

ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE (DOE)

Responsibility Center	Department(s)	2020 Budget (\$)			Positions
		Operating Expense	Non-County Revenue	Net County Cost	
Environment	8090 Environmental Control	809,186	257,863	(551,323)	6



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Mission & Vision

Leads Ulster County Government's and supports Ulster County municipal efforts to protect natural resources and address climate change in order to steward our critical natural assets which are valuable to our residents, visitors, and future generations.

2020 Highlights

- Provided support to County Laws on recycling and waste, specifically providing outreach to the “Skip the Straw” law and support for the Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act.
- Assessed county and town road stream crossing in the Lower Esopus watershed producing three municipal culvert management plans utilizing a \$106,000 grant to do so.
- Provided technical and logistical support to the 1st phase of Project Resilience, running the program to provide and

How We Serve

The DOE coordinates environmental policy and resource planning within County government. The Department utilizes a unique pooled-resources model to draw on other departments to bring the right expertise to bear on different issues. Key areas of involvement include natural resource planning, natural resource inventory data management and creation, stormwater regulation compliance, support of County energy efficiency and green building infrastructure initiatives, and involvement in watershed planning issues.

deliver restaurant meals to residents in need during the initial COVID-19 shut down.

- Completed the “NYS Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool,” a comprehensive assessment of existing county plans and documents related to climate change. This will be an important part of the vulnerability assessment portion of our Climate Resilience Plan.
- Hosted the first ever Ulster County Watershed Roundtable as part of continued support and convening of the Ulster County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.
- Provided technical support for the review of releases by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection of turbid water to the Lower Esopus Creek.
- Formed a municipal climate task force to better support Ulster County municipalities in their climate action initiatives while continuing to present the Ulster County Action Plan to local municipalities, other counties, and state level organization.
- Contracted with a vendor to purchase locally generated renewable energy for county operation.

Performance Metrics

In 2019 we presented metrics related to electric vehicle charging. In 2020, we saw a sharp drop in the public and fleet usage of the charging station as our transportation patterns changed during the COVID-19 response. We continued in 2020 to conduct a carbon neutral county government operation.

The Department of the Environment volunteered to administer the Project Resilience food support program during the COVID-19 response. The Department has strong ties with municipalities which allows us to work cooperatively to spin up municipal distribution teams. In addition, our strong technical capabilities allowed us to quickly set up systems to enroll participants as well as order from and pay restaurants. We worked with an excess of 150 restaurants and 16 municipal teams to procure and deliver over 130,000 restaurant meals to people in need.

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Program/Service	Metric	2020
Conduct net carbon neutral County government operations	CO2e offsets thru Renewable Energy Credits and carbon credits	9,071 (metric tons)
Culvert Assessment/Prioritization Program for grant from NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary	Culverts assessed/prioritized	293
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	kWh of Electricity Supplied	48,069
	County Employees, Local Citizens, and Driver Charging Sessions	4,405
Municipal Road Stream Crossing Management	Plans produced	3
Project Resilience	Meals provided (Phase 1: restaurant)	135,077
	Meals provided (Phase 2: food pantries)	162,087

We anticipate a significant increase in State initiatives, programs, and support at the municipal level in order to help meet these aggressive goals.