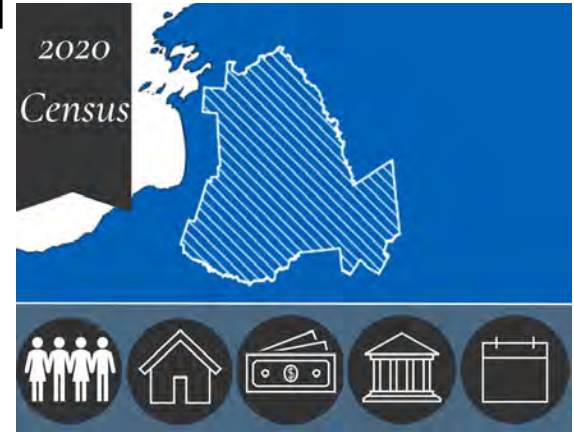


## Tug Hill 2020 Census Paper Completed

Commission staff has completed an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 data, which includes metrics such as population, population change, median household income, percentage of owner-occupied homes, percentage of renter-occupied homes, and more. The paper explains the methodology by which the analysis was conducted and how the numbers were curated, followed by description of various census data. The 2020 census paper builds on the commission's 2010 issue paper by providing more in-depth analysis, along with new maps to display the information better visually. The 2020 census paper is available under [Technical & Issue Papers](#) on our website.

For any questions about the paper, please contact commission staff Matthew Smith, [msmith@tughill.org](mailto:msmith@tughill.org) or Taylor McKinney, [taylor@tughill.org](mailto:taylor@tughill.org).



The Tug Hill Commission will meet on **Monday, March 20** from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** at the Rodman Town Hall, 12509 School Street Rodman, NY 13682. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the commission and a review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

## River Area Council of Governments Video Complete

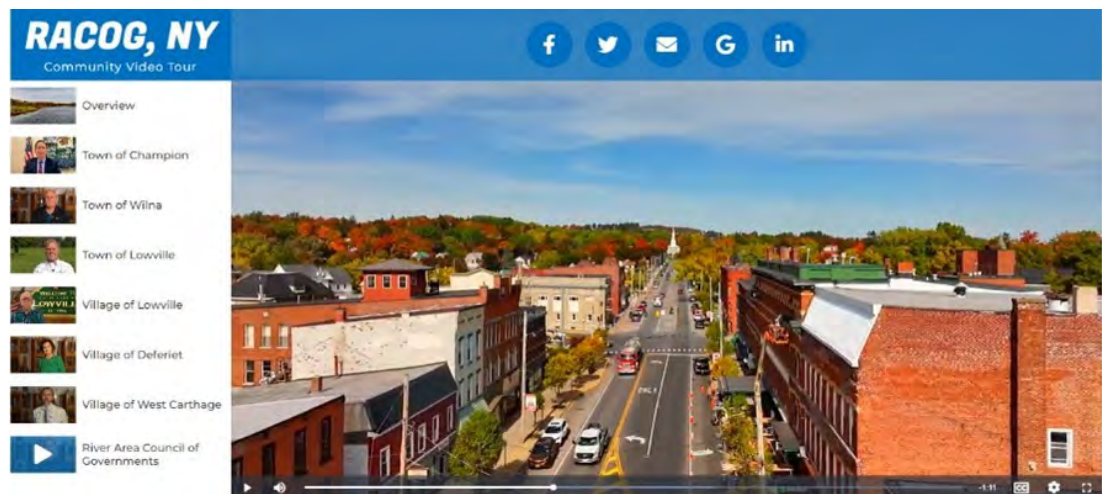
The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) board opted last spring to work with the company [CGI Digital](#) to develop a promotional video for the region at no cost. This opportunity was brought forth by Scott Burto, the West Carthage mayor. The video script was developed past summer, and the video footage was captured in October.

CGI Digital will develop a community webpage with the final videos, where local businesses can work with CGI to do sponsorships. Local businesses can also engage CGI separately to have their own promotional videos created.

