

**2017 Annual Report
Ulster County
Environmental Management Council (EMC)**

EMC Background

When the Ulster County Department of the Environment was established in 2008, the Ulster County EMC was able to continue its primary role of reviewing and advising the County and local governments on environmental issues. In 2008, The Department of the Environment completed the County's first Environmental Plan which has been used as a management tool for multiple County departments' environmental activities. The EMC also began operating under the new Charter form of government in early 2009, which allowed for the EMC to continue providing essential networking and communication among the county's environmental commissions and boards.

Environmental Council Powers and Duties

(as established by the Ulster County Charter Article XXXV, Section C-112)

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, the Ulster County Environmental Management Council shall:

- A. Advise the County Executive and the County Legislature on all matters affecting the preservation, conservation and ecologically suitable use of the natural resources of the County;
- B. Review the condition of the County environment as a whole and prepare and submit an annual report of its findings to the County Executive and the County Legislature, which report shall also include an account of the Council's activities and accomplishments based on accurate records of its meetings and other works;
- C. In cooperation with the County Planning Agency and other appropriate agencies, prepare a plan for the protection of the County's environment and the management of its natural resources. To the extent practicable, the preparation, content and subsequent revision, if any, of the County environmental plan shall be coordinated with the state environmental plan and a copy of this County plan and any subsequent revisions of it shall be filed with the State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation;
- D. Investigate and recommend to the County governing body ecologically sound methods for use of the County's resources; and
- E. Cooperate with and assist such other governmental or nongovernmental boards or organizations on the preparation of plans or reports or review of proposals or applications as the County may direct.

Environmental Management Council

Fifteen of the twenty-four municipalities in Ulster County had active Environmental Council/Commissions in 2017(See Exhibit A).

At the end of 2017 the membership of the Environmental Management Council Board included 11 town representatives, 4 at-large members and one ex-officio member for a current total of 16 members (See Exhibit A). Officers for the UC EMC for the 2017 year were nominated as follows: Chairperson – Dave Haldeman (by John Sansalone); Vice Chairperson – Cindy Lanzetta, (by John Sansalone); Secretary – Kristen Schara, (by Bill More); Judith Karpova – representative NYSACC/EMC. Throughout the year, attendance was excellent with a quorum at all meetings. The EMC is still seeking representatives from Esopus, Rosendale, and Lloyd.

The goals of the Ulster County EMC are:

- To educate our members about environmental issues and the opportunities available to Towns through grants and other funding sources so that they can have a positive impact on the local environment
- To educate our local Town boards (especially our Town supervisors) and Town citizens as to what is happening throughout the County and the ways they can seek to improve the local environment
- To interact with the County Department of the Environment (DOE), the County Energy and Environment committee, and the County Planning board
- To speak out on environmental issues
- To support environmental initiatives presented by the County Energy and Environment Committee
- To suggest to the legislature areas where we believe there could be legislative action

- To promote steps taken by Ulster County to protect our environment and make sure that the public is aware of these efforts

During 2017, the EMC hosted a few special presentations. These included:

- a. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (mapping, monitoring, salt and pesticide use)
- b. Herbicides/Pesticides – Christian Malsatski –(U.C. ban on spaying on county property, residential use /run-off)
- c. John Burroughs Natural History Society – Mark DeDea (300 bird species in U.C.)
- d. Citizens for local Power – Jen Metzger (50%renewable energy by 2030, net metering vs. value distributed)
- e. NYS Association of conservation Councils – Julie Noble (planning for the state conference in Kingston)
- f. Butterflies- Marleen Manos-Jones (milkweed/pollinator gardens)
- g. LED street lighting – Pat Courtney Strong (municipalities save 65%)
- h. Producing an effective press release – Emily Hauser/Maude Salinger
- i. Solarize Hudson Valley – John Wackman – (Community solar, Ulster currently with 20 solar farms)

Members acted as liaisons between the EMC and the environmental municipal councils and executive branches. The Secretary of the EMC documented in detail the information that was exchanged at each meeting in minutes and then the members shared the minutes with their municipal councils and executive branches. This method proved to be a successful communication tool for the EMC. The agendas and minutes are also posted on the EMC webpage of the Ulster County website: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council>

New York State Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting was held in Kingston Nov. 17-18 2017. Kingston also hosted: Robert Kennedy at SUNY New Paltz: “Our Environmental Destiny”

Letters from the council:

- 1) Opposing the currently proposed law for unused/expired pharmaceuticals as inadequate
- 2) To the PSC regarding the switch to value distributed rather than net metering reimbursements
- 3) To the regional EPA director re. Hudson River Superfund 5 year review

Meeting: on 12/14/2017 representatives from the EMC met with U.C. executive office regarding our opposition to the Pharmaceutical bill as proposed.

