

NYS Tug Hill Commission - Local Leaders Survey - 2008

383 Surveys mailed out, 163 surveys returned for a return rate of 43%

Section 1. Local Leader Profile

Your responses to this survey are strictly confidential, unless you choose to share your name at the end. Please give us the following information to help us match responses by geographic area and your involvement in local matter.

1. In what town or village do you live? 72.6% Town 20.7% Village

4	Adams(T)	2	Boylston	2	Florence	5	Lowville(V)	2	Redfield	5	Watertown
3	Adams(V)	2	Camden(T)	1	Floyd	1	Lyons Falls(V)	2	Remsen(T)	3	Western
2	Albion	3	Camden(V)	1	Forestport	4	Martinsburg	1	Remsen(V)	2	West Carthage(V)
0	Altmar(V)	1	Castorland(V)	3	Harrisburg	2	Montague	3	Rodman	3	West Monroe
2	Annsville	1	Central Square(V)	0	Hastings	4	Orwell	4	Rutland	2	West Turin
3	Amboy	1	Champion	3	Holland Patent(V)	1	Osceola	1	Steuben	2	Williamstown
1	Ava	2	Cleveland(V)	7	Lee	2	Parish(T)	2	Sylvan Beach(V)	3	Worth
1	Barneveld(V)	0	Constableville(V)	1	Lewis	0	Parish(V)	3	Trenton	31	Do not live in TH region
0	Black River(V)	2	Constantia	2	Leyden	3	Pinckney	2	Turin(T)		
4	Boonville(T)	0	Copenhagen(V)	3	Lorraine	2	Port Leyden(V)	0	Turin(V)		
2	Boonville(V)	1	Denmark	3	Lowville(T)	1	Prospect(V)	3	Vienna		

In what county do you live?

26.2% Jefferson 23.2% Lewis 28.7% Oneida 17.7% Oswego 1.8% other

2. Which of the following organizations or groups are you currently a member? (Please check all that apply.)

18.3%	town board	3.0%	council of governments	1.8%	school/other district board(s)
7.9%	village board	8.5%	other town/village official	8.5%	economic dev group/chamber of commerce
12.8%	town clerk	5.5%	county legislator	9.1%	farm or forestry organization
5.5%	village clerk	4.9%	county governmental agency	6.7%	fire company/rescue squad
12.2%	planning board	7.3%	environmental/historical/land trust org	10.4%	other
6.7%	zoning board of appeals	6.1%	hunting or fishing club		
11.6%	highway/public works superintendent	6.7%	outdoor recreation club		

3. How often have you worked with Tug Hill Commission staff (or circuit riders) in the last five years? (Please check only one.)

11.6% Not at all 44.5% Occasionally 42.7% Frequently

Section 2. Program Effectiveness and Importance

The Commission's mission is "helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region." Its legislative charge calls for enhancing the region's environment and economy through work with local governments and organizations. In light of this, please rank the Commission's programs for IMPORTANCE (in Question 4) and EFFECTIVENESS (in Question 5).

4. How would you rate the IMPORTANCE of the following Tug Hill Commission programs to the future of the Tug Hill region? (Please check only one for each category.) (E=Essential, I=Important, NI=Not Important, DK=Don't Know)

	Essential	Important	Not Important	Don't Know
Helping communities protect the environment	50.6%	45.7%	0.6%	1.2%
Educational programs to increase local citizens' & children's understanding of natural/cultural resources	32.9%	55.5%	6.1%	1.8%
Workshops to increase local officials' skills including annual Local Government Conference	59.1%	34.8%	1.8%	3.7%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	56.1%	37.8%	2.4%	1.8%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	60.4%	34.1%	0.6%	4.3%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	48.2%	42.1%	4.9%	3.7%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	37.2%	49.4%	6.7%	4.9%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	25.0%	54.9%	7.9%	11.0%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	32.3%	48.2%	6.1%	12.8%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	28.7%	53.7%	6.7%	10.4%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, and similar problems	36.0%	48.8%	7.3%	5.5%
Support to groups of communities working together, especially local councils of governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County COG, North Shore COG, River Area COG and Salmon River COG)	51.2%	43.3%	1.2%	4.3%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	33.5%	48.8%	4.9%	12.8%

