

TUG HILL TIMES



Bi-weekly newsletter bringing you the latest news, trainings, and updates from in and around the Tug Hill region.

NYS Tug Hill Commission
tughill@tughill.org
 315-785-2380
www.tughill.org

TUG HILL COMMISSION

Board Meeting

ROUTINE BUSINESS AND NORTH SHORE COUNCIL UPDATE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

CLEVELAND VILLAGE HALL, 2 CLAY ST, CLEVELAND, NY 13042

TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR 2027 TOWN BUDGETS

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced the tax levy limit for local government units which fiscal years' end December 31. These local governments, which include towns and counties, will have a tax levy limit of 2.00% for the 2027 fiscal year, the sixth consecutive year at 2.00%. The comptroller's [web page](#) concerning the tax levy limit for local governments and school districts and past years' inflation and allowable levy growth factors [chart](#) for local governments are useful references.

NYAOT LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23

The New York Association of Towns (NYAOT) is holding their first ever legislative conference this September. The program will include "training sessions, collaborative workshops, and task groups designed to identify emerging issues, foster peer-to-peer discussion, and develop potential legislative solutions. Attendees will also vote on legislative updates that will help guide our advocacy efforts". The conference will be a half day on Tuesday, September 22 and a full day on Wednesday, September 23 at the Albany Hilton. For more information, as well as the link to the tentative agenda for the conference, visit NYAOT's [conference webpage](#).

Newsletter Highlights

- Commission Board Meeting September 16
- Tax Levy Limit for 2027 Town Budgets
- NYAOT Legislative Conference September 22 & 23
- Town Budget Workshop August 26
- Draft Data Center Community Investment Framework

- Northern Border Regional Commission Accepting Pre-Applications
- Community Compost Catalyst
- Lewis County Rail Trail Masterplan
- North Country Clean Energy Hub Virtual Forum August 4
- Little Salmon River Dams Meeting August 24
- Using Records Inventory Results Webinar August 27
- Municipal Permitting Modernization Program
- National Flood Insurance Webinar August 12

TOWN BUDGET WORKSHOP

WITH LAIRD PETRIE

Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Lee Town Hall, 5808 Stokes Lee Center Rd,
Lee Center, NY 13363**

This workshop is designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. Topics will include:

- An overview of the budgetary responsibilities of town officials
- How to develop a structurally balanced budget
- Key elements of the annual budget
- Tools available for assisting town officials in the budget process
- Monitoring and amending the annual budget
- Operating within the tax cap
- Question and answer period



**Register for this free workshop by
Monday, August 24, 2026
tinyurl.com/2026BudgetWorkshop
or using the QR code! Questions, call
the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-
2380 or email tughill@tughill.org.**



DRAFT DATA CENTER COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK OUTLINE

As part of Governor Hochul's Executive Order 62, Empire State Development (ESD) was tasked with developing a Community Investment Framework (CIF) to help localities maximize the benefits of hosting data centers while addressing potential community impacts. ESD has released a [CIF policy outline](#), which when complete will provide guidance on opportunities for community investment, including infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and enhancements to public services. The current outline discusses:

- Good neighbor commitments, including landscaping, design, and mitigation of noise and light pollution
- Labor commitments, prioritizing prevailing wage standards and project labor agreements, local hiring, apprenticeships, etc.
- Community investment fund for the host community, eligible investments may include but are not limited to: public infrastructure; community anchor institutions; housing initiatives; workforce development and training programs; childcare facilities; broadband expansion; public safety initiatives (including fire protection, police, emergency medical services); school facility and educational enhancements; and blight remediation

As a baseline, ESD will develop minimum thresholds for contributions, such as \$1 million in data center operator contribution to communities for each one megawatt (MW) of anticipated utility demand per project. For any comments related to the CIF, email DataCenterCIF@esd.ny.gov.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION ACCEPTING PRE-APPLICATIONS

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is accepting pre-application submissions for its [Catalyst](#), [Forest Economy](#), and [Timber for Transit](#) programs. Eligible applicants include:

- State government (Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont only)
- Local governments (village, town, city and county)
- Secondary and career technical centers
- Other political subdivisions of states (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state)
- Non-profit entities
- Federally recognized Indian tribes

Key dates for the fall round of funding are as follows: pre-applications are due by 5:00 p.m. August 21, submitted through the NBRC's [Grants Management System](#), with full applications due by 5:00 p.m. October 16. Grant awards are estimated to be made in December 2026. The application process is described in the [Applicant Resources page](#). More details about applicant eligibility can be found on the NBRC's [Competitive Programs page](#) and in NBRC's Programs [User Manual](#). For questions related to these programs, please contact New York State's NBRC State Program Manager Kyle Wilber at (518) 473-3694 or kyle.wilber@dos.ny.gov.

Office hours sessions focused on Fall 2026 grant opportunities and pre-application requirements are being held on Wednesday, August 12 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ([register here](#)). The session is designed to support prospective applicants with additional guidance and resources for submitting pre-applications. NBRC staff will be available to answer questions and help you navigate the process. The 2026 Program Overview is also available as a [7-part series](#) of pre-recorded webinars and PDF slides that provide information about eligibility, timelines, waivers, and funding policies, available in the Pre-Application section of NBRC's [applicant resources page](#).

COMMUNITY COMPOST CATALYST IN-PERSON GATHERING

Tuesday, August 4
4:00-6:30 PM @ Mt. Pisgah Lodge

Join us for an in-person gathering of community members, service providers, and partners to advance food waste reduction, recovery and recycling opportunities in your community.

AGENDA

Goal: Get to know each other, share project ideas and empower participants.

4:00-4:15 – Arrive

4:15-4:30 – Welcome and Introductions

4:30-5:00 – Context: understanding the food waste problem and North Country characteristics

5:00-5:30 – Taking action: community-based food waste reduction projects

5:30-5:45 – Break/Dinner

5:45-6:15 – Creating the Catalyst Community: How can we help?

6:15-6:30 – Wrap up and next steps



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Email compostforgeod@adirondack.org for more info

LEWIS COUNTY RAIL TRAIL MASTER PLAN

About the Study:

Lewis County and Creighton Manning Engineering are undertaking a transformative initiative to evaluate the conversion of approximately 25 miles of former railroad corridor, recently acquired from Genesee Valley Transportation, into a multi-use rail trail system connecting the Villages of Croghan and Lowville in Lewis County and the Village of Carthage in Jefferson County. The Rail Trail Master Plan will provide a comprehensive roadmap to guide the adaptive reuse of this corridor into a network of recreational and community spaces that celebrate the region's historic assets while supporting economic growth, tourism, and quality of life for residents and visitors.

Your feedback is extremely important to this study!

Visit the project website to learn more, stay up to date on the study, and discover additional opportunities to get involved.

Additionally, phone number, email, and mailing addresses are available below to collect your comments and concerns.

We look forward to connecting with you.



We want to hear from you!



Scan the QR code to take the survey.

Help shape the future of the Lewis County Rail Trail!

Scan the QR code or visit the project website to complete a survey and share your ideas.



Scan the QR code to visit the project website.

Stay Informed:

Phone #: 518-689-1801

Email: contact@lewiscountyrailtrail.com

Website: <https://lewiscountyrailtrail.com/>

NORTH COUNTRY CLEAN ENERGY HUB VIRTUAL FORUM AUGUST 4

The North Country Clean Energy Hub (Hub) is holding a virtual forum on Tuesday, August 4 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. to celebrate successes in helping residents make their homes more comfortable and affordable and talk about the next chapter of the program. Over the past several years, the Hub has worked to help address barriers to accessing clean energy and housing improvements across the North Country. Along with partners, the Hub has connected households to energy efficiency upgrades, supported critical home repairs, and facilitated needed improvements to community facilities throughout the region.

Residents, community members, and partner organizations are invited to share their experiences, perspectives, and ideas. At the forum, attendees will learn about the Hub's accomplishments and regional impacts, hear how barriers have been addressed through programs and partnership, share feedback on the program's effectiveness, and help inform the next chapter of clean energy and community support in the North Country.