Continued concerns:

Pharmaceutical disposal

Eliminating plastic bags

Small industrial hazardous waste disposal (under 220 lbs)

Gas fired power plant under discussion in the Town of Ulster

Department of the Environment

The Department of the Environment (DOE) helped advance the county in the areas of sustainability, storm water and natural resources.

Provided the Council with information on the following topics:

- The County's Green fleet
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Climate Smart Communities and NYSERDA's clean energy grant proposals
- LED street lighting
- Solar installations both private and public as well as on landfills
- Updated information on resource and recovery including composting (\$261,000 grant food waste U.C. jail)
- Waterways advisory council
- Foreclosed properties that are not buildable and the potential to preserve these lands
- Advised us of upcoming conferences and other environmental initiatives and grants
- Polystyrene ban
- Ash tree removal
- Ulster county recognized in National Geographic for preserving open space
- Phasing out of net solar metering
- Rebates for hybrid/electric vehicles for Towns (\$5000)
- Making us aware of community compost.com and that no pesticides/herbicides are used on county property

For more details of DOE activities refer to their annual report

Town Activities (a sampling of):

Pollinator garden, open space plans, solarize campaigns, Town solar laws, scenic resources inventory, Trees for Tribes, tree inventory, Natural Heritage Plan, comprehensive master plan, climate smart community, clean energy community action grants, pilgrim pipeline, flood prevention, invasives (water chestnut, knotweed, bittersweet, mile a minute, milfoil), info on Lyme, drug free water, proposed firefighting center, proposed sewage treatment facility for Shokan, street cleaning and trash pick-up campaigns.

Web/Communication Development

Ulster County Department of the Environment provided administrative support to the EMC, including posting minutes and agendas to the EMC website as well as maintaining and updating the website:

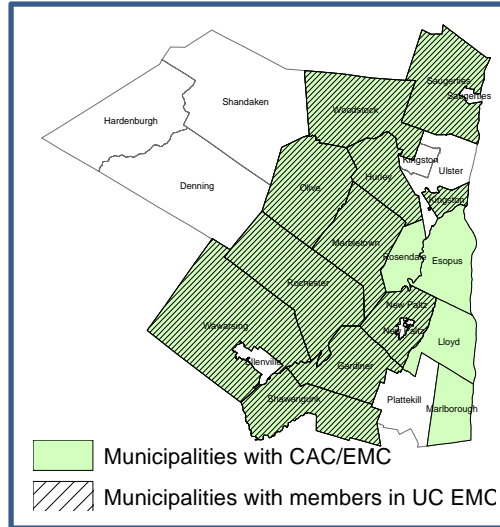
<http://ulstercountyny.gov/environmental-management-council>

Exhibit A

Municipal CACs and EMC Membership

1. Municipalities with Environmental Commissions/Committees (CAC):

- Town of Esopus
- Town of Gardiner
- Town of Hurley
- City of Kingston
- Town of Lloyd
- Town of Marbletown
- Town of Marlborough
- Town of New Paltz
- Town of Olive
- Town of Rochester
- Town of Rosendale
- Town of Saugerties
- Town of Shawangunk
- Town of Wawarsing
- Town of Woodstock



2. Environmental Management Council Current Membership (End of 2017):

Town Appointments to EMC:

Name	Municipality	Term Expiration
Stewart, Eric	Town of Marbletown	10/31/2019
Littlefoot, Jim	Town of New Paltz	6/30/2019
Karpova, Judith	Town of Rochester	9/30/2019
Hauser, Emilie	City of Kingston	6/30/2019
O'Donnell, Mary	Town of Saugerties	7/31/2019
Mays, Jim	Town of Olive	5/31/2019
Sansalone, John	Town of Gardiner	4/30/2018
Schara, Kristen	Town of Hurley	4/30/2019
Haldeman, Dave	Town of Shawangunk	6/30/2019
Underhill, Sarah	Town of Wawarsing	12/31/2019
Brandt, Ann	Town of Woodstock	5/31/2020

At-Large Members of EMC:

Name	Municipality	Term Expiration
Becker, Margot	Town of Marbletown	10/31/2019
Lanzetta, Cindy	Town of Marlboro	4/30/2018
Starke, Virginia	Town of Hurley	6/30/2019
More, William	City of Kingston	6/30/2019

Ex-Officio Representative: Director, Ulster County Department of Planning

Other Attendees, non-members

Name	Municipality
Ellison, Mark	Town of Esopus
Sansone, Francesca	Town of Esopus