

January 14, 2022

Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan Out for Comment

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) was signed into law in 2019 and, among other things, created the Climate Action Council (Council). It also requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and no less than 85% by 2050 from 1990 levels.

The Council was tasked with developing a draft scoping plan that serves as an initial framework for how New York will meet the requires of the Climate Act. On December 20, the Council voted to release the draft scoping plan for public comment. January 1, 2022 marks the beginning of a 120-day public comment period to receive feedback from the public as the Council works to develop and release a final scoping plan by the end of 2022.

The full scoping plan, along with several detailed Appendices and information about how to comment, is available at climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan.

Public comments can be submitted via the online public comment form, via email, and via U.S. mail. In addition, the Council will hold at least six public hearings across the State, both in-person and virtual, which will follow all appropriate COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. More details about the public hearings will be made available in early 2022.

Wood Burning and the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan

Commission staff have received several inquiries regarding whether wood burning was proposed to be prohibited in the draft scoping plan of the Climate Action Council. Staff reached out to colleagues at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, who provided the following bullets to clarify:

- The state is not considering legislation that would ban wood burning.
- The Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan does not contain any recommendations directed specifically at wood burning.
- The Draft Scoping Plan does recommend building and device efficiency as well as increased electrification that modeling predicts will lower wood consumption by 40% by 2050.
- Once input is received the Final Scoping Plan is scheduled to be released on January 1, 2023.

Final Rule for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Under ARPA

The U.S. Treasury has finalized the rule for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The most significant change in the Final Rule relates to the replacing lost revenue provision. The lost revenue provision of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allows recipients to use SLFRF funds in the amount up to the recipient's lost revenue for provisions of "government services." This provision provides recipients with the broadest discretion in using SLFRF funds. The Final Rule provides a new standard allowance of up to \$10 million for lost revenue and allows recipients to choose between the standard allowance for lost revenue or complete a full lost revenue calculation using the formula provided in the Final Rule. Notably, electing the standard allowance does not impact a recipient's total SLFRF allocation. So, if your municipality is getting less than \$10 million in ARPA funding, all ARPA funds can be used on government services. Examples of government services include road maintenance, parks, and playgrounds.

An overview of the final rule is available [here](#).

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2021 Year in Review for the Black River Watershed

The Tug Hill Commission, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Program, is pleased to share the [2021 Black River Initiative newsletter](#), highlighting projects within the Black River Watershed and Tug Hill Region that sustain regional land and water resources, and contribute to the health and well-being of watershed communities. We would like to thank Emily Fell (emily.fell@dec.ny.gov), Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, for pulling all of this information together in the annual newsletter, and all of the contributing organizations, volunteers, and stewards of the watershed for their determination to advance efforts despite the challenges of 2021, and look forward to working together in 2022 to continue progress for the Black River Initiative.



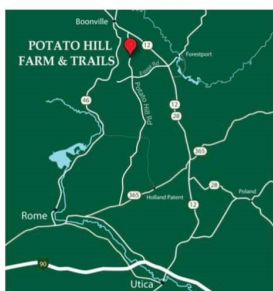
For the first time ever, BREIA is now lending cross-country skis and snowshoes to the public at Potato Hill Farm & Trails on Saturdays, Sundays, and Presidents week. This FREE lending program begins each day at 10:00 am. All equipment must be returned the same day by 4:00 pm.

World Class Facility

- Over 6 km of professionally groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on a beautiful 200 acre farm, conditions permitting
- Trailhead restroom and authentic carriage museum

What you need

- Carry a mask, follow NY CDC Covid-19 guidelines
- Snack and water bottle
- Dress in layers of active clothing for changing temperatures; keep the weather in mind
- Visit the BREIA website for trail conditions and maps to 3 more BREIA trail systems



Potato Hill Farm & Trails
11904 Potato Hill Road, Boonville, NY 13309
Pictured: Skier, Joanna Naegle enjoying the day at Potato Hill Farm & Trails

Our Rules

Public hours: Potato Hill Farm and Trails is open everyday this winter from dawn until dark.

