

**2011 Annual Report**  
**Ulster County**  
**Environmental Management Council**  
March 2012

Overview

The Ulster County EMC has had a very successful year with the council members growing and sharing many experiences throughout the year in the efforts to use, protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of all the people. With the activation of the Department of the Environment in 2008, the council was able to revert back to 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.

Environmental Management Council

Sixteen of the twenty-four municipalities in Ulster County have Environmental Council/Commissions (See Exhibit A), up from 14 in 2008.

At the end of 2011 the membership of the Environmental Management Council Board included 11 town representatives, 5 at-large members and one ex-officio member for a current total of 17(See Exhibit A). We are continuing to work with the three municipalities, Lloyd, Marbletown and the Village of New Paltz, who have Environmental Council/Commissions but do not have a representative on the council. Throughout the year, attendance was excellent with a quorum at nearly every meeting.

One of the goals of the Ulster County EMC is to educate the membership about local environmental initiatives and organizations in the area by hosting guests at the monthly meetings to share their information.

During 2011, the EMC hosted a few special presentations. These included:

- a. Mary Kramarchyk from NYS DEC Urban Trees Program
- b. Aaron Bennett – Ulster County ReConnect
- c. Dennis Doyle – Ulster County Planning – Cleaner, Greener NY Program

Another of the more effective communication tools has been to document in detail the information that is exchanged at each meeting in minutes and sharing

these minutes both with the members of the council and the municipal supervisors/mayors.

### Department of the Environment

The Department of the Environment along with the UC Environmental Management Council held a roundtable conference for all the municipal environmental committee members in June of 2011. The purpose of the conference was to bring all the municipal boards together to share local successes, allow an opportunity for networking, and identify opportunities for additional trainings and seminars focused around watersheds. There were approximately 25 attendees for this evening conference. The theme of this year's roundtable was "Water Resources in Ulster County" with a presentation by Scott Cuppet of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program.

The Department of the Environment also helped advance the county in the areas of sustainability, stormwater and natural resources with exciting energy efficiency work including a photovoltaic project, continued work on "greening" the county office building, and providing GIS support to towns and CAC's to advance natural resource planning. One key project was the development and launch of Ulster County ReConnect. This online mapping portal for recreation and environmental amenities accompanied a paper map distributed by Ulster County Tourism. Additional information can be found in the 2011 Department of the Environment Annual Report.

### **2011 Accomplishments**

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CAC Roundtable*

This event organized by the UCEMC was held at SUNY Ulster in June of 2011. Attended by over 25 participants, this years theme was Water Resources and also led to the annual kickoff to planning the 2011 CreekWeek Event.

#### *CreekWeek 2011*

During September of 2011, dozens of community organizations and CAC's across Ulster County came together to offer a wide variety of educational, watershed based programming to Ulster County residents and visitors. Unfortunately, many of the Creek Week programs were impacted by the effects of Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, but some persevered. A complete listing of the 2011 CreekWeek programs can be found in Appendix B. Positive press was received in many local papers including Ulster Publishing's community newspapers.

*Web/Communication Development*

EMC members and staff of the Ulster County Department of the Environment continued to grow the [ucenvironment.org](http://ucenvironment.org) website which includes posting past EMC agenda/minutes and county-wide environmental events.

## **Exhibit A**

### **Municipal CACs and EMC Membership**

#### 1. 16 Municipalities with Environmental Commissions/Committees (CAC):

- Town of Esopus
- Town of Gardiner
- Town of Hardenburgh
- Town of Hurley
- City of Kingston
- Town of Lloyd
- Town of Marbletown
- Town of Marlborough
- Town of New Paltz
- Village of New Paltz
- 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 2011):

### **11 Municipal Members**

- Henry Bartosik, Town of Wawarsing
- Joseph Damrath, Town of Saugerties
- Lillian Green/Hank Bartosik, Town of Rochester
- Joseph Liuni, Town of Rosendale
- Julie McQuain, Town of Hardenburgh
- Catherine Quick, Town of Esopus
- John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner
- Virginia Starke, Town of Hurley
- Gregg Swanzey, City of Kingston
- Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
- Stephen Osborn, Town of Marlborough

## **5 At Large Members**

- Ann Brandt
- Cindy Lanzetta
- William More
- Steve Noble
- Julie Noble

### 1 Ex-Officio Representative:

- Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning

## Appendix B

The 2011 CreekWeek celebration was held from September 17-25th. The 2nd annual Creek Week was sponsored by Ulster County Environmental Management Council and Ulster County Department of the Environment.

CreekWeek is intended to help build awareness and encourage the enjoyment of water and watersheds in Ulster County.

The Ulster County Department of Environment and the Environmental Management Council believe that an annual CreekWeek will better connect people to our fantastic Ulster County environment – particularly our watersheds and water resources. We hope that people use these events to learn more about what is just outside their door, learn something about how they can protect or improve the environment, enjoy time outside with friends and family, and to have fun.

Events held as part of the 2011 CreekWeek:

- Liquid Assets: Exploring the Diversity and Values of Wetlands in Ulster County
- Esopus Bend Nature Preserve Walk
- Esopus Gorge Interpretive Walks for Families
- Fishing and Picnic at Onteora Lake for Kids
- Guided Kayak Paddle on Rondout Creek
- Family Walk at the Comeau Property in Woodstock
- Walkway Over the Hudson Loop Tour
- Sunset Seining and Song
- D&H Canal 5 Lock Walk Trail
- Our Hudson Barge Tour 2011: Envision our Future. Share Your Ideas.
- Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels & More
- Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure
- Stream Monitoring Workshop
- Int'l Day of Peace: A Tribute to Our Local Waterways
- Environmental Film Night — Chattahoochie: From Water War to Water Vision
- Home Stormwater Management Class
- Creek Critter Hunt
- "Get Moving" Hudson Valley
- Rondout National Historic District Walking Tour
- Walkway Over the Hudson Loop Tour
- Esopus Meadows Walk and Wade