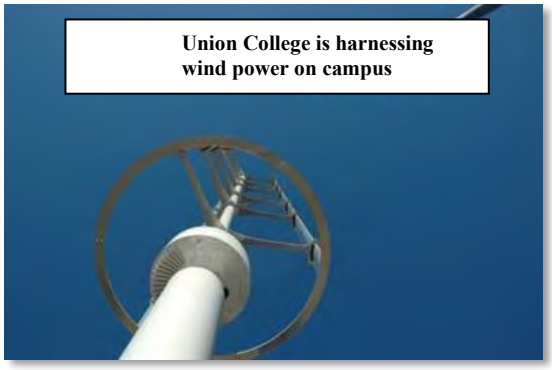
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Environmental Excellence Awards
Winners 2004-2019

Colleges/University and Schools

Brewster Central School District was recognized in 2008 for implementing a multi-faceted environmental education/sustainable practices project. The district demonstrated exemplary public leadership in protecting the environment and in promoting environmental education. Students have been empowered to participate in meaningful, innovative, hands-on activities. For example, students in 4th and 5th grades run an organic garden. The produce raised is consumed locally thereby reducing transportation costs and associated environmental impacts. The secondary science curriculum was restructured to create opportunities for students to study environmental science, sustainable resources and alternative energy. Some environmental benefits include avoiding 1,724,388 pounds of CO2 emissions and diverting 500,000 cubic feet of paper and plastic waste from landfills.

Union College in Schenectady, NY was an award recipient in 2008 for the U-Sustain initiative which continues to be an innovative, campus-wide program involving faculty, staff, students and administrators. The goals for the program, as stated in 2008, included reducing the ecological footprint of Union College, increasing environmental awareness on campus and in the community, and making the college more sustainable. It serves as a functional model for other institutions to follow. This well integrated program involves many creative partnerships on campus to accomplish goals that go beyond regulatory requirements and result in measurable improvements in the sustainability of Union College. The program includes education and outreach projects that increase environmental awareness and stewardship on campus and within the community. Sharing ideas and resources so that others may benefit from creative



programs and solutions developed at Union College is an essential component of the initiative. The effectiveness of U-Sustain has resulted from both the depth and breadth of expertise and the utilization of both grassroots efforts and top-down influence. This program has achieved clear and measurable environmental benefits and as of 2008, the college was purchasing 15% of its electrical energy from wind power and therefore offsetting 1,860 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. More than 200 trees were saved, 105,000 gallons of water conserved, 61 MWh of electricity saved as a result of using recycled content paper and being more efficient when copying or scanning. The college reduced food waste by 2,100 pounds each year and saved 10 MWh of energy or 6.9 tons of carbon dioxide by improving campus recycling rates.

University at Albany (UAlbany) was honored in 2011 for the "You've Got the Power to Conserve" program. As a signatory to the American College and University's President's Climate Commitment, UAlbany demonstrated leadership and ingenuity by implementing a comprehensive, low-cost energy conservation program known as "You've Got the Power to Conserve." This program includes a wide variety of activities to educate students and is transforming the entire campus community to be environmentally responsible. This unique energy conservation program has achieved significant environmental benefits including reducing CO_2 emissions by 11%; reducing electricity use by over 5 million kWh; reducing heating use by 7.4%; and saving 1 million gallons of water. The University is also realizing an economic benefit. From the inception of the program, University of Albany has achieved an annual savings of approximately $700,000.

The Dryden Central School District received an award in 2011 for turning its grass-roots recycling program into one of the most comprehensive and ongoing recycling and composting programs in New York State. This outstanding district-wide program involves all 1900 students and 380 faculty and staff. Elementary students oversee the waste separation process in the cafeterias. Members of the middle and high school's Sustainability Club administer a program that provides community homeowners with a free home energy profile report and suggestions for improving energy efficiency. The environmental benefits are remarkable. The benefits of this project are amazing. The district is removing and composting 103 tons of food waste and recycling 7.6 tons of milk and juice cartons instead of sending all the waste to a landfill. The district is also achieving a savings of almost $5,000.00, which ultimately saves the taxpayers! The Dryden School District is actively sharing their success in hopes to inspire others in pursuit of sustainable practices.

The Syracuse City School District was honored in 2007 for successfully implementing a "Going Green" program modeled after the national Go Green Initiative program. In May 2005, the Edward Smith Elementary school was the first school in New York to "Go Green." Between 2005 and 2007, 30 additional schools in the Syracuse City School District joined the effort and formed "Green Teams" that actively committed to engaging their campus communities in environmentally-friendly and resource-saving activities. The Green Teams involved more than 200 teachers, administrators, custodians, students and parents in projects such as recycling, energy conservation, composting and reducing waste in school cafeterias. The district's recycling efforts alone diverted more than 500 tons of paper from entering the waste stream. This effort has saved 8,500 trees; 231,500 gallons of oil; 350,000 gallons of water and 2,050,000 kilowatt hours of energy. Other green activities included school cafeterias replacing Styrofoam trays with recyclable paper bags, replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, and requiring that school facility renovations or construction projects meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. By "Going Green," the Syracuse City School district effectively promoted environmental education and in the process empowered students to be proactive leaders in protecting our environment.

The University of Rochester (UofR) received an award in 2011 for the “Go Green! Conserve and Save” program has resulted in a better educated and involved campus community. In 2008, UofR’s President formed the Council on Sustainability to spearhead new initiatives and achieve tangible results. The University is the first college or university to join the “Pride of NY” program. Approximately 20% of the food purchased by the university’s Dining Services is produced or processed in New York State. Each year, residence halls compete in the “UR Unplugged” program to see which can achieve the greatest energy reductions. The university partners with local charities during the “Move Out & Clean Out” program to collect and donate clothing, shoes, furniture and food. As a result of this diverse program, the University has prevented nearly 95 metric tons of CO_2 emissions annually; reduced electricity use by more than 6.5 million kWh; saved nearly 8 million gallons of water and diverted almost 4,000 tons of waste from being landfilled.

The Rochester City School District received an award in 2006 for its commitment to improve energy efficiency through an innovative and fiscally sound energy management program. Concurrently, the district advanced the education of sustainability, energy efficiency and renewable energy to K-12 students and teachers throughout the district. As an incentive to participating schools, the district provided a 50% return of documented annual energy savings to fund energy-related educational expenditures. The district made a commitment to expand its energy efficiency efforts into the classroom at 17 of the district's schools. At each school, green school clubs were formed to perform service-based learning projects. Students conducted energy patrols at their schools equipped with tool kits for measuring and recording lighting lumens, temperature, air velocity and energy consumption of appliances. Teachers were graded for compliance and were rewarded for good energy conservation practices in their classrooms. The clubs documented over $200,000 of energy cost savings. The Rochester City School District partnered with corporate engineers and professionals within the community to mentor the green school clubs. And, the district partnered with Monroe County for electricity procurement on the NY Independent System Operator Day Ahead Market and with Rochester Gas and Electric and Community Energy to purchase 24,000,000 kWh of reduced rate electricity, including 8,960,000 kWh of wind energy annually. At that time, the district committed to purchasing over 8 million kWh of renewable energy annually, making them the second largest school building purchaser of renewable power nationally. This commitment offset 15.9 tons of SOx, 5.3 tons of NOx and 5,750 tons of CO2 annually.

Solar One - Green Design Lab™ received an award in 2012 for their innovative sustainability education program that focuses on the school building itself both as a laboratory for learning and a tool for environmental change. Launched in 2010, this program is empowering New York City school students to be the next generation of more educated and aware environmental stewards. Solar One is a not-for-profit organization created to empower people with the knowledge and resources to advance sustainability in their communities. Solar One has partnered with the New York City Department of Education to deliver the Green Design Lab program which is aligned with the Common Core Standards, National Science and STEM education standards. There are 23 New York City K-12 schools currently participating in the program which includes curricular units focused on energy, materials, air quality, water and food. Each unit develops the student's skills by engaging them in projects within their school. The Green Design Lab program also provides vocational and career training to prepare students for the new green jobs market. This

program is achieving many environmental and social benefits including reducing energy use by more than 900,000 kWh and reducing carbon emissions by 625 metric tons annually; training more than 250 teachers and educating more than 5,000 school students about environmental sustainability and training approximately 700 individuals for green sector jobs. This program serves as a model that can be implemented in any K-12 school in the country.

Columbia University received an award in 2014 for implementing a multi-faceted, comprehensive on-site solvent recycling program. In 13 years, the program resulted in more than 45,000 gallons of solvents being recycled, with a cost savings of about 3 million dollars. Columbia University is achieving environmental successes, reducing costs and improving the health of its campus community. This "triple bottom line" approach establishes a model for universities and laboratories. This innovative program is a sustainable model for complex institutions to manage large and costly waste streams. The program reduced solvent purchase volumes by approximately 80%. More than 45,000 gallons of solvents have been recycled which has reduced the transportation of new and waste solvents. This translates into a reduction of 3 million pounds of CO2 missions. This saved the university $2.8 million by reducing the purchasing and disposing of solvents. The solvent recycling program has significantly reduced the generation of non-halogenated solvents. By decreasing the hazardous waste generated through repurposing the solvents for beneficial reuse, the university is extending the useful life of mass-produced chemicals. The program first targeted ethyl alcohol and xylene in a variety of tissue-processing and staining procedures, due to their consistent, high volume use. The program expanded in 2008 to include methanol and ethanol. In 2011 and 2013, Columbia purchased additional solvent recyclers and can now accommodate the Departments of Chemistry, Biological Sciences and Engineering. Columbia is open to sharing its success and offers these steps as a way to get a solvent recycling program started.

The Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York was awarded in 2016 for its sustainable initiatives, including green roofs that helped cut the campus' carbon footprint by 43 percent. They also feature a muslin composting program, a natural dye garden, a bike share hub, a green cleaning program and numerous energy efficiency and green infrastructure upgrades. FIT's President, Dr. Joyce F. Brown, has made environmental sustainability a centerpiece of campus life and the institution integrates sustainable practices into all facets of academic life and facilities management. The result demonstrates how proactive leadership and community education inspire innovative sustainability actions. In 2007, FIT and 17 other New York City colleges and universities accepted the New York City Mayor's Carbon Challenge to reduce carbon emission by 30% within 10 years. By 2011, FIT achieved a 43% reduction in "carbon intensity" from a 2005 baseline. Energy savings associated with this initiative exceed $1,000,000 per year.

SUNY Upstate Medical University was awarded in 2016 for innovations including a recycling program in patient rooms, as well as a sustainable culture that includes a green roof on the 90,000-square-foot Upstate Cancer Center, where stormwater is used for the rooftop garden. SUNY Upstate Medical University's Sustainability Project, known as "Think Green," is a longstanding initiative, which originally launched in 2008. The project's task force has steadfastly focused on reducing fuel consumption and its carbon footprint, minimizing energy use, applying sustainability to supply purchases and management, institutional sustainability participation, recycling, energy conservation in construction and SUNY partnership. Over the last three years they dedicated considerable resources to maintain and reinvest in its sustainability program. Their carbon footprint has steadily decreased; approximately 6,250 tons of greenhouse gases have been removed each year, and only carbon-free resources for electrical energy are used, where practical.