Visitors are welcome to Potato Hill Farm and Trails provided that they adhere to the following rules:

- Pets are prohibited
- Please sign in at our kiosk
- No bare booting
- Snowshoes must stay to the extreme edge of the trail to preserve the cross-country ski tracks
- We are a carry in/carry out preserve. Leave no trace. No camping, fires, or cooking allowed anywhere on PHF lands
- For peaceful enjoyment, no loud music
- No smoking, firearms, or motorized vehicles

Instagram @breia_xski
Sign up for trail updates at:
www.breia-countryski.org
www.facebook.com/BREIA.trails

Parks & Trails New York Spotlights Boonville Black River Canal Trail

In its "Hit the Trail in 2022" promotion, Parks & Trails New York identified the Boonville Black River Canal Trail as one of seven greenway trails that are "perfect for a winter adventure," calling it "a premier destination for cross-country skiers," with the Egypt Road and Jackson Hill trail systems nearby for a total of over 30 miles of trail.

Parks & Trails New York also has a Trailfinder app to help find more than 1,200 files of multi-use trails for biking, walking, running, cross-country skiing, and riding horses: www.ptny.org/Trailfinder/index.php.

Parks & Trails New York can be found on the Internet at www.ptny.org, and the "Hit the Trail" article at www.ptny.org/newsandmedia/e-news-1/2022/01/hit-trail-winter.

Association of Towns Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The Association of Towns (AOT) is now offering their Annual Training School online only from February 20 to 23. Members and non-members who want to attend sessions will need to register themselves online at www.nytowns.org to have access to the breakout sessions. The all-virtual conference will include 32-plus sessions over the course of two days, a virtual exhibit hall, keynote speakers, certification credits in AOT's Certified Town Official Program and the ability to network and meeting one-on-one right through the app. All attendees will be able to access recorded versions of all sessions for 30 days after the conference concludes.

Clean Energy Communities

Program Overview and Q&A



Thursday Feb 24th 6:30 PM

Register in advance for
this webinar:

tinyurl.com/TugHillCEC

Topics Include:

Rebates & Incentives

Grant Funding

LED Streetlights

Energy Code
Enforcement Training

Electric Vehicles and
Charging Stations

Clean Heating
& Cooling

Community Campaigns

Benchmarking



Vandalism in Florence and Who to Call

John Boncella, the Florence Highway Supervisor, noticed on January 9, 2022, that the Florence Farming Association sign and pole were removed from the site. More vandalism occurred on personal and public property in the vicinity. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed the allegations and added that their Florence Hill State Forest sign was also taken.

The town of Florence's Department of Public Works located a pole at another location, but neither sign have been found. If the signs were tossed outside, it is unlikely that they will be found until spring, since around 24 inches of snow have fallen in Florence. These public signs hold public and historic value. As such, State Police have taken over the investigation.

If the public or local officials have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the State Police. A confidential tip can be shared via email to crimetip@troopers.ny.gov. State Police Troop D covers Oneida County and can be contacted by phone at 315-366-6000.



The William G. Pomeroy Foundation Historic Roadside marker sign to honor the Florence Farming Association was installed in 2016 and dedicated in October 2017. The application for the sign grant was submitted by Jessica Harney on behalf of the Oneida County History Center of Utica, NY and the Oneida County Freedom Trail Commission. GPS Coordinates for marker Sign: 43°27'45.7"N 75°48'55.6"W.

NTIA Looking for Public Comment on New Broadband Programs in Federal Infrastructure Law

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has invited public comment on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (i.e., the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), which covers broadband programs. You can learn more about the grants, programs, opportunities created by this Act at [Grants | National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(doc.gov\)](https://www.ntia.gov/grants). Some questions that the NTIA is asking communities to comment on include:

- Question #5: In implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's programs, NTIA will offer technical assistance to states, localities, prospective sub-grantees, and other interested parties. What kinds of technical assistance would be most valuable? How might technical assistance evolve over the duration of the grant program implementation?
- Question #7: NTIA views the participation of a variety of provider types as important to achieving the overall goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law broadband programs. How can NTIA ensure that all potential subrecipients, including small and medium providers, cooperatives, non-profits, municipalities, electric utilities, and larger for-profit companies alike have meaningful and robust opportunities to partner and compete for funding under the programs?
- Questions #13: NTIA is committed to ensuring that networks built using taxpayer funds are capable of meeting Americans' evolving digital needs, including broadband speeds and other essential network features. What guidance or requirements, if any, should NTIA consider with respect to network reliability and availability, cybersecurity, resiliency, latency, or other service quality features and metrics? What criteria should NTIA establish to assess grant recipients' plans to ensure that service providers maintain and/or exceed thresholds for reliability, quality of service, sustainability, upgradability and other required service characteristics?
- Question #19: Community engagement is critical to eliminating barriers to broadband access and adoption. NTIA views strong involvement between states and local communities as key to ensuring that the broadband needs of all unserved and underserved locations are accounted for in state plans submitted for funding. What requirements should NTIA establish for states/territories to ensure that local perspectives are critical factors in the design of state plans?

Public comment will be received until 5:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022. Comments can be filed through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and should be identified as pertaining to docket number NTIA-2021-0002. Responders should include a page number on each page of their submissions and make sure to reference the question number in your comment. All comments submitted will be posted publicly on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Sawyer Community Fund Grants Awarded

Eleven organizations and projects that benefit Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville residents will share \$46,500 in 2021 funding from the Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation. Highlights of the funding are below. The full list can be viewed at www.nnycf.org/sawyer-fund-grant-awards/. Applications for the next grant cycle for funding from the Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund will be available in February.

- *Constable Hall Association* — \$10,000 for exterior work and restoration of the carriage house.
- *Erwin Library and Institute* — \$8,000 to support and install a new heating unit and acquire audio and video equipment.
- *Village of Boonville* — \$7,200 to support three projects in the village, including: \$3,500 to help the village obtain supplies and materials to complete a safe walking path for residents to reach the community's only major grocery store; \$2,200 for technology and equipment needed to continue the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that will allow two volunteers to process nearly 300 income tax returns; and \$1,500 to purchase five large American flags for Little Village Park.
- *Boonville Cemetery Association* — \$5,000 to continue efforts to update and digitize burial records and identify family plots and their respective locations.
- *Constableville Volunteer Fire Company* — \$5,000 to acquire a cardiac monitor.
- *Western Town Library* — \$1,800 to improve technology and purchase equipment.

The Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund was established in 2018 as a geographic-specific fund to support programs, projects and initiatives that broadly impact and enhance the quality of life in Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville in perpetuity. The Sawyers were passionate about the quality of life in their community. Through the community fund, the Sawyer family established a lasting charitable resource that will positively impact these communities forever.

Contact Us

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call

1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

New Service Model for Records Management Officers Takes Effect

The State Archives Local Government Advisory Services' new model for service delivery took effect January 1, 2022. The new model assigns Records Advisory Officers (RAO) by government type rather than region. Under the new system, the RAO who previously covered the Tug Hill region, Michael Martin is the new RAO covering all towns in the state. Michael can be contacted at Michael.Martin@nysed.gov or (518) 330-7987. The new RAO covering villages (and Cooperative Extensions) is Lorraine Hill who can be contacted at Lorraine.Hill-Campbell@nysed.gov or (631) 521-9796. Counties and Miscellaneous Governments will be covered by Monica Hauck-Wheaton available at Monica.Hauck-Wheaton@nysed.gov or (518) 473-9454. The full [list of RAO's](#) is available on the NYS Archives website.

If you missed the live webinar "Ask Us Anything About The New Services Model" and would like to catch up on the changes by watching the webinar at your convenience you can access it [HERE](#). The full list of the recorded webinars on records management topics is available [HERE](#).

The NYS Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust sends out a newsletter with timely news, updates and event information which is free to subscribe to. Visit www.archives.nysed.gov/about/about-newsletters to sign up.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet January 24 via Zoom

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, January 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Access information is us02web.zoom.us/j/83393368741 or dial 929-205-6099, meeting ID 833 9336 8741.