5. How would you rate the EFFECTIVENESS of the following programs of the Tug Hill Commission? (Please check only one for each category.) (E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor, NEI=Not Enough Info to Rate)

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Not Enough Info</i>
Helping communities protect the environment	33.5%	41.5%	7.3%	1.2%	14.0%
Educational programs to increase local citizens' & children's understanding of natural/cultural resources	20.7%	35.4%	12.8%	0.6%	27.4%
Workshops to increase local officials' skills including annual Local Government Conference	55.5%	28.7%	4.9%	0.6%	7.9%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	44.5%	34.1%	6.1%	0.6%	12.2%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	29.9%	41.5%	8.5%	0.6%	16.5%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	25.0%	43.3%	9.8%	1.2%	15.9%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	23.2%	40.9%	12.8%	1.2%	18.3%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	14.0%	32.9%	9.1%	1.2%	39.6%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	11.0%	30.5%	9.8%	0.0%	45.7%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	14.0%	29.3%	11.6%	0.6%	40.9%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, & similar problems	28.7%	37.2%	6.7%	0.0%	23.8%
Support to groups of communities working together, especially local councils of governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County COG, North Shore COG, River Area COG and Salmon River COG)	33.5%	40.2%	3.0%	0.0%	18.3%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	37.2%	31.7%	4.9%	2.4%	22.0%

6. How would you rate the Tug Hill Commission on the following characteristics? (Please check only one for each characteristic) (E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor, DK=Don't Know)

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Cooperation	68.3%	25.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Expertise	62.2%	30.5%	2.4%	0.0%	3.7%
Promptness	52.4%	32.3%	6.1%	0.6%	7.3%
Innovativeness	41.5%	36.6%	7.9%	1.2%	11.0%
Objectivity	42.1%	41.5%	4.3%	1.2%	8.5%
Understanding area needs	49.4%	41.5%	4.3%	0.0%	3.0%

Section 3. Commission Role

The Tug Hill Commission provides for the future of the region through help to local governments and organizations. It is a provider of information, expertise, and service. It does not regulate. It does not set policy for the region. Please let us know how you feel about this in answering the following questions. (Please check the one answer that best represents your opinion.)

7. How important do you feel local control is to your community? (Please check only one.)

75.0%	<i>Extremely important</i>	17.1%	<i>Somewhat important</i>	3.7%	<i>Important</i>	0.6%	<i>Not important</i>	3.0%	<i>Don't know</i>
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8. Does the Tug Hill Commission work to enhance local control? (Please check only one.)

48.8%	<i>Almost always</i>	22.0%	<i>Sometimes</i>	7.3%	<i>Often</i>	1.8%	<i>Almost never</i>	18.9%	<i>Don't know</i>
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9. How important do you think intermunicipal cooperation and planning are to the Tug Hill Region? (Please check only one.)

65.2%	<i>Extremely important</i>	23.2%	<i>Somewhat important</i>	6.7%	<i>Important</i>	0.6%	<i>Not important</i>	3.7%	<i>Don't know</i>
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10. Does the Tug Hill Commission work effectively to support cooperation and planning? (Please check only one.)

63.4%	<i>Almost always</i>	20.7%	<i>Sometimes</i>	6.7%	<i>Often</i>	0.6%	<i>Almost never</i>	7.3%	<i>Don't know</i>
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11. "The Tug Hill Commission provides services which local governments need and cannot afford by themselves."

(Please check only one reaction to this statement.)

62.8%	<i>Strongly agree</i>	23.2%	<i>Agree</i>	1.8%	<i>Disagree</i>	1.8%	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	9.8%	<i>Don't know</i>
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12. "The Tug Hill Commission has outlived its usefulness." (Please check only one reaction to this statement.)

4.3%	<i>Strongly agree</i>	14.6%	<i>Agree</i>	50.0%	<i>Disagree</i>	24.4%	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	6.1%	<i>Don't know</i>
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