The RACOG video can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/racogvideo](http://tinyurl.com/racogvideo).

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# Knowledge Transfer: How to Identify What You Don't Know You Don't Know

Succession planning and knowledge transfer are key processes in any industry, but the absence of such practices is keenly felt in the context of local government. On February 28, the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center and the NYS Tug Hill Commission successfully hosted its webinar, “**Knowledge Transfer: How to make sure you know what you don't know when you experience staffing changes**”.

The presentation was led by Director of Water Resilience Initiatives Khristopher Dodson and Program Associate Averi Davis from the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC). Input and local case examples were provided by Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects Jennifer Harvill and NOCCOG Circuit Rider John Healt at the NYS Tug Hill Commission. This webinar was also produced in partnership with the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc., and the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments.

In the webinar, Dodson shared examples of local impacts of when knowledge transfer goals were not met and demonstrated various strategies and exercises on the prevention of too much knowledge loss. Dodson also discussed the completion of a Position Knowledge Inventory document: a tool cultivated by the staff at SU-EFC and the commission. Many local officials and public employees were in attendance and actively contributed to the chat.

Links to the webinar recording, slide deck, and Position Knowledge Inventory tool can be found on the commission's website [here](#). The commission and SU-EFC hope these tools will serve as a starting point in ensuring knowledge flow and establishing long-term practices that work best for each agency or entity.

The SU-EFC is happy to provide ongoing technical assistance. Contact Khristopher Dodson at [kadodson@syr.edu](mailto:kadodson@syr.edu) or Averi Davis at [adavis02@efc.mail.syr.edu](mailto:adavis02@efc.mail.syr.edu) with questions.

## North Shore Council of Governments Holds Meeting

The North Shore Council of Governments held a meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at the Constantia town hall. The primary meeting agenda topic was review and discussion of options for economic analysis of the North Shore, including unmet needs and opportunities for business development. Other topics included updates on likely area impacts as a result of the Micron plant development in Onondaga County; updates on enabling wildlife management area tax payment by the state, and status of bringing on a new associate circuit rider.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Governments will be Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe town hall.



North Shore Chairman Rip Colesante discusses issues with other members at the North Shore Council of Governments meeting.

# Register to become a Climate Smart Community!

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and thrive in a green economy. Local governments participate by signing a voluntary pledge, creating a task force of volunteers, and using the CSC framework to guide progress toward creating attractive, healthy, and equitable places to live, work, and play.

## Climate Smart Community (CSC) Program Goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Build resiliency to the impacts of climate change.
- Save taxpayer dollars.
- Increase energy security and reliability.
- Improve community public health and safety.
- Support a green innovation economy.
- Demonstrate leadership.

## Benefits of Climate Smart Communities (CSC):

- Free technical assistance.
- Framework for taking local action, planning, and priorities.
- Leadership recognition.
- Roadmap for Climate Action.
- Funding: better positioned to compete for CSC grants and zero emission vehicle funding from DEC.

To date, 373 communities are registered in the program, and 100 communities have completed the certification process. Participating communities on Tug Hill include Forestport, Boonville, Lowville, and Carthage. Outlying participating towns and villages include Webb, Pulaski, Richland, Diana, Rome, and Harrisville. Lewis County became registered in 2020. Thus far, they have implemented 12 actions, including a government operations greenhouse gas inventory and adopting a unified solar permit. The county hopes that achieving CSC certification will help make it more resilient to the impacts of climate change and decrease municipal operation costs.

To learn more about the CSC program, please visit [climatesmart.ny.gov/about/](https://climatesmart.ny.gov/about/). Whether you are a municipal staff member, elected official, or community member interested in making the place you live more climate friendly, please contact the following Regional Climate Smart Communities Coordinators: for the North Country through the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), Carlie Leary - [cleary@adirondack.org](mailto:cleary@adirondack.org); for Oswego County through CNY Regional Planning and Development Board, Mike Boccuzzi - [mboccuzzi@cnyrpd.org](mailto:mboccuzzi@cnyrpd.org); for Oneida County through the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Amanda Kaier - [akaier@mvedd.org](mailto:akaier@mvedd.org).