Financially, the merit of their sustainability program is best illustrated by the savings realized following the installation of solar panels and implementation of an electronic medical record system, which has dramatically reduced the use of paper in clinical settings. In turn, millions of dollars have been invested toward building renovations, which include the ensured use of 100% renewable energy.

Bethlehem School District's Green Team was awarded in 2017 for being an outstanding model of innovative environmental education and student engagement. Almost a decade ago, the district formed a "Green Team," a partnership of dedicated administrators, teachers, parents, and students cultivating environmental awareness, responsibility, and leadership in the district's schools, as well as within the larger community. The district demonstrates an impressive and wide-reaching educational model that has resulted in annual accomplishments that include recycling more than 96,000 pounds of paper, composting more than 20,000 pounds of food waste, donating more than 1,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce to the Bethlehem Food Pantry, and partnering with a local restaurant to offer a special menu featuring produce grown in the school's gardens.

Stony Brook University Hospital Sustainability Program was awarded in 2018.

Stony Brook University Hospital serves as the region's only tertiary care and regional trauma c center. The hospital is leading by example and implementing a progressive and comprehensive sustainability program that reaches beyond facilities to all patient care units, departments, and areas throughout the hospital setting. The hospital now uses full digital image processing and decommissioned its last wet x-ray processor in 2017. During the harvest season, the hospital's rooftop garden supplied approximately 1,500 pounds of produce for patient meal trays and local charities. In just one year, the hospital diverted and donated 11.5 tons of food.

Suffolk County Community College Sustainability Program was awarded in 2018. With an enrollment of approximately 27,000 students, Suffolk County Community College is the largest in New York State. In 2014, its Office of Sustainability was established to uphold the college's commitment to the environment. The Office of Sustainability is dedicated to the comprehensive integration of sustainability into its operations. As a result, more than 2,000 students are greening their commutes thanks to the college's partnership with 511 NY Ride Share and Suffolk County Transit. The graduating class of 2018 was the first to wear eco-friendly gowns made from 100 percent recycled plastic bottles. An average of 25 plastic bottles was used to make each gown. In addition, free, filtered water is available at 33 bottle filling stations on all three campuses. Collectively, the stations have helped keep more than 600,000 plastic bottles out of area landfills.

Local and State Government

Long Island Green Homes (LIGH) project in Suffolk County was honored in 2010 for being the first municipally-administered and financed energy efficiency retrofit program in the nation. The program began in 2008 and has resulted in more than 400 houses being more energy efficient due to upgrades and retrofits. The average participating homeowner saves over $1,000 annually in utility costs. Residents from the near-by environmental justice community of Wyandanch, NY are being trained in green jobs and provide a skilled workforce to the program's contractors. Utility use has been reduced significantly. For example, the project has saved 115,300 kilowatts of electricity, 75,485 gallons of oil, 29,000 cubic feet of natural gas and 2,421 gallons of propane - along with a reduction of 1,080 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

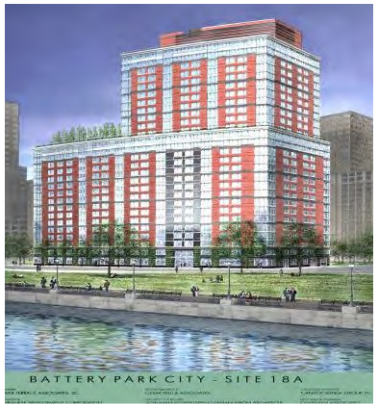
Town of North Hempstead received the award in 2009 for a groundbreaking initiative to partner with public schools within the Town on a comprehensive recycling program. The town partnered with 11 school districts and supplied every single classroom and office with recycling bins. The town also committed to carting all the recyclables collected in a total of 44 buildings. There are over 28,000 students participating in this program. The environmental benefits are impressive. An average of 25 tons of paper and six tons of co-mingled recyclables are collected from the each month resulting in approximately 225 tons of paper and 54 tons of co-mingled recyclables diverted from landfills and incinerators each year. The recycling partnership program is a model of excellence from an environmental and economic perspective.

Town of Islip was honored in 2009 for an innovative approach to improving water quality. This pollution prevention program actually began in 2006 with partial funding from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. Since its inception, the program has had positive environmental benefits. Prior to this program, there were only a few pump-out facilities available in the Great South Bay and these were sited at various marinas. Private marinas tend to service only its patrons while the public marinas often experience significant waiting times and frequent equipment failures. Considering these limitations, boaters frequently would discharge boat sewage into the bay. This has resulted in shellfish contamination, beach closures and degraded water quality. This innovative and convenient program was the town's solution to an ongoing environmental concern. The pump-out-boat has been available to assist boaters on an "as needed" basis without long wait times or fees. In 2007, 19,440 gallons of boat sewage was collected and in 2008 the pump-out vessel collected 25,810 gallons of sewage. The Town of Islip's Boat Pump-Out Program offers a viable and cost-effective solution to a longstanding environmental problem.

The town has demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence and the continued improvement of water quality in the Great South Bay, which was declared a "no discharge zone" by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

City of Glen Cove was honored in 2005 for the innovative design and construction at the city's existing water pollution control plant that discharges into the western portion (Hempstead Harbor) of the Long Island Sound (LIS). As a result of severe hypoxia conditions in this section of the Sound, NYSDEC imposed new nitrogen discharge limits in order to reduce nutrient loading and resulting hypoxia effects on the Sound. The new State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit limitation required the city to reduce its nitrogen discharge by 25% by 2004 and by 63.8% by 2014. The city's design team developed an innovative design to accomplish the new effluent limitations within the existing plant infrastructure. Continuous data recording and monitoring indicate that, in 2005, the plant was operating well below the 2014 permit limits of 323 pounds per day. The project had an economic benefit in that plant operations became more flexible and operating costs were reduced while still achieving tertiary levels of treatment. This project has resulted in the largest reduction of point source nitrogen loading to the Long Island Sound in Nassau County.

Battery Park City Authority was honored in 2004 for the development of environmental guidelines and the construction and maintenance of Teardrop Park as well as for the construction of the "Solaire" The Battery Park City (BPC) Authority developed environmental residential guidelines that address five categories: energy efficiency, enhanced indoor environmental quality, conserving materials and resources, operations and maintenance, and water conservation and site management. By meeting these guidelines, developers have been improving the overall building energy performance, reducing operating costs and addressing the environmental impact associated with energy consumption. These guidelines paved the way for the design and construction of the first residential building in the country that adheres to open space and green building requirements known as the "Solaire."



The City of Kingston and the Aslan Group developed an innovative system for managing wastewater treatment plant wastes in an economical and environmentally sound manner. The project received an award in 2008. Waste biogas is captured from the plant's digesters and utilized as the only required fuel to turn 10 wet tons per day of municipal wastewater sludge into one ton per day of pelletized usable biosolids. This is accomplished at a cost less than the facility was previously paying to landfill the waste. Measurable environmental benefits include reducing tens of thousands of tons of waste solids from being landfilled annually; reducing truck traffic and distributing the pelletized biosolids, free of charge, to area golf courses, landscapers, excavators and residents.

Town of Cortlandt was honored in 2006 for leadership in open space preservation. The town took a holistic approach to land preservation with all regulatory boards working in cooperation. The town's multi-faceted approach to land preservation was grounded in the principals of smart growth planning, land acquisition and conservation easements. The result was a 107 % increase in the amount of permanently preserved land in the town. One of the most impressive aspects of the project was the town's commitment to inter-municipal cooperation and working in partnership with other municipalities. For example, the town worked cooperatively with four neighboring towns to complete the Croton- Highlands Biodiversity Plan. The plan analyzed and mapped biodiversity corridors in these towns and explained the importance of the corridors for habitat preservation, improved passive recreation opportunities and various environmental benefits.

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee was honored in 2008 for the statewide Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. The AEM program continues to be a national model for a voluntary, incentive-based approach to agricultural management that successfully protects and enhances soil and water resources, while preserving the economic viability of a diverse agricultural community. AEM assists farmers in making practical, cost-effective decisions that result in the sustainable use of New York's natural resources. In 2008, more than 10,000 New York farm families were participating in the AEM program. In order to remain economically viable, farmers must be vigilant about protecting environmental resources, especially water quality. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and other partners deliver information/education and technical assistance so that farmers are able to operate cleaner and greener while competing in today's global market. As of 2008, farm plans had been developed for NYS's 147 large concentrated animal feed lots (CAFOs) and also for 92% of NYS's 472 medium-sized CAFOs. These plans are routinely evaluated by certified AEM planners to assure the public, regulators and farmers of high-quality results from the AEM program. This innovative program depends upon the cooperation between many partners including watershed organizations, academia, environmental conservation organizations, farming associations, business associations, and state and federal government agencies.

Vegetative strips and field borders are examples of buffers that can trap sediments and nutrients

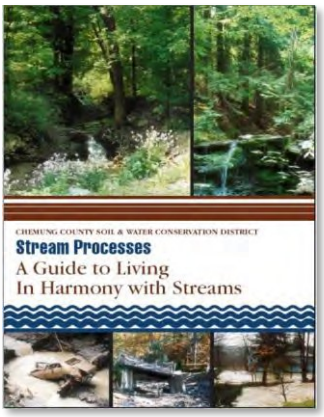
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board was recognized in 2007 for addressing a problem with an existing anaerobic digester cover at the Gloversville-Johnstown wastewater treatment plant (Fulton County) by using an innovative and non-conventional solution. The facility chose to convert the defective floating cover to a fixed cover, the first application of this technology in New York State. The project resulted in immediate measurable environmental benefits including a 70% increase in biogas production and a 120% increase in electrical generation on an annual basis. The Gloversville-Johnstown wastewater treatment facility treats domestic and industrial waste water and was designed to use recovered biogas from its anaerobic digesters to fuel a cogeneration system providing combined heat and power. The existing floating gasholder cover on the secondary digester was malfunctioning which resulted in wasted biogas, emissions of greenhouse gases, inconsistent pressure in the cogeneration system and an explosive environment which posed a safety risk to personnel. The Sewer Board chose an innovative solution that rehabilitated and reused the existing secondary digester cover and converted it to a fixed cover. This approach saved the facility an estimated $300,000. This sustainable solution resulted in measurable environmental benefits such as a reduction of fugitive greenhouse gas emissions; reduction of natural gas usage by 96% in on year and a reduction in electricity purchased by 40%. This project serves as a model for rehabilitation of aging anaerobic digesters and promotes the use of biogas as a valuable resource.

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

was honored in 2011 for their municipal food waste composting program which clearly demonstrates how a community can cost-effectively capture the local organics stream and produce a sustainable product as a result. By using an innovative composting technique, OCRRA composts food waste in a fraction of the time which saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. A partnership with Syracuse University (SU) adds nearly 7 tons per week of pre-consumer food waste from seven SU dining halls. In 2010, Syracuse University diverted over 137 tons of food waste from their waste stream which saved more than $4,500.00 in tip fee expenses. This project serves as an environmentally sound, cost-effective model for municipalities. The program is generating jobs, reducing disposal costs and helping New York State achieve its "beyond waste" goals and objectives.

