

# 2022 Annual Roundtable Summary

The event was held at Rosendale Rec Center on Monday, August 29, 2022, with 50+ Ulster County municipal committee members and other local stakeholders in attendance. Attendees networked, shared their municipal committee's past successes and future goals, and heard presentations on relevant projects and resources from the Ulster County Department of the Environment, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, the Hudson Valley Regional Council, and the Hudson River Watershed Alliance.

## Successes



Ulster County municipalities saw many achievements in the last couple years, thanks in part to the support provided by environmental

committees and other local stakeholders! Here are just a few of the recent successes reported by committee members:

- ❖ The Town of Shandaken created their first Conservation Advisory Council
- ❖ Marletown developed a 100% renewable action [plan](#)
- ❖ Hurley & New Paltz Town/Village completed community greenhouse gas inventories
- ❖ Hurley hosted a Green Expo and participated in the Partners for Climate Action Local Champions program
- ❖ The City of Kingston collaborated with Bard College to develop an air quality data collection program and citizen science network
- ❖ Five municipalities participated in the County's first Arbor Day tree planting program, planting dozens of trees in their communities

**Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program:** Visit the County CSC [webpage](#) for more information on local participation.

- ❖ **Silver recertification**
  - Ulster County
  - Kingston (City)
- ❖ **Bronze certification**
  - Gardiner
  - Marletown
  - New Paltz (Town/Village)
  - Saugerties (Town)
  - Wawarsing
  - Woodstock

## Challenges

Thank you for sharing your committee's obstacles and challenges – this information will support future resource development. Municipal environmental committees indicated the greatest need for support in the following areas:

- ❖ Streamlined information about external opportunities and resources
- ❖ Access to grant funding, which could be improved through (1) early notification of available funding opportunities (2) significant support with grant application development and submissions (3) reduced/streamlined administrative burdens (reporting requirements)
- ❖ Technical support with virtual meeting platforms, GIS mapping, and in creating accessible content (including catering to various languages and learning levels)
- ❖ Increased opportunities for best practice sharing between municipalities
- ❖ Identification of specific local laws, policies and plans that are applicable to small municipalities (towns/villages)

### 2022 Municipal "Dot Voting" Results:



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## Local/Regional Resources and Projects

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCE):** CCE supports local municipalities with technical assistance in pursuing CSC actions and is currently seeking to work with municipalities in 2023 on CSC Program PE7 and some PE9 actions including technical assistance with Climate Smart Communities Certification Assessments, Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tools, Disaster Preparedness Webpage and Social Media posts, Flood Preparedness Guides, Heat Management Plans, and Sustainability Elements in Comprehensive Plans. Email Gillian Mathews at [gnm26@cornell.edu](mailto:gnm26@cornell.edu) or Melinda Herzog at [mmh62@cornell.edu](mailto:mmh62@cornell.edu) or visit [Climate Resilience Partnership](#) for more information.

### Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC)

- Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Coordinator Program: The CSC Coordinator Program provides additional technical support to communities that are completing the following CSC Certification Actions: Government Operations GHG Inventory, Government Operations Climate Action Plan, Community GHG Inventory and Community Action Plan. HVRC is running this program in a cohort model where communities will work together and share experiences, challenges, and tips as they complete these planning tools. Email Melanie Patapis at [mpatapis@hudsonvalleyrc.org](mailto:mpatapis@hudsonvalleyrc.org) for more information.
- Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program: HVRC offers support to local governments as they pursue cost-saving and energy and GHG emission-reducing actions through NYSEERDA's CEC Program. Our CEC Coordinators are available to provide technical assistance related to the High Impact Actions that communities benefit from under the CEC Program as well as CSC Program actions at no cost to local governments. Email Eleanor Peck at [epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org](mailto:epeck@hudsonvalleyrc.org) for more information.

### Hudson River Watershed Alliance (HRWA)

- HRWA works across the Hudson River watershed to support watershed groups and help communities work together on water issues; email Emily Vail at [emily@hudsonwatershed.org](mailto:emily@hudsonwatershed.org) or visit <https://hudsonwatershed.org/mission/> for more information.
- Annual Watershed Conference (October 24-26): <https://hudsonwatershed.org/annual-watershed-conference-2022/>

**Ulster County projects:** Stay tuned for updates on these projects in the coming months or email [environment@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:environment@co.ulster.ny.us) for more information:

- Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update (launching early 2023)
  - Ulster County staff are starting to engage with mayors and supervisors on this important upcoming project; the goal is for *all* municipalities in Ulster County to participate
  - Join your municipality's update committee to help identify & mitigate natural hazards affecting your town!
- Climate Adaptation Planning: web map & municipal toolkit (launching early 2023)
- Natural Resource Inventory: web map & municipal toolkit (November public workshop TBA)
- Road Streams Crossing/Culvert Assessments: culvert assessments & web map (ongoing)
- Critical Transportation Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment: municipal resources/StoryMap (2023)