**RIVER AREA ECONOMIC VISIONING SUMMIT**

**RACOG**  
RIVER AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**Thursday, April 27, 2023**  
**9:00AM to Noon (Lunch to follow)**  
**Jefferson Lewis BOCES Howard G. Sackett Technical Center**  
**5836 NYS Route 12**  
**Glenfield, NY 13343**

**FREE EVENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Come be a part of the River Area Council of Governments Economic Visioning Summit on April 27, 9:00 a.m. at the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center. More information on presentations, including a game of Jeopardy, is available at [tinyurl.com/racogsummitflyer](https://tinyurl.com/racogsummitflyer). Stay for lunch prepared by the Jefferson Lewis BOCES Howard G. Sackett Technical Center culinary class.

The event is free, please register at [tinyurl.com/racogsummit2023](https://tinyurl.com/racogsummit2023). We hope to see you there!

# Food Waste Reduction Grant Opportunity

The NYS Pollution Prevention Institute has a Food Waste Reduction and Diversion Reimbursement Program for NYS businesses, not-for-profits, and municipalities that produce, haul, or recycle greater than one ton of food waste per week. Eligible applicants to be reimbursed up to 44% of their cost for items purchased since June 2017 or will purchase by April 2023.

The application deadline is May 1, 2023, and more information is available [here](#).

## Updated Water Technical Assistance from EPA

EPA recently updated its Water Technical Assistance (TA) [website](#) with content focusing on the new and existing EPA water TA programs and intended to make these services more accessible. Many of the TA focus areas could apply to Tug Hill communities! In collaboration with states, Tribes, and territories, the programs will help underserved and disadvantaged communities access Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds. The updates include:

- A [fact sheet](#) with an overview of TA resources
- A simple [Water TA Request Form](#)
- A list of the types of TA services available to the public
- Information on who can receive TA through EPA

A few TA focus areas include closing America's wastewater access gap, lead service line replacement acceleration, and drinking water capacity development. The Water TA Request Form provides a simple, streamlined process for communities to pursue no-cost, direct TA services. The form is intended to complement existing methods of identifying communities with TA needs used by EPA, states, and TA providers. TA requests will be coordinated between EPA and state partners.

## NY Hybrid Funding Roundtable

Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) at 10:00 a.m. on March 29 for a hybrid roundtable discussion regarding funding and financing for municipal infrastructure. Numerous funding opportunities will be discussed, including safe and clean water management, renewable energy, as well as funding for other community investments from state and federal agencies. Presenters will include representatives from New York State Homes and Community Renewal, New York State Departments of State, Health, & Environmental Conservation, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, and US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development.

While in-person attendance is encouraged, and lunch will be provided for those that do attend, the session will also be livestreamed for hybrid viewing. If you would like to attend virtually, please indicate so on the registration form.

The event will be held at the Syracuse Center of Excellence, 727 E. Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13210

Click [here](#) to register. Or for more information, contact Jes Eckerlin, [jeschn01@syr.edu](mailto:jeschn01@syr.edu)

## Maple Weekend 2023

The month of March means Maple Weekend for New York State! Join the New York State Maple Producers Association for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Weekend.

New York State is one of the few places where sugar maple trees naturally thrive, making it one of the largest resources of tappable maple trees within the United States. The New York State Maple Producers Association is a non-profit organization comprised of maple product producers who practice sustainable wood lot management. On the weekends of March 18-19 and March 25-26, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., farms across New York State are extending an invitation to visit their sugarhouses and get a close-up look at how pure maple syrup is produced. Admission to the sugarhouses is free.

For a map of participating sugarhouses, see [here](#). To follow Maple Weekend updates on social media, check [this Facebook page](#).

### Contact Us

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**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](http://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

**Instagram:** [Instagram](#)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

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