Monroe County Department of Environmental Services was honored in 2009 for initiating the proper collection and disposal of pharmaceutical waste from households in central New York. Monroe County stepped out as a leader holding the first pharmaceutical collection in their region. The event was a success and resulted in the collection of more than 42,000 pills of unwanted medications. In one year, Monroe County held many more pharmaceutical waste collection events at which they collected 128 pounds of hazardous substances, 3,727 pounds of non-hazardous substances and 314 pounds of controlled substances. The county also produced a guidebook that outlines plans and procedures for collection events, checklists of needed materials, event preparations and advertising samples. This innovative tool has been made available to municipalities and agencies throughout New York to organize and hold successful pharmaceutical waste collection events. By sharing its experience and providing assistance to others in upstate/central New York, Monroe County served as a model of excellence in establishing successful, sustainable and cost-effective pharmaceutical waste collection programs.

Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District & Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board were honored in 2008 for developing an innovative guide entitled "Stream Processes: A Guide to Living in Harmony with Streams." It describes how streams work (conveying varying amounts of water, transporting sediment, and dissipating energy) and explains why functioning floodplains are integral parts of the stream system. It is not filled with technical jargon and equations. Rather, it uses pictures to tell the story, with dramatic photographs of washed out bridges and eroded banks illustrating potential consequences of stream management practices. A toppled house, flood rescue operations, buried vehicles, and other images convey the hazards of stream corridor development. Still more pictures illustrate stream management successes and recommended practices. The guide also provides information about the various permits and regulations that may apply to stream and floodplain projects. However, the guide reaches beyond regulatory requirements and legal concerns by promoting sound management practices and the lessons learned can be applied to stream channels, floodplains, stream corridors, and watershed activities that do not trigger regulatory actions. Water resource professionals throughout New York State (and beyond) are using the guide as a tool to educate landowners, highway departments, farmers, loggers, watershed organizations, planning boards, developers, elected officials and others, so that they are better able to make land use and stream management decisions that protect stream systems and prevent disrupting a stream's equilibrium. In response to the flooding from Hurricane Irene, many have turned to this valuable guide as a tool for making better stream management decisions.



Monroe County Department of Environmental Services was honored in 2006 for establishing the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition. This creative partnership is comprised of 27 municipal separate storm sewer system operators. They work collaboratively to improve water quality in a cost-effective manner by developing model ordinances, correcting infrastructure problems and administering a multi-faceted education and training program. Coalition members share resources and high-tech equipment which enables every municipality to make significant progress in its individualized plan to address stormwater pollution issues. The Coalition focused on identifying inadvertent cross-connections in the infrastructure between sanitary and storm sewers in the Rochester area. By doing so, 21 cross-connections were identified and repaired. As a result, 6 million gallons/year of waste was removed from the stormwater system which meant that more than 7 million gallons of sanitary waste no longer flowed directly into the Genesee River. The Monroe County Stormwater Coalition serves as a model for inter-municipal stormwater coalitions throughout New York State.

Monroe County Crime Lab was recognized in 2012 as the first building of its kind to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification from the United States Green Building Council. The design and engineering team was led by LaBella Associates P.C. in Rochester. This project serves as an example of intergovernmental cooperation and a commitment to educate building occupants and visitors about sustainability. In the lobby, visitors are able to view a continuous loop video, activated by occupancy, on the sustainable design features of the building. Because the building is located on a previously contaminated site, it is also a model for successful brownfield redevelopment. There are many environmental benefits being achieved as a result of this project including an annual 82 percent decrease in stormwater runoff, a 47 percent decrease in energy use annually which prevents the emission of 714 lbs. of nitrogen oxide, 314 lbs. of sulfur oxide and 387 tons of carbon dioxide and 2.5 percent of the building's energy use is derived from on-site solar panels. The Monroe County Crime Lab has set an example for other municipal governments and private companies aiming to develop green building programs.

City of Rome's Canopy Restoration Project was honored in 2012 because it inspired a new, city-wide approach to stormwater management that is spurring adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, an increase in property value, pollution reduction and a reinvestment in Rome's urban core. The project was one of the first green infrastructure projects to use a combination of a porous pavement and a sub-soil which are both uniquely manufactured in the United States. As the scientific and environmental benefits of a comprehensive green infrastructure strategy became clear, city leaders embarked on a municipal tree inventory in order to quantify the benefits of their urban canopy. Under this project, the city planted 450 new trees in targeted low-to-moderate income neighborhoods with high housing and population densities. The green infrastructure elements were constructed using a locally developed sub-surface material and an American-made porous pavement product made out of recycled tires. This combination proved to be crack resistant and rich enough in nutrients that tree roots have flourished underneath the hardscape. The project has significantly decreased stormwater run-off which, in turn, has decreased the amount of pollution entering Wood Creek, the Mohawk River and the NYS Barge Canal. When fully mature, the new trees will capture approximately 695,000 gallons of rainwater and will remove 26,500 tons of carbon dioxide and 430 pounds of air pollutants. This successful project serves as an urban revitalization and green infrastructure model for New York municipalities.

Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Program was awarded in 2013 for a critically needed, innovative, and sustainable flood response protocol and pre-flood training program. This "stream triage" sets standards and practices for the period immediately following a flood. Moreover, these same principles and methods can be applied to other municipal work in and around streams, such as bridge and culvert work. Municipalities using this new protocol learn how to work with the stream's natural tendencies, and post-flood responders obtain knowledge and guidance that serves as a basis for an environmentally and economically sound post-flood response. The Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention protocol has gained broad acceptance by both municipalities and regulatory agencies. Using the protocol and training program, local stream responders can scientifically assess the need for intervention and use their knowledge to perform work that protects aquatic resources consistent with the stream's natural tendencies.

Onondaga County "Save the Rain" program was awarded in 2013. It has transformed the "civic strip" in downtown Syracuse into a green infrastructure corridor. Several marquee projects for the county's Save the Rain program are located within the civic strip, including a 66,000-square-foot green roof, a water reuse cistern system, bioretention plantings, underground infiltration systems and porous pavement. Additionally, several innovative green energy technologies have been incorporated, including LED lighting, solar-powered trash compaction and electric car charging stations. Save the Rain features an innovative and comprehensive combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatement program that integrates conventional wastewater/stormwater treatment technologies with advanced green infrastructure practices to improve water quality in the Onondaga Lake watershed. The civic strip projects are capturing approximately 6.2 million gallons of stormwater annually, resulting in an energy savings of approximately 12,450 kilowatt hours each year.

Southampton Advocates for the Village Environment's (SAVE) was awarded in 2013 for an effort to enact the Reusable Shopping Bag Program -- the first municipal program to prohibit single-use, plastic, grocery-sized shopping bags with a volunteer led committee in the Village of Southampton. The Village of Southampton has set an example for municipalities and businesses across New York. Through a successful campaign that enlisted support from retailers and the entire village community, the village's ordinance has achieved a 98 percent compliance rate by retailers, restaurants and stores, which translates into the elimination of at least 110,000 plastic shopping bags annually. The streets and beaches of the Village of Southampton are no longer littered with plastic bags, and the quality of the local marine waters has improved significantly.

Suffolk County's Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) Fuel Tank Replacement Program was awarded in 2014 and demonstrates an innovative, sustainable, economically viable and socially acceptable solution to aging agricultural fuel tanks atop Long Island's sole source aquifer. Through a unique partnership, farmers were able to install new tanks that met regulatory requirements at a reduced cost. Long Island farms sit atop its sole source aquifer that supplies drinking water to nearly 3 million people. Suffolk County's SWCD identified that fuel tanks on some farms were old, corroding and dangerously on the verge of leaking. Many tanks were on or within 10 feet of the wellheads. The farmers participating in this proactive program were leaders in their industry and set a precedent for others to become good stewards of the environment. The program aligns with county laws, has support from the farming community and has sustainable funding sources. The county worked with a fuel tank manufacturer to design a tank that met Suffolk County Department of Health Services (DHS) requirements and was less expensive than other tanks. This innovative partnership resulted in a more economically sustainable solution. Farmers reduced their costs and the grant program was able to make funds available to more farms. The program also assisted 19 farms with reducing the total volume of fuel stored. Some farmers opted to reduce the amount of fuel stored onsite because a gas station was in proximity or to avoid the complicated permitting regulations. When totaled, farms reduced their overall fuel storage by approximately 9,500 gallons of fuel. The program enabled 118 farmers to attain grant funding for replacing 204 tanks. This resulted in 210,000 gallons of fuel being secured in double-walled fully contained storage facilities. Farmers could only replace their current level of fuel storage and could not increase their capacity. In addition, the SWCD partnered with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop a five-year Agricultural Compliance Education Program. At the time of the award, DHS had assisted 50 farmers with compliance issues without having to pay penalties.

New York City's (NYC) Department of Administrative Services Fleet Sustainability Program was awarded in 2014 for its cutting-edge model for sustainable fleet management. NYC operates the largest municipal fleet in the nation and through this multi-faceted program, achieved strategic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The City's Department of Administrative Services is continually advancing sustainable practices by publishing fleet procedures, assisting in drafting local laws and sharing information at forums, events, and their annual "Fleet Show." NYC's Fleet Sustainability Program is a multi-faceted approach

employing numerous sustainability strategies. This outstanding program has already reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 9 percent. NYC has one of the nation's largest hybrid and electric plug-in fleets and the nation's most extensive fleet biodiesel program. The City also has compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, including sedans, garbage trucks and vans. They are complementing their alternative-fuel initiatives with innovative management strategies such as "right-sizing," fleet sharing, diesel exhaust retrofits and fuel-management programs. As of 2014, NYC operated 5,242 hybrid gas electric vehicles and had established policies to replace all nonemergency sedans with alternative fuel units. Diesel hybrids offer the potential to reduce diesel fuel use and to greatly reduce emissions, especially when used in conjunction with biodiesel and new diesel particulate filters. NYC uses the ChargePoint network to connect all the sites and operators and to enable use and performance reporting for plug-in vehicles. At the time of the award, the City was operating 193 electric chargers. It also piloted innovative solar electric technology, including solar electric light towers and solar electric carts, which are completely off the grid as they use solar rechargeable electric batteries. All on-road NYC diesel units use biodiesel blends, including most fire, corrections and police units. The City reduced fuel costs by switching from D1 to D2 diesel in its biodiesel blends. The City has implemented a new automated fuel and vehicle tracking system to enable tracking and analysis of fuel use on a daily basis for each site and vehicle. And, the City reduced the number of light-duty non-emergency vehicles by about 500 units and exchanged larger pickup trucks for smaller, more fuel-efficient units.

