

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Local Leaders Survey – 2013

371 survey's mailed out on October 10, 2013/152 surveys returned for a return rate of 41%.

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? 70% *Town* 30% *Village*

3	Adams(T)	1	Boylston	2	Florence	9	Lowville(V)	3	Redfield	2	Watertown
3	Adams(V)	2	Camden(T)	1	Floyd	1	Lyons Falls(V)	2	Remsen(T)	0	Western
1	Albion	1	Camden(V)	2	Forestport	4	Martinsburg	2	Remsen(V)	3	West Carthage(V)
2	Annsville	1	Castorland(V)	2	Harrisburg	1	Montague	2	Rodman	4	West Monroe
4	Amboy	2	Central Square(V)	1	Hastings	2	Orwell	1	Rutland	2	West Turin
3	Ava	3	Champion	1	Holland Patent(V)	2	Osceola	2	Steuben	2	Williamstown
2	Barneveld(V)	1	Cleveland(V)	2	Lee	3	Parish(T)	0	Sylvan Beach(V)	1	Worth
2	Black River(V)	0	Constableville(V)	3	Lewis	4	Parish(V)	4	Trenton	21	Do not live in TH region
5	Boonville(T)	4	Constantia	1	Leyden	2	Pinckney	3	Turin(T)		
1	Boonville(V)	0	Copenhagen(V)	4	Lorraine	1	Port Leyden(V)	0	Turin(V)		
		1	Denmark	0	Lowville(T)	1	Prospect(V)	4	Vienna		

In what county do you live?

22% Jefferson 26% Lewis 27% Oneida 24% Oswego 1% Other

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

31%	town board	17%	council of governments	3%	school/other district board(s)
14%	village board	12%	other town/village official	17%	economic dev group/chamber of commerce
20%	town clerk	7%	county legislator	13%	farm or forestry organization
11%	village clerk	9%	county governmental agency	6%	fire company/rescue squad
32%	planning board	12%	environmental/historical/land trust org	17%	other
22%	zoning board of appeals	17%	hunting or fishing club		
15%	highway/public works superintendent	8%	outdoor recreation club		

Other

Attorney
 THRIFT
 NYS Assoc of City & Village Clerks, NC Assoc of Clerks/Treasurers & NYS Municipal Finance Officers
 Snowmobile Clubs
 Town Superintendent's Association
 Soil & Water Conservation District
 Tax Collector
 Church
 Oneida County Clerks, NYS Clerks, Floyd grange
 Village Treasurer, Grants Administrator
 State Government
 Thousand Island Soccer Club, Clayton UMC Trustee & NYS Dec – Forestry Program
 Center for Community Studies at JCC
 Lowville Business Association, Village of Lowville Rezoning Committee
 Panther Lake Association Director

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

54% *Frequently* 43% *Occasionally* 3% *Not at all*

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)

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Not Important</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Helping communities protect the environment	50%	48%	1%	1%
Educational programs to increase local citizens' & children's understanding of natural/cultural resources	35%	58%	3%	4%
Workshops to increase local officials' skills including annual Local Government Conference	72%	26%	1%	1%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	57%	40%	0%	1%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	57%	36%	2%	3%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	40%	51%	4%	4%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	27%	59%	9%	4%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	20%	60%	6%	14%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	26%	51%	7%	15%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	26%	53%	6%	14%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, and similar problems	43%	35%	13%	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)	57%	39%	2%	0%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	34%	53%	7%	5%

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%	47%	8%	0%	10%
Educational programs to increase local citizens' & children's understanding of natural/cultural resources	21%	44%	13%	2%	17%
Workshops to increase local officials' skills including annual Local Government Conference	68%	24%	3%	1%	2%
Land use planning assistance to towns and villages	53%	34%	5%	1%	6%
Helping communities find money for water, sewer, housing, and similar grants and loans	32%	40%	11%	1%	13%
Helping communities find money for parks, recreation, downtown revitalization	27%	43%	12%	1%	15%
Helping recreation trail development (skiing, ATV's, snowmobiles, scenic highways, etc.)	22%	41%	18%	1%	13%
Technical assistance to chambers of commerce and similar groups	18%	31%	10%	0%	39%
Technical assistance to farmers and farm businesses	13%	31%	8%	0%	43%
Technical assistance to forest landowners and forest products businesses	18%	32%	9%	0%	8%
Helping towns and villages in solving day-to-day legal, accounting, computer, & similar problems	34%	30%	11%	1%	24%
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)	42%	36%	7%	0%	11%
Circuit rider attendance at municipal board meetings	47%	30%	7%	1%	14%

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	78%	18%	1%	0%	1%
Expertise	66%	28%	2%	0%	2%
Promptness	57%	34%	5%	0%	3%
Innovativeness	45%	38%	5%	0%	9%
Objectivity	56%	33%	6%	1%	3%
Understanding area needs	62%	30%	4%	0%	2%

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. Should the Tug Hill Commission continue its mission? (Mission – Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.)

77%	<i>Extremely important</i>	21%	<i>Somewhat important</i>	0%	<i>Important</i>	0%	<i>Not important</i>	1%	<i>Don't know</i>
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8. How important do you feel local control is to your community?

78%	<i>Almost always</i>	14%	<i>Sometimes</i>	8%	<i>Often</i>	0%	<i>Almost never</i>	0%	<i>Don't know</i>
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9. Does the Tug Hill Commission work to enhance local control?

65%	<i>Extremely important</i>	17%	<i>Somewhat important</i>	6%	<i>Important</i>	1%	<i>Not important</i>	10%	<i>Don't know</i>
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10. How important do you think intermunicipal cooperation and planning are to the Tug Hill Region?

76%	<i>Almost always</i>	15%	<i>Sometimes</i>	7%	<i>Often</i>	1%	<i>Almost never</i>	1%	<i>Don't know</i>
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11. Does the Tug Hill Commission work effectively to support cooperation and planning?

79%	<i>Strongly agree</i>	8%	<i>Agree</i>	9%	<i>Disagree</i>	0%	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	4%	<i>Don't know</i>
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12. “The Tug Hill Commission provides service which local governments need and cannot afford by themselves.”

61%	<i>Strongly agree</i>	32%	<i>Agree</i>	2%	<i>Disagree</i>	0%	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	5%	<i>Don't know</i>
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