



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ulster County Legislature Announces the Creation of the Ulster County Department of the Environment

Ulster County is proud to announce the formation of a new County Department of the Environment. This department creation follows months of intensive effort by a special committee, co-chaired by Legislators Alan Lomita and Brian Shapiro. The Committee was formed to upgrade Ulster County's environmental protection initiatives and formalize a structure to address current and future environmental concerns.

This department will be responsible for the coordination of Ulster County's actions on a host of environmental concerns, including storm water management (MS4), Ulster County's "green" building initiatives and a movement towards minimizing the County's carbon footprint. It was finalized following substantial consultation with representatives of Ulster County's Environmental Community and is designed to balance financial accountability with environmental stewardship. The new department has been structured using the "best practices" found throughout New York State.

Co-Chair Brian Shapiro: "Ulster County has taken great steps in making environmental protection a top priority. By establishing a fully independent Department of the Environment, we will continue to lead in this field, and set a great example for other Counties in New York State to follow."

Co-Chair Alan Lomita: "I'm extremely proud of the hard work of our Committee and the Administrator's Office. The creation of the County Department of the Environment demonstrates the importance with which we view this issue. This will benefit the people of Ulster County for generations to come."

County Administrator Michael Hein: "This is a shining example of quality government reform. We've created one of the finest County environmental agencies in the State while dramatically increasing accountability and efficiency. This coordination based model is a major leap forward for environmental protection and will also result in a significant savings to taxpayers."