The Jacob K. Javits Center was awarded in 2015 for their Sustainable Transformation project. A five-year renovation project transformed the Javits Center into one of the nation's busiest and greenest convention centers. The Center's state-of-the-art, 7-acre green roof, the second largest in the nation, will prevent approximately 6.8 million gallons of storm water run-off annually and reduce heat gain. As a result, the facility's yearly energy consumption is projected to be decreased by 26 percent. The green roof has become a habitat for more than 10 bird species, serving as a wildlife oasis in an environment dominated by concrete and steel. The pixelated glass panels are bird-friendly, reducing bird collisions by 90 percent since installation. The Center serves as an outstanding model for the convention center industry and is achieving significant environmental, economic and social benefits for nearby communities and all New Yorkers.

The New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation was awarded in 2015 for its Clean Soil Bank Program, the first of its kind in the nation. The program enables real-time, no-cost transfers of excavated soil for fill at nearby construction sites. This is significantly reducing truck traffic, improving air quality and saving taxpayer dollars. This sustainable program enables excavated native soil to be repurposed by sites needing soil. It is an outstanding example of environmental, social and economic excellence.

New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation was awarded in 2015 for its solar program. NYS Parks has developed and implemented an innovative, triple-bottom-line business model for advancing sustainability and promoting the use of solar power. As part of the effort, NYS Parks has become the only state agency to train in-house staff as solar installers who are approved by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority.

The Town of Williamson was awarded in 2015 for its Strategic Plan to achieve Electricity Independence. The town of Williamson, Wayne County, is one of New York's designated Climate Smart Communities. Williamson is the first New York town to use solar energy to power all its municipal buildings as part of its commitment to reduce their environmental footprint. Achieving "net zero" means that the total electricity being used by the town is less than or equal to the alternative energy being produced. The town has advanced renewable energy technologies and created "green-collar" jobs. This demonstrates an outstanding commitment to environmental excellence and sets an extraordinary benchmark for other New York municipalities.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's New York City Transit Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot was awarded in 2016 for incorporating a green roof and other innovative features into the depot and reusing rainwater to wash buses. The depot was constructed on an existing depot site after extensive studies and site remediation to prevent continuing contamination of groundwater with petroleum products from old underground tanks. The MCH depot features include low-emission boilers, solar air heating, heat-recovery air handling units, a high-performance building envelope, natural lighting, a solar wall, rainwater collection and a green roof. This project now becomes a beacon for all new projects to follow.

Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Economic Development's Stewardship of Aquatic Resources was awarded in 2017. Most New York municipalities collect an occupancy tax from visitors who stay in hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts. Instead of being placed in a general fund, Chautauqua County invests the revenue in projects and programs that promote the sustainable use of its natural resources. This approach demonstrates the important connection between having healthy lakes, streams, and ponds while also enjoying a strong tourism-based economy. Over the past eight years, the county has invested $2.6 million from the hotel occupancy tax revenue in water quality improvement projects. As a result, the county has received plans for an estimated $50 million in hotel and hospitality investments. Chautauqua County's water resource improvements include: removing nearly 14 million pounds of aquatic vegetation from Chautauqua Lake; eliminating more than 360 tons of soil entering waterways through various soil stabilization projects; and reducing nearly 400 pounds of phosphorus and 850 pounds of nitrogen from entering waterways by investing in green infrastructure such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, and porous pavements.

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) Region 4 and Seneca Park Zoo Society's Pollinator Protection Project were awarded in 2017 for a collaborative, innovative effort that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, motorist safety, and pollinator habitat protection. The initiative directly supports the Pollinator Protection Plan to Protect New York's Agricultural Economy developed by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Pollinator Task Force. In 2015, DOT Region 4 modified the mowing schedule for a six-mile section of Interstate I-390 between Route 408 (Mt. Morris) and Route 258 (Sonyea) near Rochester.

This 93-acre area offers refuge for migrating monarch butterflies and other pollinators. As a result, there are now more than 18 species of naturally regenerating wildflowers and grasses providing food and habitat for pollinators. Bees and butterflies are now able to successfully complete their life-cycle without being disrupted or damaged by mowing. DOT Region 4 is working in partnership with the Seneca Park Zoo Society and two interpretive gardens are now thriving at the Mount Morris and Geneseo Rest Areas. Nearly 13,300 vehicles travel this section of I-390 each day. Educational signs at the gardens give rest area visitors information about the plight of pollinators and provide tips about what New Yorkers can do to protect these important species.

Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Go Green School Recycling Program was awarded in 2017 for their dedication to advancing innovative solid waste solutions. The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority has helped pioneer the greening of Oneida and Herkimer counties. The authority has been recognized as a national model for its regional recycling efforts. The authority's Go Green School Recycling Program is an example of a well-designed and creatively implemented education/outreach and engagement program, which involves all but two of the 30 public and private school systems in the two-county area. In addition, the authority's Recycling Educator successfully engages students, teachers, custodians, parents, and school faculty in recycling and composting programs. Participating school districts realize significant benefits, including substantially reducing waste being generated, helping to reduce greenhouse gas generation,

conserving natural resources, and achieving direct cost savings. One elementary school is now annually diverting 10 tons of material from the landfill while sending 40 tons of material for recycling, which means an annual savings of nearly $2,000.

Ulster County's Net Carbon Neutral Operations project was awarded in 2017. Ulster County has received national recognition for its outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and, as of 2017, is one of only three New York municipalities certified by DEC as a Bronze Level Climate Smart Community. County leadership is dedicated to increasing the county's energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation. Specifically, Ulster County is purchasing 100 percent green electricity from sustainable sources, prohibiting all food service providers from using polystyrene foam, and promoting safer alternatives; expanding and improving the operation of the composting facility at the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency in Kingston; greening and right-sizing their vehicle fleet by adding seven plug in hybrid sedans and one all-electric vehicle in 2017; and installing a network of nine charging stations at county-owned facilities. This is the greatest number of municipal electric vehicle charging sites in the State, including New York City. The chargers, powered by renewable energy, provided nearly 1,400 charging sessions, saving more than 1,700 gallons of gas.

I Love My Park Day: Parks and Trails NY in partnership with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation was awarded for their collaborative project in 2018. I Love My Park Day is an impressive demonstration of environmental stewardship. This annual event has gathered momentum because of the unique partnership between Parks and Trails NY and the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This statewide event engages thousands of volunteers in cleanup, improvement, and beautification projects at New York State Parks, historic sites, and public lands. Since its inception in 2012, this one-day event has resulted in 930 park improvement projects completed by 34,000 volunteers, contributing 77,350 hours of community service. These extraordinary efforts preserve and protect New York's treasured outdoor recreational areas and enhance the experiences of the more than 71 million visitors, generating an estimated $5 billion in spending and supporting nearly 54,000 jobs.

Great Neck Water Pollution Control District was awarded in 2018. The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District is the first New York municipality to successfully complete a municipal consolidation. Their consolidation with The Village of Great Neck eliminated their 1.5 MGD (million gallons per day) aging facility. The first phase of this massive project was to combine two older plants into one state-of-the-art facility that would service both the District and the Village's residents. The new plant was completed in December 2014, saving taxpayers over $2,000,000 per year in costs associated with operating two plants and meeting the reduced nitrogen level into Manhasset Bay mandated by the NYSDEC. The district is going above and beyond regulatory water regulations and implementing projects that demonstrate its commitment to reduce carbon emissions, save water, reduce the use of hazardous chemicals, and reduce nutrient loadings. The many improvements and innovations both implemented and planned have raised the bar for treatment facilities and can be utilized as a model for other treatment facilities in NY State regardless of size.

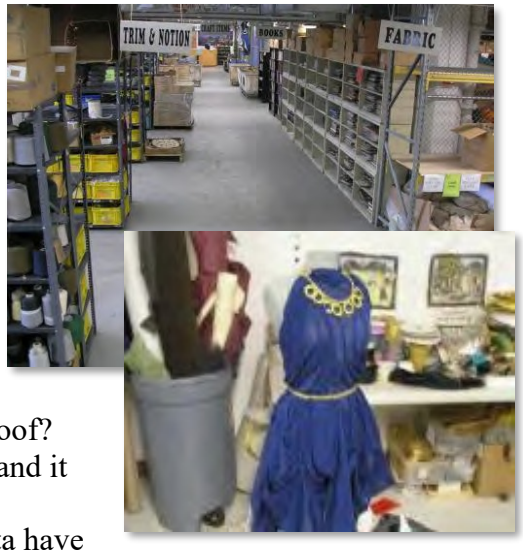
Gore Mountain was awarded in 2018 for their project "Turning sunshine into snow!" Gore Mountain is home to a 25-year solar energy project, the largest solar array dedicated to a ski area in the United States. In addition, Gore is actively decreasing energy use and continuing a long-term investment in high-efficiency snowmaking. Their solar array saved nearly $124,000 in one year and the new, efficient snow guns saved 860,000 kWh of energy translating to a reduction of 946,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. These projects make Gore an industry model for its reduction of kilowatt hours used and offsets of CO2. The ski area is also expanding recycling, creatively repurposing buildings and materials, offering locally produced foods, and offsetting energy use through strategic trail modifications. More than 250,000 visitors come to Gore Mountain each year.

Non-Government Organizations/ Not-for-Profit

Clean Air Communities (CAC) Inc. received the award in 2004 as the collaborative of Northeast States Center for a Clean Air Future (NESCCAF) and Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) to implement community-based pollution reduction and energy efficiency projects. This multi-faceted project serves as a model for how a diverse regional partnership can to improve air quality from mobile and stationary sources on a local, community, and even regional basis. The broad range of projects involved in this effort is exemplary of the innovation and collaboration needed to improve such a large and complicated airshed, for example:

- Advanced Truck Stop Electrification at Hunts Point Co-op Market (Bronx, NY)
- Grid-Integrated Commercial Photovoltaic Power System, Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, (Brooklyn, NY)
- Diesel Emissions Reduction Demonstration, Seven World Trade Center (Lower Manhattan, NY)
- Central Steam Conversion, Seward Park Co-op Housing Corporation (Manhattan, NY)

Materials for the Arts (MFTA) was honored in 2005 for developing and operating New York City's oldest reuse program. This innovative program supports the arts community and the environment by promoting reuse of a wide variety of materials collected from residences and businesses. MFTA spreads the important ecological message of waste reduction to tens of thousands of people annually. Representatives of over 3,000 registered recipient organizations annually visit the MFTA warehouse and attend professional development workshops. MFTA keeps hundreds of tons of valuable materials out of the waste stream every year. In 2004, 741 tons (valued at $4.5 million) were collected for redistribution to New York City not-for-profit institutions and public schools. A shopping visit to the MFTA warehouse gives the shopper access to a wide variety of materials unequaled anywhere in New York City. Where else could an educator or a set designer pick up wood, paper, paint, buttons, cardboard, art books, compact discs, video tapes, feathers and lumber—all under one roof? The quantity and quality of materials available is unprecedented and it is all free. MFTA is an excellent national model for inter-agency collaborations. Municipalities in Los Angeles, Huston and Atlanta have established programs modeled directly after MTA's program.