Residents who attend the forum will receive a \$25 Stewart's gift card as a thank-you for their time and feedback. Residents who complete our feedback survey will have the option to be entered in a raffle for a \$100 Stewart's gift card. Register [here](#), and reach out to the Adirondack North Country Association's Climate & Energy Communications Coordinator, Nicole Draina DeCapria, at ndraina@adirondack.org, with questions.





LITTLE SALMON RIVER DAMS ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING

**MONDAY
AUGUST 24, 2026**

5:30 - 7:30 PM

AGENDA

VILLAGE OF MEXICO OFFICE

3236 MAIN STREET, MEXICO, NY 13114

5:30 PM	WELCOME	Jennifer Harvill, NYS Tug Hill Commission
5:35 PM	LITTLE SALMON RIVER: DAM DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR DISCUSSION	Connor Moulton and Rylee Smith, Engineers Without Borders at Syracuse University
5:55 PM	YEAR ONE POST REMOVAL BIOMONITORING AT BLACK CREEK	Jeremy Dietrich, Cornell University, New York State Water Resources Institute
6:15 PM	FISHERY RESPONSE TO BLACK CREEK DAM MODIFICATION	Scott Prindle, NYSDEC Fisheries
6:35 PM	AQUATIC ORGANISM PASSAGE AND THE NATIONAL AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY COLLABORATIVE	Jared Popoli, Cornell University, New York State Water Resources Institute
6:55 PM	CO-BENEFITS OF DAM REMOVAL: ECONOMICS, FLOOD RESILIENCE, AND RIVER RESTORATION	Tim Koch, NYSDEC/ New York State Water Resources Institute
7:15 PM	OPEN DISCUSSION AT THE LITTLE SALMON RIVER DAM	Facilitated by Emily Fell, NYSDEC/ New York State Water Resources Institute
7:30 PM	ADJOURN	

[Click here to RSVP](#) so we have a head count for refreshments.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Harvill: jennifer@tughill.org, 315-785-2380

[More background information here](#)

USING RECORDS INVENTORY RESULTS WEBINAR AUGUST 27

The strongest records management programs complete an inventory of records and maintain and use the results. An important outcome of an inventory is the development of a records management program supported with policies and procedures and guided by a records management plan. On Thursday, August 27, from 10 :00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., New York State Archives and presenters Katrina Manzari, Maria McCashion, and Vincent Commisso, will demonstrate how to use records inventory results to create these important records management tools. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.



MUNICIPAL PERMITTING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

The Municipal Permitting Modernization Program is offered by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) to municipalities seeking ways to modernize their workflow. The program offers two years of no-cost access to a software, Citizenserve, meant to modernize, support, and enhance municipal and zoning processes. Program participants will receive support from the software vendor to configure and deploy the software at their municipality; ongoing technical support will be offered.

Eligibility requirements are to be a NYS municipality and not have existing online municipal software for: permitting, planning and zoning, code enforcement, licensing, or request tracking; OR be willing to fully transition out of any existing online municipal software toward the Citizenserve software funded by this program. This program might be an opportunity for communities seeking to modernize their systems. NYSEDA will cover the cost for the first two years; the payment for the software subscription will transfer to the town on the third year, if the municipality wants to continue working with the software service provider. For more information, including details on eligibility requirements, see the NYSEDA page [here](#).

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE WEBINAR AUGUST 12

DEC's Division of Water, with the [NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#), is offering a [training webinar](#) on Wednesday, August 12, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., about the 2025 Uniform Code update. NY's 2025 Uniform Code, effective December 31, 2025, contains significant updates to local floodplain construction standards. This workshop explains the reasoning behind the updates and highlights three changes that building officials will want to be familiar with:

- The expansion of flood-resistant construction requirements to Zone X (shaded)/500-year flood hazard areas.
- An 18-inch elevation requirement in tidal areas.
- The introduction of a new term – "Required Flood Elevation."

DEC encourages floodplain administrators, building officials, and others to attend. Attendees can receive Certified Floodplain Manager credit and Department of State code credit. Contact DEC Floodplain Management staff at floodplain@dec.ny.gov with questions.

Contact Us

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