

Infrastructure Funding Roundtable Well Received

Forty-five people participated in the November 9 Infrastructure Funding Roundtable workshop held at the Jefferson Lewis BO-CES Howard G. Sackett Technical Center. During the event, sponsored by the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, River Area Council of Governments, Tug Hill Commission, and Lewis County Planning, participants were able to learn about funding opportunities for safe and clean water management and other community investments from state and federal agency representatives. Presentations and consultations were done by the NYS Department of Health, Environmental Facilities Corporation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, NYS Department of State, and USDA Rural Development.

After lunch provided by the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center culinary class, individual consultations with funders were available to address specific project funding questions and needs. Additionally, attendees got a first look at a new quick guide for town boards on special district formation developed in partnership with the NYS Tug Hill Commission, available [here](#).



Tug Hill Staff Share Community Solar Perspective

Commission staffers Katie Malinowski, Matt Johnson, and Matthew Smith presented “A Community Perspective on Solar” last week to a group of over 65 people across New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. The presentation was part of a continued collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania, and Farm Bureaus of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York providing a series of webinars to explore the continued push for development of solar energy projects in agricultural areas of the Northeast. The five part series addressed the topic from multiple perspectives and helped to identify the opportunities and

challenges as well as currently known best practices for integrating the need for renewable energy with other economic and social factors.

Links to all the presentations are available [here](#), including YouTube videos, as well as slide decks.



In This Issue

- Infrastructure Funding Roundtable
- Community Solar Perspective
- Commission Board Meeting
- Worth Wind Meeting Held
- Clerks Training
- Forest Carbon Workshop
- Consolidated Funding Application Awards
- Preservation Assistant Grants
- Newly Elected Officials Training
- Companion Animal Projects Grants
- Water-Related Funding Workshop Held
- Energy Advisors Available
- Lewis County Achieves Bronze Certification
- Traffic Safety Corner

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the Village of West Carthage Office, 61 High St., West Carthage, NY 13619. The public is welcome to attend.