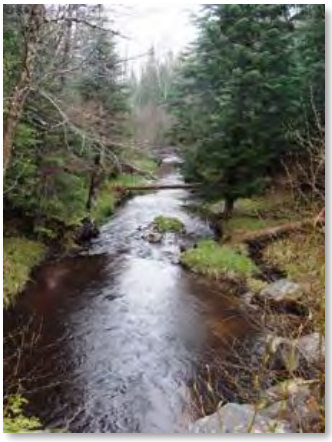
The Council on the Environment (known currently GrowNYC) received the award in 2006 for promoting sustainable rainwater harvesting practices in New York City's community gardens and green spaces. Each year this effort has diverted over 325,000 gallons of rainwater into gardens rather than into storm drains. Creative and effective partnerships were required to address water conservation and pollution prevention in such a vast metropolitan area. Partners included the Brooklyn Greenbridge/Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, East New York Farms, Green Guerillas, Green Thumb, New York Restoration Project, NYC Housing Authority Gardens Program, NYC Soil and Water Conservation District, Trust for Public Land and the Gaia Institute. Through this innovative program, community gardeners demonstrated a creative local solution to a global problem. Education and outreach efforts taught participants the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution and the facts about the scarcity of fresh water. As of their award, the Council helped build 25 rainwater harvesting demonstration systems which divert rainfall at a rate of 450 gallons for every inch of rain.

Camp Venture, Inc. – This 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation cares for developmentally disabled children and adults within Rockland County. The agency operates 24 certified community residences

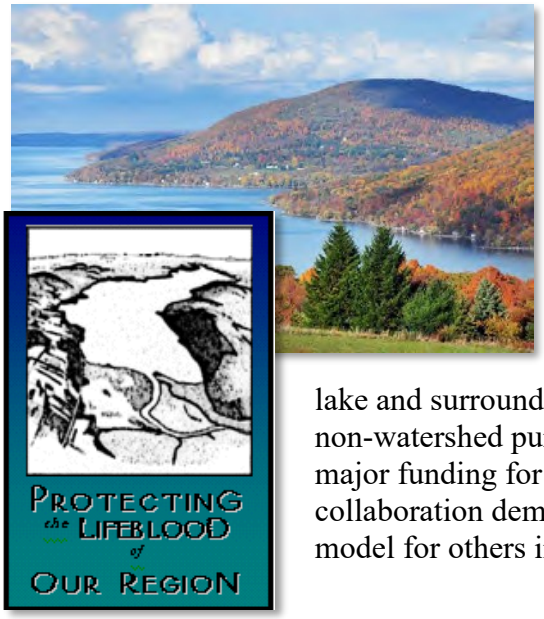
serving developmentally disabled adults licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). Camp Venture, Inc. received recognition in 2009 for their commitment to "green" their residences. Of particular interest was the approval granted by OMRDD for the purchase and renovation of a residence at Sidney Drive. Camp Venture committed to incorporate green building practices into the renovation including increasing insulation, installing occupancy sensors, using high efficiency lighting systems, installing low-flow toilets and purchasing energy star appliances. The project required a unique partnership between Camp Venture, their oversight and funding body OMRDD and NYSERDA. With cooperation between these three agencies, it was possible to obtain the necessary approvals and secure additional funding to incorporate the green features. What makes this project truly innovative is that it is the first of 5,995 group homes under OMRDD that is equipped with a photovoltaic (PV) array. The PV array has contributed to a reduction of 6,036 pounds of CO2 emissions as of 2009.

The Nature Conservancy -Adirondack Chapter of in Essex County was honored in 2007 for the development of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) which continues to protect the Adirondacks from the lasting negative economic and environmental impacts of specific, non-native, invasive species. Using an integrated and collaborative approach and a variety of innovative strategies, the program protects the biodiversity, recreational attributes, aesthetic value, cultural legacy, economic viability, and tourism and transportation infrastructures of the park by controlling invasive plants. Invasive species displace native flora and fauna, alter ecosystem structure and function and are extremely costly to control once established, and now rank as the second leading cause of the loss of biodiversity. The cornerstone of the program continues to be the outreach and education efforts that engage various audiences and interest groups. Since 2004, the program has reached more than 10,000 people through presentations alone. The environmental benefits are far-reaching. The program has inventoried thousands of occurrences of terrestrial invasive plans throughout the Adirondack Park. Program partners have removed tens of thousands of tons of garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, common reed grass, yellow iris, purple loosestrife, swallowwort, and honeysuckle from Adirondack roadsides.

The Nature Conservancy and Lyme Timber Company received an award in 2006 for an innovative partnership that resulted in the protection of 104,000 acres of forest land in the Adirondack Park. Spanning seven towns in Franklin and Essex counties, this project balanced the environmental, economic and land use interests of multiple stakeholders. The project ensured the sustainable use of forest land, the protection of water quality and the conservation of ecologically-significant habitats. By safeguarding 104,000 acres from fragmentation, this project had numerous environmental benefits including protecting foraging grounds of moose, fisher, black bear, and bobcat; preserving the forest canopy in which wood warblers and other neotropical migrants nest and breed; protecting wetland resources; maintaining streams and other natural water resources which support numerous aquatic species; and supporting habitat for sugar maples and other native tree species. What was truly innovative about this project was how effectively the partners worked with constituents from all seven towns within the project area. Their approach can be applied to future land protection projects - large or small. The process involved soliciting input from and continuing to involve the towns, hunt clubs, and key recreational user groups, in the development of a plan that ultimately had "something for everyone."



Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council was honored in 2004 for their collaborative efforts to protect Canandaigua Lake, a drinking water source for approximately 60,000 people. Nearly $100 million are generated from area tourism and recreation and the value of the lake-influenced tax base was approaching $1 billion. Canandaigua Lake is also aesthetically valuable to the region. Due to all of these benefits, Canandaigua Lake and its surrounding watershed are considered the lifeblood of the region. A Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management Plan was created in 1999. The plan identified contaminants of concern, sources of these contaminants and listed over 100 recommendations for minimizing their impact to the lake and surrounding areas. As a result fourteen watershed municipalities and non-watershed purveyors signed an agreement to adopt this plan and provide major funding for its implementation. The commitment to inter-municipal collaboration demonstrated by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council is a model for others in New York State.



Schoharie River Center is a small and unique not-for-profit organization awarded in 2013 for empowering young people in a comprehensive Environmental Study Team (EST) youth development program. The center has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to develop environmentally literate, self-directed individuals who are able to identify and work toward positive life goals and achieve constructive change in their lives. While the Environmental Study Team program is open to all interested youth, the program specifically engages at-risk and underserved youth from the urban and rural areas of the flood-impacted Mohawk River/Schoharie Valley area. More than 800 students from four counties and nine school districts have been trained to use federal and state stream monitoring protocols. This small, unique grassroots education center also provides hands-on, professionally-supervised outdoor learning activities, community-based archeology research, folk art demonstrations and workshops that showcase traditional artists, crafts and music. The center is committed to educating people about local history and traditional culture, natural history, environmental issues and the relationship between the natural environment and human activity in the watershed.

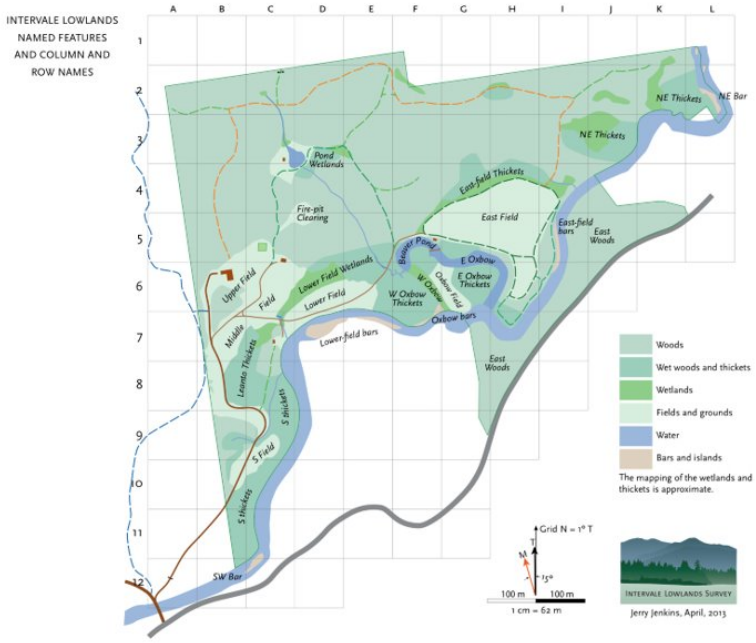
Upper Susquehanna Wetland Coalition's (USC) Wetland Program was awarded in 2014 and is an outstanding model of collaboration for wetland protection and restoration. The USC includes 16 New York and three Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It provides a comprehensive and systems approach that offers equipment, staff and training to ensure success. Over the past five years, the USC has constructed or restored more than 700 acres of wetlands and related habitat. These wetlands are helping New York State achieve its commitment to reduce nutrient sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay. The USC has constructed over 700 acres of wetlands and wetland complexes (these include substantial upland components) in the past five years, more than 300 in the past three years alone. These wetlands all contribute to the New York State requirement, under a total maximum daily load, to annually reduce nutrient and sediment loadings. Using official Chesapeake Bay estimates, reductions from wetland restoration and construction work include 5,900 pounds of nitrogen, 350 pounds of phosphorus and 70 tons of sediment. These achievements lessen the burden on farmers and sewage treatment plants to pay for additional nutrient and sediment reduction practices. The USC developed a comprehensive wetland program that covers all aspects of wetland restoration and construction except regulation. Being able to complete every aspect of a wetland project, coupled with an extensive partnership network, is the USC Wetland Program's key to success. A holistic approach was important to being able to implement this "vertically and horizontally integrated" program. The work provides a complete package by assembling a completely equipped wetland team that works with strategic partners. The USC Wetland Team has its own heavy construction equipment. The team leader develops program ideas and writes proposals; the coordinator tracks permits, develops GIS maps and site plans and manages the USC website; the scientist provides scientific studies and computer analyses, writes proposals and develops methods to analyze and prioritize the quality of New York's wetlands and the biologist manages restoration projects and oversees equipment operators. The Wetland Team combines their talents to locate potential sites, obtain permits,

conduct topographical surveys, develop wetland designs and construct wetlands. The USC is continually conducting training and research on wetland restoration techniques. They have provided hands-on vernal pool and wetland construction workshops and helped write and publish a textbook on restoration techniques.

Intervale Lowlands Preserve's Ecosystem Monitoring and Management Program was awarded in 2015. The Interval Lowlands Preserve is a 135-acre privately owned preserve in Lake Placid with a LEED Platinum house on site and over 1,000 recorded species. They use innovative, high-tech approaches to ecological management, monitoring and research all which are advancing New York's commitment to combat climate change. This relatively small Adirondack preserve serves as an outstanding model of environmental stewardship.

