Linking Environmental Funding, Planning, and Other Resources to Benefit Upstate New York’s Communities

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Syracuse University
Center for Sustainable Community Solutions & Environmental Finance Center

efc.syr.edu
What We Do
The Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions/Environmental Finance Center (SU-CSCS/EFC) enhances the managerial and financial capacity of regional and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and local residents to improve environmental infrastructure, services, and quality of life.
SU-EFC works in:

New York State

Puerto Rico

Focus Areas of Expertise

Resiliency Planning
- Rural community and utility viability
- Flooding and impacts of climate change
- Disaster debris management

Sustainable Materials Management
- Source reduction education and outreach
- Materials reuse and recycling solutions
- Composting and organics management
- Single-use plastics source reduction and pollution prevention
- Wasted food reduction and recovery solutions

Watershed and Utility Management
- Urban green infrastructure
- Rural stormwater and ditch management
- Wetlands and ecosystem services
- Water and wastewater infrastructure management

Environmental Infrastructure Training and Education
- Direct technical assistance
- Technical workshops and webinars
- Public outreach and engagement
- Workforce development
- Stakeholder engagement and process facilitation
Why does this matter?

What is the point of linking environmental funding, planning and other resources to benefit upstate New York’s communities?
Jobs vs. Environment

Most - 58 percent of Americans - think that protecting the environment would create jobs—while only 22 percent felt the opposite and 20 percent expressed an opinion in between.

Credit: Data for Progress, analysis of the 2016 American National Election Studies
https://www.dataforprogress.org/green-new-deal#support
Selected green occupations with projected employment growth, 2016–26

New jobs, projected 2016–26 (numeric change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar photovoltaic installers</td>
<td>11,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental scientists and specialists, including health</td>
<td>9,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous materials removal workers</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind turbine service technicians</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental engineers</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental science and protection technicians, including health</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental engineering technicians</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation scientists</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Equity

“means ensuring that people - regardless of race, gender, class, or any other trait – have access to rights, legal protections, assets, and resources they need to create healthy, productive, and meaningful lives for themselves.”

- page 19, 
Moser, Coffee, and Seville, 2017 for The Kresge Foundation

https://kresge.org/content/rising-challenge-together

https://kresge.org/content/rising-challenge-together
Resilience to what? Resilience for whom?


Source: https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Organization/History/imagery/Maria/index.html
In the Adirondacks, Storm-Battered and Cut Off

By ALISSA J. RUBIN  AUG. 31, 2011

Gov. Andrew Cuomo surveyed some of the damage from flooding in Keene, N.Y.
Nancie Battaglia for The New York Times

Port Jervis awarded $2.6 million to protect drinking water

By Jessica Cohen / For the Gazette

PORT JERVIS - Concern with the need for sewer repairs costing $99 million led to thinking more broadly about city water for Valerie Maginsky, Port Jervis Community Development Agency executive director, she said.

“Our watershed could be expanded, so the city has more control over water sources regarding development and environmental challenges,” she said.

To help repair the sewer system and expand watershed protection, she applied for two grants. She received notification last week that the applications were successful, and the city will be awarded a total of $2,632,500.

One grant is from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) for $1,882,500 for acquiring and providing conservation easements for 1800 acres of wooded land around the current watershed property. Willing property owners can be paid market prices for land adjacent to the watershed, Maginsky said. For conservation easements that legally protect the land from development, the city will work with landowners and Orange County Land Trust.

“The key word is ‘willing,’” Maginsky said of negotiations with landowners. “Conversations will be had about easements and acquisitions with their many rules and regulations. The program will protect surface and groundwater within the watershed as well as reduce potential negative impacts associated with increased nutrient loading and development. The plan is not to do anything to the property.”

The only way the land could be used would be for trails for “low-impact recreation,” she said.
Conservation Planning

Funding Source:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program:

- Protects a drinking water source

- Eligible activities
  - Wastewater Treatment Improvement
  - Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control
  - Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
  - Salt Storage
  - Aquatic Habitat Restoration
  - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)
Conservation Planning

Strategic conservation plans for land trusts

Potential funding source: Land Trust Alliance Conservation Partnership Program funded through the New York Environmental Protection Fund
Green Infrastructure and Floodplains

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation’s Green Innovation Grant Program funds transformative projects that:

Utilize green infrastructure components to protect and improve water quality

Spur innovation in the field of green infrastructure for stormwater

Build capacity to construct and maintain green infrastructure
Green Infrastructure and Floodplains

Flood Smart Communities Program:

The Nature Conservancy

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

University of Buffalo

Preparing for Climate Change

New York State’s Climate Smart Communities Program

Provides guidance and funding to local governments to reduce emissions and improve resilience.
Lakeshore Landscaping at the Kettle Lakes

Partnership between SU-CSCS/EFC, C-OFOKLA and Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District

Funding source: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Technical Assistance Grant
Manage Water Flow to Alleviate Flooding

Partnership between Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District and Central New York Land Trust

Trying a “beaver dam drain tube” to reduce water levels
Some Concerns

State and federal grant trouble spots

Reduction in state and federal staffing
Bright Spots

Innovative partnerships

Civil society
Best Scenario
Thank you!

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