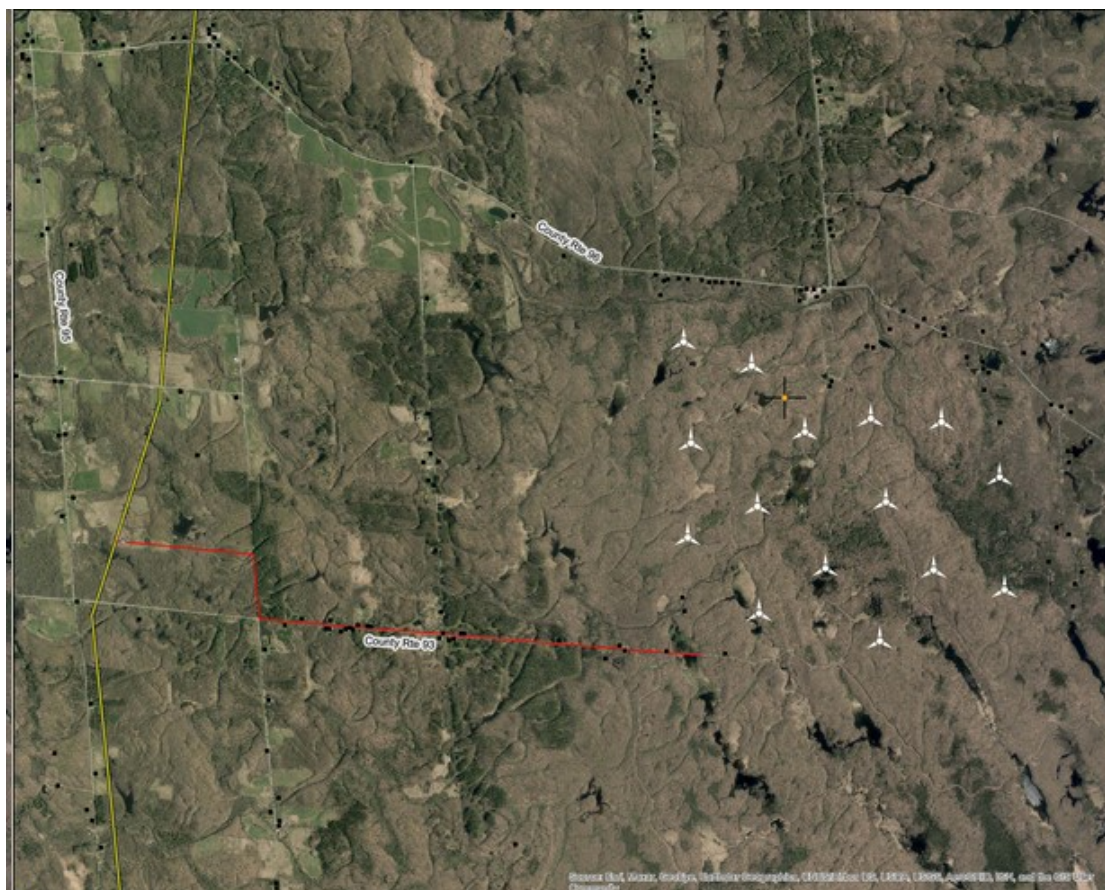
Wind Farm Open House Held in Worth

SWEB Development hosted an open house on their proposed Worth Wind Energy Project on Tuesday November 14. As currently configured, the facility would have a total capacity of up to 92 MW with turbines with a nameplate capacity between 4.5 MW and 7 MW. The project has completed its feasibility study with the NY Independent System Operator (NYISO), and is now completing a system impact study with the NYISO.

A MET tower and LiDAR were installed in June 2022, with the LiDAR decommissioned in the summer of 2023. The MET tower continues to collect data to gain a better understanding of wind speed and directional seasonality. SWEB has contracted with Stantec for field work and environmental data collection. So far, Stantec has completed grassland breeding bird, marsh bird, and forest nesting raptor surveys, a wetland and watercourse survey, and a bat presence-absence survey. Eagle point count and winter grassland raptor surveys are underway, as well as a Phase 1A cultural resources analysis.

SWEB plans to permit this project through the Office of Renewable Siting (ORES) 94-c process.

More information available at www.worthwindenergyproject.com.



Clerks Training December 4

On what grounds can you deny a FOIL request? What if someone wants to sit in your office and go through two years' worth of vouchers? If three board members attend a picnic together and discuss town business, is it a meeting? Does a budget workshop have to be noticed?

Get the answers to these questions and more at the New York State Town Clerks Association's December Regional Education Session, scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2023, at the 41 Lakefront Hotel, 41 Lakefront Drive, Geneva. Kristin O'Neill of the New York State Committee on Open Government will give a presentation and discuss the responsibilities under the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Laws.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and the session runs from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, with lunch to follow. The cost of the program, including lunch, is \$40. Register no later than November 24 by clicking [here](#). For more information, visit the Associations' website, www.nystca.com.

Forest Carbon Workshop for Small Landowners

THE FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

Monday December 4, 2023
6:00PM

Boonville Town Hall: 13149 NY-12, Boonville, NY 13309

Register for online or in-person attendance here:
<https://tinyurl.com/ForestCarbonCredit>

Learn how forest owners get paid to practice sustainable forest management!

Benefits of the Family Forest Carbon Program include:

- Guaranteed annual payments to help you reach your goals
- Guidance to improve the health and value of your forest, create habitat for wildlife, and treat invasive species
- A customized forest management plan
- Access to team of professional foresters, or the ability to work with your own trusted forester

Speakers From

The Nature Conservancy New York
The American Forestry Foundation
Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District



Questions? Contact Gabriel Yerdon
Email: gabriel@tughill.org Phone: 315-785-2387

Consolidated Funding Application Awards Announced

Several Tug Hill communities and organizations will be receiving state funding for recreation related projects, as announced earlier this week:

- The town of Wilna will receive \$285,000 to begin development of the Herrings Waterfront Park at the former Crown Cleaners site. The goal is to transform the property from a former environmentally contaminated industrial site into a recreational area for the community.
- The village of Lowville will receive \$500,000 to revitalize their Veterans Memorial Park by installing accessible walkways, green infrastructure improvements, and enhanced amenities to create a vibrant, accessible space for community gatherings, cultural programs, and safe recreational activities, fostering regional economic growth and community revitalization.
- The village of Pulaski will receive \$67,500 for design and engineering needed to upgrade the recreational facilities at Dunbar Park, connecting it to the Haldane Center with a pedestrian bridge on the Salmon River Greenway.
- The Winona Forest Recreation Association (Jefferson and Oswego Counties) will receive \$239,405 to purchase a snowmobile trail groomer to maintain snowmobile trails and enhance winter outdoor recreation.
- The Osceola Snowmobile Association Inc. (Lewis County) will receive \$30,646 to purchase a snowmobile drag for trail grooming.
- The Trailbusters Snowmobile Club (Oneida County) will receive \$69,121 to purchase two new groomer drags designed for low snow and warmer temperatures and acquire a dump trailer for year-round maintenance and equipment transportation.