Objectives:

- Focal long-term monitoring
- Community involvement and education
- Climate change mitigation
- Network-based regional research



Upper Susquehanna Coalition's Stream Team Flood Response Training Program was honored and awarded in 2015 for its unique collaboration of 16 New York Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The training program takes an innovative and hands-on approach to teach local and agency officials and personnel, contractors and landowners how to effectively address stream management issues in post storm situations which will prevent or lessen unnecessary environmental and economic damages. This sustainable, statewide training campaign is enhancing New York's capacity to respond to increasingly common extreme weather events. As a result, there are more local communities using sustainable stream work practices. In addition, more local and agency officials and personnel, contractors and landowners are trained to effectively address stream management issues in post storm situations.

The Adirondack Mountain Club was awarded in 2016 for their High Peaks Summer Stewardship program which protects, preserves and rehabilitates fragile alpine habitat through hiker education, trail work and research. These fragile plant communities are found only on the highest mountains of the state. In addition to hiker interactions on the summits, Summit Stewards complete research projects examining plant communities, recovery from trampling, and populations of individual species. Stewards have interacted with 410,000 hikers in the High Peaks since the program began twenty-seven years ago. The number of interactions has grown steadily in recent years. Stewards spoke with a record 31,443 hikers in 2015. Research conducted over the last three years continues to demonstrate the efficacy of the Summit Steward program in the protection of rare alpine species. The Summit Stewardship Program is a partnership of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The program serves as a model for other stewardship programs.

The New York Rural Water Association was awarded in 2016 for providing unique and critical services, technical assistance and training to small, rural communities to help protect water and wastewater facilities. They work with various groups to develop water resources and promote the research of sound methods of operation and maintenance to rural water and wastewater systems serving populations of 10,000 or less. Their Source Water Protection Program is the only program in the State that works with communities to develop a drinking water protection plan for future generations. Their hydrogeologist organizes and assists rural communities with the implementation of source water protection plans including point and non-point source protection practices. This program allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it, ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy.

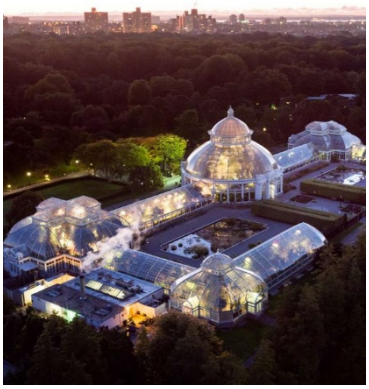
Finger Lakes ReUse of Ithaca was awarded in 2016 for diverting reusable materials from the landfill. Materials are repaired, repurposed and sold at affordable prices. Since the launch of its first ReUse Center in 2008, Finger Lakes ReUse has transformed waste into opportunities by diverting reusable materials from the landfill and providing community access to quality goods at affordable prices. Finger Lakes ReUse has been developing a best-practices model that uses the revenue generated by its sales and services to support waste reduction, poverty relief, and job training opportunities. Through this strategy, ReUse extracts value out of every donated item it receives to be leveraged in support of the local community, economy, and environment. The organization offers a robust array of diversion programs, including deconstruction services, computer refurbishment, job skills training, and community-based repair, providing the community with access to convenient and affordable sustainable materials management options that are otherwise unavailable locally.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival Zero Waste Initiative was awarded in 2017 for its longtime strategy of inspiring, educating, and engaging people is a powerful formula for success. The Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival (Revival) began in 1978 as a series of small concerts to increase environmental awareness and raise funds for the Sloop Clearwater. Today, it is a national model for organizations wishing to reduce the environmental footprint of large public events. The annual revival draws up to 20,000 attendees, in addition to at least 1,500 volunteers, musicians, and vendors. Event coordinators offer a sustainable event that actively engages attendees in waste reduction, recycling, composting, and sustainable living. Composting and recycling stations are conveniently set up around the festival grounds and trained volunteers help people put things in correct bins and take care of materials disposed of incorrectly. The event has, over the past several years, diverted an impressive 80 percent of waste from landfill including 4 tons of recyclables and 33 tons of compostable material.

Capital Roots' Urban Grow Center was awarded in 2019. The Urban Grow Center, opened in 2014, has set a regional standard for sustainable urban revitalization. This 12,000-square-foot building and grounds are in a great location for urban farming and one-third of the power used is generated by on-site solar power. In addition, green roofs, porous pavement, rainwater collection, gardens, public art, bike racks, and pedestrian-friendly crosswalks provide a sustainable oasis in what was a historically underserved neighborhood in Troy. Capital Roots, a not-for-profit started in 1975, has worked with partners to plant more than 3,000 street trees, grow and distribute millions of pounds of local food, and organically maintain more than 18 acres of urban greenspace. By connecting urban markets with area farms and businesses with educational institutions, Capital Roots have built a lasting infrastructure for a growing regional food network and provided a replicable model of sustainable urban agriculture.

CAPITAL ROOTS
GROW • EDUCATE • PROVIDE

New York Botanical Garden's Energy Efficiency Master Plan was awarded in 2019. The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is demonstrating an ongoing commitment to renewable energy, sustainability, conservation, research, and education. NYBG has charted a course to reduce its emissions 80 percent by 2050. Facilities are being transformed into a 21st Century model of energy efficiency and sustainability, and NYBG has already achieved a 50 percent decrease in carbon per square foot of building area. In addition, NYBG annually offsets more than 200 metric tons of carbon from on-site tree growth and 275 metric tons from composting operations. Gardens are maintained in an eco-friendly manner by using natural alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers (i.e., integrated pest management). In addition, NYGB introduces garden-based sustainability and science curricula to public schools across the Bronx and serves more than 90,000 students annually.



The Wild Center's Youth Climate Program was awarded in 2019. The Wild Center's Youth Climate Program convenes, engages, and empowers young people on a local, regional, and global scale to act on climate change. Youth Climate Summits allow students to learn from businesses, organizations, schools/colleges, civic groups, farmers, engineers, designers, public officials, and agencies. Summits result in dynamic and comprehensive Climate Action Plans developed by students to improve sustainability and resiliency in their school or community. This far-reaching educational program has increased climate literacy by 40 percent, inspired more than 100 green teams/environmental clubs statewide, engaged more than 40 students in northern New York school districts, and created 60 youth-driven Climate Action Plans. The program is a model that is being adapted and replicated across New York, the United States, and other countries.

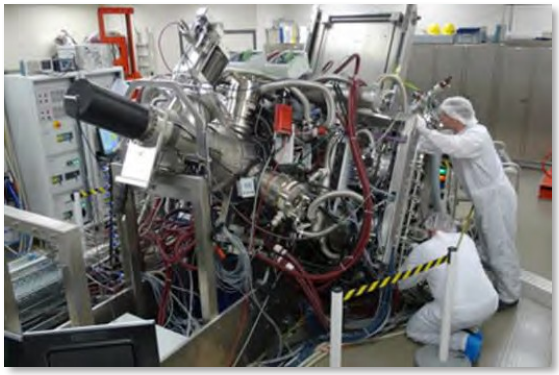
Larger Businesses

Waste Management & Recycling Products (WMRP) in Schenectady, NY was awarded in 2004 for helping hundreds of organizations to establish recycling programs for electronic waste. Collectively, the programs have resulted in the diversion of thousands of tons of electronic waste. Under the management at the time of the award, WMRP was recovering and recycling surplus computers and electronics through a comprehensive process of evaluating, sorting, demanufacturing, testing, refurbishing, reselling and recycling. WMRP expanded its services to include data destruction to guard against identity and intellectual property theft. From its inception in 1989 to 2004, WMRP recycled more than 5,000 tons of electronic waste that may have otherwise been land filled or disposed of by other less environmentally sound means. At the time they were awarded, WMRP was working in partnership with many sectors including state agencies, local school districts, universities, hospitals, industrial, manufacturing and retail as well as individual consumers. WMRP developed strategic partnerships with other electronic recyclers, which allowed the company to also provide their services on a national basis. This electronics recycling program serves as a model of collaboration that resulted in direct and measurable environmental benefits locally, regionally and even nationally.

IBM East Fishkill's facility was known in 2007 as the home to one of the most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the world. The company was honored in 2007 for developing and implementing an innovative wastewater treatment system that reduced the discharge of nitrates. Using a distillation process, the new system recovered and recycled ammonia-laden wastewater, which in turn directly reduces the amount of ammonium hydroxide and nitrates released. IBM's 300 mm fab came on-line in 2002 and as the manufacturing processes were refined, it became apparent that the initial projections of ammonium hydroxide were low and that the higher levels would strain IBM's existing biological wastewater treatment system. The wastewater treatment system that was designed reduced nitrates in the final effluent by 67% which improved the water quality of the receiving waters which are tributary to the Hudson River. Another benefit of this innovative project is that the ammonium hydroxide product was able to be used off-site instead of being disposed of. This has reduced the facility's chemical use and resulted in capital cost savings.

Bank of America's Tower at One Bryant Park was honored in 2010 for its innovative green building design features. The tower is situated at 42nd Street and Sixth Avenue. It is 945 feet tall, 55 stories high and has 2.1 million square feet of building space; it's the largest development site in midtown Manhattan. The Tower has received the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Core and Shell Platinum certification. By using environmentally friendly designs, many benefits are being achieved including: saving 7.7 million gallons of water annually; using a 4.6 megawatt, on-site cogeneration system to reduce daytime peak electricity demand by 30 percent; providing approximately 25 percent of the building's annual cooling requirements by using an ice storage system; and reducing lighting and cooling energy by up to 10 percent by using an automated daylight dimming system.

Philips Semiconductors (now known as NXP) was honored in 2005 for an innovative project that permanently reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. Philips replaced two highly volatile solvents used in the photolithograph process with a single solvent having much lower volatility. This replacement resulted in a 44 % reduction of VOC emissions. Specifically, Phillips substituted Propylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether Acetate (PGMEA) for N Butyl Acetate (NBA) and Ethyl Lactate in the photolithography process. The solvents used previously were highly volatile, resulting in annual VOC air emission 42.25 tons. The substitution of PGMEA, a solvent which is significantly less volatile, resulted in a reduction of VOC emission of 18.49 tons per year. This manufacturing process change serves as a model for others challenged by contamination versus yield in the photolithography process. Philips Semiconductors has been sharing the results of this project with other Philips manufacturing locations through company sponsored sustainability coordinators workshops.



Albany Molecular Research, Inc., a pharmaceutical research and development company, received an award in 2004 for installing an innovative open loop, non-contact geothermal cooling system - the first of its kind using ground water as condensing water in a centrifugal chiller. This project demonstrated that groundwater can be used as a resource for conserving energy and that non-conventional, groundwater source cooling systems are a sustainable solution as compared to less efficient conventional systems. Due to the facility's location in the Albany Pine Bush area, constructing storage tanks to regulate demand fluctuations was not possible. The facility decided to install variable frequency drives on each ground water pump to automatically match the pumping rates to chiller flow and temperature demands. This forward-thinking approach maximized the system's energy efficiency. The company saved 352,000 kWh/year which translated into an 8-year return on investment. This project clearly demonstrates the readily transferrable benefits of non-conventional, groundwater source cooling systems. The results of the project have been shared with others in the engineering profession through presentations and publications.

