alternative refrigerants and pushed for a federal standard to avoid a patchwork of state laws and regulations.

"This action reaffirms what President Biden always says — that when he thinks about climate, he thinks about jobs," Regan said, echoing a Biden refrain about climate change. Transitioning to safer alternatives and more energy-efficient cooling technologies is expected to generate more than \$270 billion in cost savings and public health benefits over the next 30 years, Regan said.