Congratulations to everyone who submitted successful grant applications!

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Available

On Friday, October 17, the Division of Preservation and Access under the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) started accepting applications for its Preservation Assistance Grants (PAG) for Smaller Institutions program.

What does this program fund? This program aims to help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections and to secure their integrity and significance to a wide audience. Funded activities under PAG include: preservation assessments; consultation with preservation and conservation professionals, source communities, and scholars; development or revision of plans, policies, and manuals; purchase of preservation supplies and equipment; purchase of environmental monitoring equipment; preparatory steps in the description of collections; education and training for staff in small and mid-sized organizations; and disaster planning and preparedness. Conservation treatment and digitization, however, are **not** eligible activities.

Who should apply? Eligible organizations include: nonprofits (501©3 IRS status), state governments, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, and local and county governments.

Where can I find more information? For detailed information on the grant and the application process on NEH's webpage, click [here](#).

To view the 2023 Pre-Application Webinar on YouTube, click [here](#).

For help determining whether this grant program is potentially a good fit for your organization and assistance putting together an application, please contact Jennifer Harvill (jennifer@tughill.org / 315-785-2392) or Taylor McKinney (taylor@tughill.org / 315-785-2606) at the commission office.

Grant Snapshot

Maximum award amount: \$10,000

Funding Opportunity for: Organizations

Expected output: Format Surveys and Inventories;

Preservation and Collections Care Policies;

Preservation Assessment Reports; Preservation

Supplies/Equipment; Preservation and Collections

Care Workshops

Period of performance: Up to eighteen months

Application available: October 17, 2023

Deadline: January 11, 2024

Expected notification date: August 31, 2024

Project start date: September 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024

Contact the Division of Preservation and Access Team
202-606-8570
preservation@neh.gov

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

THE NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION,
THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
& THE NORTHERN ONEIDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PRESENT

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
6:00-8:00 pm

-ONLINE ONLY-
-NO COST-

*Presentations will be made by
Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the
Association of Towns of the State of New York*

Click [HERE](https://tinyurl.com/officialaot) to Register or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/officialaot>

Topics to be covered include: conflicts of interest, codes of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oaths of office, and preparing for your first meeting. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!



Councils of Governments:
Cooperative Tug Hill Council
North Shore
Northern Oneida County
River Area
Salmon Rivers



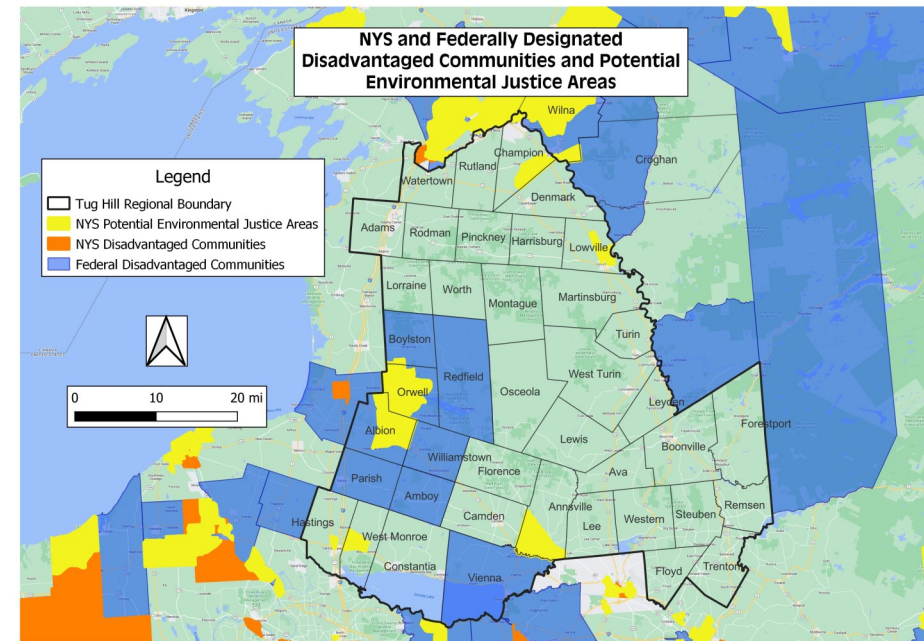
Companion Animal Projects Grants Due January 29

The NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets has two grant funding rounds available now through the Grants Gateway for capital projects necessary for the secure containment, health and adequate care of sheltered dogs and cats. For purposes of this program, a project may be a portion of a larger overall capital project. Eligible expenses include direct costs related to the: construction, renovation, rehabilitation, installation, acquisition, or expansion of buildings, equipment or facilities. Applicants will need to provide a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the total project costs. [RFP0311](#) is for pounds, shelters, humane societies, or rescue facilities that are operated by or under contract with one or more municipalities for the provision of pound or shelter services. [RFP0312](#) is for not-for-profit pounds, shelters, humane societies, or rescue facilities that are NOT under contract with one or more municipalities for the provision of pound or shelter services. The deadline for both grant applications is January 29, 2024.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants Due January 31

Applications are now open for a total of \$12.9 million for urban and community forestry projects through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The funding was made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program to increase equitable access to healthy trees and green spaces in urban and community forests to support building a clean energy economy, advance environmental justice, and create economic opportunity.

Applicants may apply for funding under two categories: Community Forest Management Plan Implementation (\$10 million) and Ash Tree Management (\$2.9 million). The maximum request is \$500,000 per application and no match is required. All projects must take place in disadvantaged communities as identified by any of three federal and state tools listed in the request for applications. See the map below for eligible communities in the Tug Hill region. Applications are open now and the deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.



DEC's Urban and Community Forestry program held a virtual information session on Wednesday, Nov. 15 to provide information on this limited-time funding opportunity and a recording should be available soon. For more information on the application process and DEC's Urban and Community Forestry Program, visit [DEC's website](#).

Water-Related Funding Workshop Hosted in Watertown

NY Sea Grant's **Crosswalking Water Resources for Climate Smart Communities** local government training workshop was held in Watertown on Thursday, November 16. The goal of the workshop was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of decision-makers about the intersection of federal and state water resource programs with the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. Several local communities attended and learned first-hand from the village of Pulaski about how the CSC program has been a benefit. The workshop's audience was planning, zoning and municipal boards, supervisors, mayors, code enforcement officers, conservation advisory boards, and floodplain managers. Materials can be accessed at www.nyseagrant.org or by contacting Mary Austerman at mp357@cornell.edu.



Energy Advisors Available to Tug Hill Residents

To help New Yorkers access and navigate opportunities to increase their energy efficiency and save money while adapting to the changing energy economy, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) created Regional Clean Energy Hubs. Clean Energy Hubs connect people to the clean energy economy through energy advisors.

Energy advisors are available to residents and small business owners to assist with navigating NYS and federal funding opportunities and identifying optimal energy saving solutions on an individual basis. Energy advisors and their regional energy hubs can:

- Assist with accessing job training and employment in the clean energy sector
- Discuss a home energy assessment and why it would be useful
- Help someone fill out an application for a free home-energy assessment
- Show what types of energy incentives a person or business may qualify for
- Share information about electric vehicles (EV), charging stations, even help someone file an EV rebate
- Find a qualified contractor to perform clean energy upgrades
- Locate a community solar program and help residents and businesses sign up for it.

Find your energy advisor by county:

- Jefferson & Lewis Counties: Eamon LaDue, el692@cornell.edu, 315-775-8864
- Oswego County: EnergySmart CNY, energyadvisor@agreeny.org, 315-313-5050
- Oneida County: Brittany Amore, energyandenv@cornell.edu, (315) 736-3394, press 1, ext. 265

Lewis County Achieves Bronze Certification

In early October, Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled the most recent group of communities that have earned certification through NY's [Climate Smart Communities](#) program. This initiative supports local endeavors to address economic, social, and environmental challenges stemming from climate change. Through a variety of initiatives, Lewis County has been recognized with a bronze certification.

Lewis County has made substantial strides in addressing climate change and fostering sustainability within the community. This certification underscores the county's dedication to creating a more resilient and sustainable future. Among the 23 local governments in the state achieving bronze certification for the first time, Lewis County is one of only two from the North Country region.

Coming Soon! The Traffic Safety Corner!

The Tug Hill Times will include a traffic safety section which will focus on providing information and awareness on certain traffic safety topics. Keep your eyes open for information pertaining to crash data and contributing factors, information on crash mitigation measures, traffic safety awareness campaigns, and much more! For more information you can visit the traffic safety coordinator [Facebook](#) page at the Tug Hill Commission [website](#).

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

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

Instagram: [Instagram](#)

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](#).