Selkirk Cogen Partners, L.P. was honored in 2005 for an innovative pollution prevention and water conservation project. A reverse osmosis (RO) system was installed upstream of the existing demineralization system to treat the water coming into the plant. The primary motivation for the project was the facility's commitment to minimize the potential for chemical spills associated with the large amounts of acid and caustic used for the previous water treatment system. By reducing the chemical use and storage, Selkirk Cogen mitigated the risk associated with potential releases during transportation. Employee safety was also improved because of the reduced number of unloading activities. This project also demonstrated a commitment to sustainable use of New York's water resources. The Reverse Osmosis system significantly reduced the amount of water used and wastewater generated at the site. In addition to the environmental benefits, Selkirk Cogen Partners' significant capital investment achieved operational efficiencies which translated into economic savings.

Breyers Yogurt Co. and Ecovation received an award in 2005 for installing an innovative waste treatment and renewable energy system at the North Lawrence, NY facility. The treatment system offered a unique solution - it allowed the facility to treat high-strength dairy production waste and generate methane-rich biogas, which is then can be used to offset fossil fuel use at the facility. Due to its rural setting, the facility relied heavily on both electricity and No. 6 fuel oil. In 2005, the plant was processing more than 300 million pounds of milk per day to make cottage cheese and yogurt. These processes result in high-strength waste bi-products which are expensive to dispose of. Therefore, the company sought an alternative that would allow for increased production while complying with environmental regulations. As a result of installing the renewable energy waste treatment system, the facility replaced an average of 1,000 gallons of No. 6 fuel oil per day. In addition, because the treatment system was so efficient, the excess capacity allowed the company to accept waste from nearby dairies. This increased the environmental benefits and further reduced the area's reliance on fuel oil. The partnership between Breyers Yogurt Company and Ecovation made the North Lawrence facility more productive and resulted in a positive environmental solution that reduced costs and contributed to sustainable business practices.

Garlock Sealing Technologies of Palmyra, NY was honored in 2010 for voluntarily eliminating 119 tons of toluene emissions in the manufacturing of fiber sheet gaskets. By using a non-hazardous solvent to produce a viable product, Garlock Sealing Technologies provided the industry with a new benchmark for environmentally responsible manufacturing practices. The new gasket is made at a comparable price and seals even better than its solvent-containing predecessors. A tighter seal means less fugitive emissions and a healthier work environment for employees. Other benefits of this innovative pollution prevention project include a reduction of fire risk and the ability to recover and recycle over 95% of the non-hazardous solvent.

Xerox Corporation, Webster Campus was honored in 2006 for its product stewardship and sustainable manufacturing facilitated by their implementation of an environmental management system. Xerox pioneered the practice of converting end-of-life electronics into new products; developed an innovative life-cycle analysis process to maximize material recyclability and improved awareness of their recycling program resulting in an overall plant reuse/recycle rate of 81% for all materials used at the Webster Campus. The facility attained the ISO 14001 certification from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This approach spurred Xerox Webster to develop various programs to proactively reduce or prevent adverse environmental impact. As such, the facility was accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track Program in October 2006. Xerox Webster lead a corporate effort to reduce energy consumption and associated green-house gas emissions by adopting a 10% absolute reduction in company-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2012, from a 2002 baseline. Xerox also helped its customers reduce greenhouse gas emissions by offering over 95% of its products as EPA Energy Star certified. Xerox Webster's approach to managing products at end-of-life translated into preventing millions of pounds of waste from entering the landfills - 128 million pounds in 2004 alone.

Corning Incorporated Erwin Manufacturing Complex was honored in 2004 for developing innovative environmental improvement projects that resulted in waste reduction, energy reduction and water conservation. Activities at Corning Incorporated Erwin Manufacturing Complex include the receipt and handling of ceramic raw materials in preparation for producing catalytic converter components. Materials are combined, extruded, dried, and fired in ceramic kilns. The finished products are then packed for distribution. Some of the innovations included a die plating process elimination and cleanup project that resulted in the development of a stainless steel die (completed in 2002). With the implementation of the new dies, the die plating process was no longer needed at the facility. This resulted in the reduction of hazardous wastes (from 65,200 lbs. in 1998 to 400 lbs. in 2003) that

were generated as a by-product of the process. Ceramic ware that did not meet quality standards was disposed of as solid waste. Corning developed creative partnerships that allowed this material to be used as material in highway construction projects and as a daily landfill cover (saving the landfill $43,000 annually in labor and material costs). Corning also pursued numerous innovative environmental improvement projects to reduce energy and water consumption. At the time of the award, Corning had conserved more than 105 million standard cubic feet of natural gas annually; reduced daily water consumption by about 1 million gallons; and saving an estimated 4.28 million kW of electricity annually.

Uniland Development Company was honored in 2011 for taking an innovative approach for the redevelopment of the 405,000 square foot former Dulski Federal Building, in Buffalo, New York. The property was falling into a blighted condition. Uniland pursued an adaptive reuse strategy and converted the structure into Buffalo's first mixed-use high-rise, creating a vertical community of hospitality, residential and office space, known now as the Avant. The project was completed in 2009 and the Avant has become the cornerstone of Buffalo's renaissance as a great city. Uniland' s commitment to sustainable reuse included refurbishing rather than replacing nine high-speed elevators, installing low-flow fixtures to reduce water consumption, using trees and shrubs for shade and air purification; and using energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems. This has resulted in an annual reduction of approximately 1,400 tons of CO2 emissions. During the construction phase, more than 7,200 tons of clean material was recycled or reused by other construction projects. The is a A example of a sustainable environment for work and play where eco-friendly practices are used and where people are learning about environmentally responsible living.

Delphi Thermal Systems is a major supplier of automotive climate control and power train cooling systems. The Lockport, NY facility was honored in 2007 for eliminating the hexavalent chromium coating for air conditioning evaporator units by using an alternative metal alloy. This sustainable process change create d an immediate environmental benefit at the point of production, improved employee safety and eliminated the largest single source of hexavalent chromium from a vehicle at end-of-life disposal. The change also allowed the facility to eliminate a hazardous waste stream and close a wastewater treatment plant. This material change was also implemented globally at other Delphi evaporator manufacturing sites. The removal of the coatings materials changed the classification of the process waste from "hazardous" to "non-hazardous." This change allowed Delphi to close its wastewater treatment plant and divert wastewater to the City of Lockport. The on-site industrial wastewater treatment plant was demolished under an approved closure plan. This project has resulted in a reduction

of approximately 145,000 gallons of hexavalent chromium chemical use annually. And, the elimination of a direct wastewater discharge has resulted in direct environmental benefits due to decreased utility usage (4.3 million gallons of water and 3.4 million KW hours of electricity saved), the elimination of thousands of pounds of bulk chemicals, and the elimination of 200 tons of solid hazardous waste from being disposed of in a landfill.

Modern Landfill, Inc. was honored in 2005 for their unique partnership that turned landfill gas into a key driving force in a partnership of facilities that were unique in New York State. The gas from Modern Landfill is used to generate 5.6 megawatts of electricity by Model City Energy that is sold back to the New York power grid. In addition, the waste heat is also captured in another recovery process and is used to heat and light an adjacent hydroponic greenhouse complex, "H2Gro", where vine-ripened tomatoes are grown and profitably marketed. What separates this project from other landfill gas utilization projects is that not only is the landfill gas being used for electricity production, but this project uniquely captures waste heat as additional energy for greenhouse operations. For Modern Landfill, the environmental benefits chiefly pertain to a highly effective control of fugitive emissions of landfill gas. Since Model City Energy started operations in 2001 and as H2Gro came on line through 2004, the calculated fugitive landfill gas emissions have been cut by 85 percent. In 200 and in 2005, Modern made significant improvements to the gas collection system which were not required by its New York State Title V air permit. By looking beyond the minimum regulatory requirements, Modern has come up with a project to maximize the beneficial aspects of this pollution control requirement to create jobs, a useful product, additional revenue and a source of pride for itself and its community. H2Gro, LLC (H2Gro) is a hydroponic greenhouse operation located adjacent to Modern Landfill. Although the partnership of a landfill with a hydroponic greenhouse might seem unique, others can replicate this type of project. All that is needed is an abundant low cost fuel source, nearby vacant land, a market for the product and a desire to try something different.

Owens Corning (Albany County) was awarded for developing and producing EcoTouch™ Insulation. The company's commitment to clean-tech solutions, innovative process changes and customer satisfaction resulted in the production of insulation from natural minerals and a minimum of 58 percent recycled glass content. Owens Corning replaced the formaldehyde-based binder with an innovative starch-based binder which improved the product and provided a healthier working environment for employees. The plant in Delmar, NY is one of first Owens Corning facilities in the United States to manufacture the Ecotouch™ product. As a result, Owens Corning has annually reduced emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) by 98 percent and has diverted approximately 4,300 tons of recycled glass from landfills. Sustainability is a core business strategy for Owens Corning. The Delmar facility has demonstrated this commitment by reducing the environmental footprint of the Delmar plant by improving operations, producing more environmentally friendly product and improving energy efficiency.

IBM East Fishkill was honored in 2012 for a catalytic hydrogen peroxide treatment system that demonstrates the environmental, economic and health and safety benefits that can be achieved as a result of pollution prevention and green chemistry technologies. Previously, IBM's wastewater treatment contributed to high levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in the wastewater being discharged. The new process has reduced the TDS by more than 20 percent which is beneficial to local waterways. This project has brought a safer work environment for employees since chemical use and storage has been significantly reduced. IBM's longstanding corporate environmental policy has resulted in continued improvement in the facility's manufacturing operations through waste minimization, energy and water conservation, solid waste recycling, converting to green technologies. In addition to the water quality improvements being achieved, this project has eliminated 320 tons of hazardous chemicals and more than 270 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. The conversion to catalytic technology has allowed IBM to offer a new wastewater treatment technology for the semiconductor industry to use.

The Golub Corporation/Price Chopper's Corporate Sustainability Model was awarded in 2012 for demonstrating that it is possible to integrate the "triple bottom line" (people, products, planet) concept into every aspect of a company's operation. The corporate headquarters building in Schenectady showcases this commitment. The building includes many innovative green features that have resulted in 42 percent improvement in energy efficiency and a 30 percent reduction in water usage. All construction materials were required to contain at least 32 percent recycled content. Golub is continuously improving its performance and reducing its overall environmental impact by using clean-technologies, building high-performance LEED certified buildings and improving waste stream management. For example, Price Chopper is purchasing 12 million kWh of wind power annually, which offsets approximately 3,100 tons of CO2 emissions. And, by partnering with RailEx, Price Chopper is reducing cross-country trucking of products and saving approximately one million gallons of diesel fuel annually. Price Chopper is now diverting portions of their organic waste materials to manufactures of animal feed. This means that nearly three million pounds of fat and bone and 295,000 pounds of yellow grease have been kept out of landfills. The Golub Corporation is also taking action to protect the world's fisheries by working towards a comprehensive sustainable seafood program. Price Chopper is leading by example and is sharing its expertise with various food associations in neighboring states and is helping communities and other stakeholder organizations achieve their own sustainability goals.

Advanced Climate Technologies (ACT) Bioenergy, LLC was award in 2013 for being the first manufacturer in the United States to produce high-efficiency, gasification-type boiler systems that are 10-20 percent more efficient and produce one-third of the emissions of conventional wood boiler systems. The ACT Bioenergy Boiler is suitable for burning wood chips, wood pellets and selected agricultural residuals. At least 24 biomass boilers have been installed in New York to date, achieving significant environmental and economic benefits.

These boilers save at least 300,000 gallons of heating oil annually, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 4,000 tons each year and cuts particulate air emissions by 300 percent as compared to conventional biomass boiler systems. Generally, biomass products are locally sourced, therefore local economies see economic benefits. ACT is an industry leader in promoting a greater understanding about efficient biomass energy and generating interest in using it as a cost-effective method to achieve renewable energy goals.

Gotham Greens Farms, LLC was awarded in 2013 for successfully bringing a technologically sophisticated, energy-efficient, "green" agri-business to an industrial neighborhood in Brooklyn. This sustainable urban agriculture project is the United States' first commercial-scale, urban rooftop facility in the U.S. growing pesticide-free produce that does not contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Gotham Greens has emerged as a leader in the growing urban agriculture movement across the country and has demonstrated excellent innovation and leadership in creating green collar jobs and promoting clean technology and urban agriculture. This sustainable project is achieving impressive environmental, economic and social benefits, including saving approximately 5 million gallons of water annually and eliminating all agricultural runoff. The company uses an on-site solar PV system, which saves 76,000 kWh of electricity a year, and has also eliminated the need for long-distance, refrigerated food transportation, saving nearly 400,000 gallons of fuel annually.

The Omega Center for Sustainable Living awarded in 2013 is an example of sustainable architecture and design, and is the nation's first green building to achieve both LEED® Platinum and Living Building Challenge™ certification. The center houses a natural wastewater reclamation facility that treats water by mimicking the processes in nature. This system treats more than 5 million gallons of wastewater annually and its rainwater collection system captures nearly 5,000 gallons of rainwater, which offsets nearly all of the center's yearly water consumption. In addition, the roof-top solar panels supply 100 percent of the center's electricity needs, and through a comprehensive waste reduction program, approximately 26 tons of non-food waste is recycled and about 113 tons of food waste is composted annually. In addition, the Omega Center for Sustainable Living serves as an educational resource for more than 5,000 visitors each year.

TurnKey Internet, Inc. was awarded in 2013 and anticiaptes by the year 2020 that the data center and cloud hosting industry expects to surpass the airline industry as the largest greenhouse gas polluter. TurnKey Internet Inc.'s innovative green data center project sets a benchmark for the data center industry to offset the expected trend. TurnKey transformed a vacant, former post office building into a high-tech, sustainable data center. With a roof-top solar array and cutting-edge technologies, the best hardware available to minimize energy consumption, this data center is minimizing its power consumption and has a zero-carbon footprint. TurnKey's green data center is one of only two ENERGY STAR® certified data centers in New York and one of just 39 in the United States. The company is saving more than 1 million kWh of electricity per year, which has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 765 metric tons annually. TurnKey serves as a model of excellence by setting a high sustainability standard for companies in the technology sector.

National Hockey League's NHL Green Initiative was awarded in 2015. It was born and is being implemented here in New York State (the NHL is headquartered in New York City and three franchises are located within NYS) and is setting an impressive standard for national and international sporting leagues. The NHL's sustainability report, the first of its kind from a professional sports league, sets a national and international sporting industry precedent. The environmental, social and economic benefits for New York and the nation are extraordinary and far-reaching. The NHL is reducing its environmental footprint and engaging millions of hockey fans, global businesses and local communities in sustainable action.

The New York Yankees was awarded in 2016 for outstanding and ongoing commitment to environmental excellence, sustainability and fan engagement. The stadium's composting and recycling programs were honored. The environmentally intelligent work at Yankee Stadium is diverse and ecologically meaningful. It includes our installation of the most technologically advanced energy efficient LED sports lighting; the use of energy efficient appliances throughout the venue; the use of advanced building control and automation technology to optimize energy efficiency; low-flow plumbing fixtures that use far less water; and reliance on natural cooling to save energy in the largest areas of the Stadium. Their Zero Waste Initiative, one of the most effective waste reduction and recycling programs in all of professional sports, is advanced through the extensive composting and recycling infrastructure they invested in developing, including a cooking oil recycling program that diverts approximately 80 percent of the Stadium’s total game-day waste away from landfills, and an anaerobic digester. Their demonstrated commitment to a sustainable environment also includes working with their supply chain to reduce impacts.

Waste Management's High Acres Landfill and Recycling Center in Monroe County was awarded in 2016 for being the first facility in the state to offer an intermodal rail solution to waste management. Transporting waste by train instead of truck reduces nearly 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. Their transportation-related CO2 emissions have reduced by 70% because of this effort.

Smaller Businesses

Homogeneous Metals, Inc. (HMI) in Clayville, NY, is a global leader in nickel-base structural powder, providing more than half of the powder superalloy used in today's commercial and military aircraft, as well as a substantial amount for land-based turbines, off-shore oil extraction, and other applications. HMI was honored in 2005 for the decision to manage environmental health and safety goals with as much care and consideration as was given to quality control, operational goals and financial goals. Historically, foundries and metal powder producers were considered "difficult" from an environmental and safety point of view. This project was evidence that HMI rejected that notion. From 1999 to 2005, HMI had routinely been 50% or more below their allowable daily and monthly discharge limits for chromium and nickel. Effective source capture and dust collection had worked well to reduce the amount of material released to the wastewater treatment system. However, twice during 2003, the facility was in violation of their wastewater discharge permit limits. The facility took immediate action to identify and understand the cause of the issue. As a world class manufacturing facility, the company decided compliance was not enough and a zero discharge goal was set for nickel and chromium. Thorough investigations determined that the main source of the nickel and chromium was from mop water. HMI's manufacturing processes can produce fine particles and powder which sometimes escapes the dust collection system and is captured in the mop water. To prevent the release of the mop water, the facility capped all floor drains and invested in an evaporator. The project resulted more than 2,000 gallons of mop water per month being processed through the evaporator which resulted in a sludge that is properly managed and disposed of.

The Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort located in Lake Placid, New York was honored in 2008 for taking action and greater responsibility for climate change. This visible resort in the heart of the Adirondack Park took a leadership role and became the first resort in the area to become a model for reducing the carbon footprint of the hospitality industry. The resort instituted green programs that reduced the environmental impact not only of the hotel, but of the traveler. The resort's owners remain committed to making continued environmental improvements throughout the resort's operations and maintenance and are helping more than 80,000 guests (annually) become educated about how to live a sustainable life-style. The International Audubon Society's Green Leaf Rating Program for Hotels rated the Golden Arrow with 3 (out of 5) green leaves in 2006. In 2008, the Golden Arrow's rating was increased to 4 green leaves, making the Golden Arrow the only resort in the United States to receive such a high rating. In addition to their sustainable programs, the resort has two very unique features. A 3,400 sq. ft. green roof improves stormwater management and provides an attractive back-drop for guests sitting on the various decks around the resort. Also, the white sand on the resort's beach is made of crushed limestone which helps counteract the effects of acid rain. The Golden Arrow is an outstanding model of environmental excellence and sustainable business practices.

The Golden Arrow's Green Roof

Remains Lighting received the award in 2010 for their commitment to sustainable business practices. Remains Lighting is a traditional artisanal maker of lighting fixtures and custom metal work in Brooklyn. The company exemplifies that sustainable buildings don't necessarily require high-tech designs that come at high costs. This small company's comprehensive renovation of an industrial building showed a commitment to both environmental and social stewardship. In 2008, Remains Lighting purchased and renovated a 25,000 square foot industrial building in Bushwick. Following the renovation, Remains Lighting moved its production workforce and brought its design, engineering and project management staff under its "green" roof. Gardens have replaced parking lots, the facility operates solely by renewable energy sources by combining on-site solar panels and purchased wind power and materials are purchased regionally and reused or recycled whenever possible. As a result, electricity consumption was reduced by 18,000 kilowatts per year and carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by 110 tons per year. During the renovation process, 27 of the 32 tons of construction waste was separated and recycled.

Monroe Industries was honored in 2010 for their Robal Recycled Glass product line. This company exemplifies how a small, family-owned business of nine employees can achieve environmental excellence, serve as a model of innovation and sustainability, and enter emerging markets for green products. The company custom manufactures cast-polymer countertops, shower walls and floors, and vanity tops. Traditionally these product lines are made with a variety of mined minerals and gemstones, such as granite and quartz. The products are typically mixed with a liquid polyester resin and binder which is then cast into a mold and allowed to cure. While developing the Robal product line, Monroe Industries identified a resin supplier who would provide them with bio-based resins. This innovative product line is not only using 60,000 lbs. of recycled glass each year; it is using a more sustainable binder formula as well.

Ecovative Design, LLC was honored in 2012 for their innovative, bio-based, zero-waste packing material. Ecovative Design is an example of how a small business can achieve environmental excellence and serve as a model of innovation and sustainability. Two entrepreneurs have developed a strong, low-cost biomaterial that replaces foam packaging, such as Styrofoam, urethane and plastic thermoforms. The process uses fungi that "grow" on custom shaped forms made from inedible crop waste (i.e., buckwheat husks). It takes place indoors, in the dark and without any human intervention. Every gram of raw material becomes part of the final product which means zero waste. Furthermore, the packaging material, known as "EcoCradle," can be easily composted after its intended use. By comparison, synthetic materials such as plastics and foams, consume approximately 10 percent of the petroleum used in the United States annually. The environmental benefits of these products include replacing 196,000 cubic feet of plastic foam packaging parts and diverting that material from landfills post use, saving 77 thousand gallons of petroleum annually and diverting 686 tons of agricultural waste from landfills or incinerators on an annual basis. Both Dell and Steelcase Inc. are among large companies that now use Ecovative's products in place of foam or plastic packaging. This small company demonstrates that innovative, bio-based products grown in the USA can be high performance, ecologically sensible and have a place in the global market.

I-Square LLC was awarded in 2019 for its Sustainable Pedestrian Friendly Mixed-Use Development project. I-Square LLC's forward thinking has transformed a declining neighborhood into a model of sustainable living. I-Square is a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use community featuring restaurants, rooftop gardens, outdoor amphitheater, office space and "The Imaginarium," which is a net-zero art gallery and science center. The community's entertainment features alone draw about 280,000 visitors annually. On-site solar and small wind turbines supply the community with more than 45,000 kWh of power annually and a state-of-the-art ECO gym features electricity-producing exercise equipment. An exceptional stormwater management and rainwater collection system saves more than 20 gallons of water annually. The system features 18,000 square feet of pervious concrete sidewalks and parking lots and 1,750 square feet of accessible green rooftops. Innovative energy conservation technologies allow I-Square to cut carbon emissions by an estimated 1,000 metric tons each year.