

## **Conserving Nature is Climate Smart**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

### Hudson River Estuary Program Conservation and Land Use Webinar Series

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:16:58.640 --> 00:17:18.480

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Ingrid Haeckel and I am a conservation and land use specialist with the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program through a partnership with Cornell University. Welcome to our conservation and land use webinar series. Today's webinar will discuss municipal planning and policy actions to conserve natural

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:17:18.480 --> 00:17:38.960

areas within the framework of New York's Climate Smart Community's certification program. We're pleased to have a few guest speakers with us today, including Eleanor Peck from the Hudson Valley Regional Council and Supervisor Neil Bettez and Amanda Gotto from Town of New Paltz and I'll introduce them further in a moment. Before we start let me

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:17:38.960 --> 00:17:59.440

review a few webinar logistics. If you're having difficulty with audio connection through your computer, you can choose to switch audio by clicking the three dots next to the red exit button at the bottom of the screen, and there you will also find options to request a call back or call in by phone. If you need help,

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:17:59.440 --> 00:18:19.920

please reach out to us using the chat icon in the bottom right corner of the screen, and if you have questions for the speakers, once we begin, please use the "Q and A" function, and if it's not already open, you can access Q and A, by clicking the three dots next to chat in the bottom right corner. Note that your phone lines are muted.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:18:19.920 --> 00:18:40.400

The webinar is being recorded and we will notify you when the recording is available and that'll probably be early next week. At the end of the webinar, we also request your feedback through a short survey that will pop up and lastly, for those of you who are seeking municipal training credit, you'll receive an automatic confirmation of attendance from ebex

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:18:40.480 --> 00:18:43.480  
that will be sent at the end of the program.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:18:44.880 --> 00:19:05.360

For those of you who may be new to our series, the Hudson River Estuary Program is a special program at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation established to help people enjoy, protect, and revitalize the Hudson River and its valley. We work throughout the ten counties bordering the tidal Hudson, shown here on the map, to achieve

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:19:05.360 --> 00:19:25.840

Many key benefits including the vital estuary ecosystem and its fisheries and habitats, clean water healthy tributaries, climate adaptive communities, conserved natural areas in the watershed and informed and engaged public and access to all to the Hudson River.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:19:25.840 --> 00:19:46.320

Within the program, our conservation and land use team works with municipalities and regional conservation partners to incorporate important habitats and natural areas through local land use planning and decision making. We're available to provide technical assistance on a variety of conservation planning and policy projects and

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:19:46.320 --> 00:19:55.880

our program website shown here is a clearinghouse for guidance and resources on these topics, and we'll share the link to this through the chat box.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:19:58.760 --> 00:20:17.680

Our next webinar will be on May 18th and we'll introduce a brand new publication *Best Practices for Adopting Conservation Inventories and Plans*. Our guest fact speaker will be Jessica Bacher, the executive director of Pace Land Use Law Center and lead author of the guide. And we've been really.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:20:17.680 --> 00:20:18.320

Thrilled to

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:20:18.800 --> 00:20:39.920

collaborate with her on this project, she will walk us through the new publication and discuss the process, options, and best practices for adopting and implementing natural resources and open space inventories, open space plans, and critical environmental areas. And we'll share the link to register for that as well as the link to the new guide in our

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:20:39.920 --> 00:20:42.360

follow up email after the webinar.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:20:43.760 --> 00:21:04.240

We're happy to have several speakers presenting today. I will start us off with some basic context about the intersection of nature conservation and climate solutions and later on, I'll be giving an overview of

climate smart land use and conservation actions and as I stated earlier, I am a conservation and land use specialist with the

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:21:04.240 --> 00:21:24.680

DEC Hudson River Estuary Program through a partnership with Cornell University. I began my career as biologist and for the past ten years I've been providing training and technical assistance to municipalities and other partners in our watershed to incorporate conservation of habitats and natural areas into local planning and decision making.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:21:24.920 --> 00:21:45.200

After my intro will hear from Eleanor Peck who is the clean energy communities program manager at Hudson Valley Regional Council and she'll provide an overview of New York's Climate Smart Communities program, previously Eleanor was the climate smart coordinator for the city of Beacon, helping the city achieve New York State climate smart communities

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:21:45.200 --> 00:22:05.680

Program silver certification, and she continues to volunteer in the city of Beacon as a member of the city's Conservation advisory committee. And we'll take a break after Eleanor and my presentations to answer questions and in the second part of the webinar, we'll hear a case study about some climate smart conservation and land use projects

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:22:06.320 --> 00:22:26.160

and policies in the town of New Paltz and those will be presented by supervisor Neil Bettez and climate smart member Amanda Gotto. I'll introduce them right before they speak. So thank you all for joining us today and we're looking forward to hearing your talks.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:22:28.720 --> 00:22:49.200

To segue into my presentation, and I also want to acknowledge my colleague, Christine Vanderlan was supposed to be with us today to co- present and unfortunately couldn't join us. So I'll be taking on this introduction. Back in early March I co- presented a webinar with Gretchen Stevens from Hudsonia about Hudson

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:22:49.200 --> 00:23:09.680

Valley habitats and Biodiversity conservation and I thought that this slide might be a good place to start off today's program because if there's one message, I hope you'll take home it's that our natural areas are integral to climate solutions and we need to build on the synergy between nature conservation and climate action. Our region

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:23:09.680 --> 00:23:30.800

is home to an incredibly rich array of ecosystems from tidal wetlands in the estuary to tributary stream corridors. Our non-tidal wetlands and diverse upland habitats including forests, shrublands, and

grasslands, these ecosystems support abundant biodiversity and also provide numerous community benefits that are

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:23:30.800 --> 00:23:51.920

vital for resilience and adaptation to climate change. They purify our air and water. They moderate local temperatures and store and sequester carbon, reduce storm water runoff, buffer storm surges and control flooding. However, these ecosystems face many major threats, which we touched on in that webinar and

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:23:51.920 --> 00:23:55.200

climate change is, of course, one of them.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:23:57.680 --> 00:24:16.880

There are many examples of how climate change and the biodiversity crisis are tightly-intertwined and linked in turn with land use. Nature loss is largely driven by land use, resulting in habitat loss and degradation, which in turn drives climate change by releasing

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:24:16.880 --> 00:24:37.360

stored carbon into the atmosphere. And nature loss further more often results in increased exposure of populations to climate hazards, including flooding, extreme heat and sea level rise. On the flip side, however, nature conservation has tremendous opportunity and synergy with actions to address climate change.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:24:37.360 --> 00:24:57.840

Our communities when they can serve important habitats, we not only benefit biodiversity, but we're also helping to store and sequester carbon, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our resilience to unavoidable impacts of climate change that are already underway. So these are win-wins for biodiversity, for climate action and for

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:24:57.840 --> 00:24:58.960

people.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:25:00.400 --> 00:25:20.880

In the realm of climate policy, nature conservation is often couched under the term natural climate solutions or sometimes nature-based solutions, which includes a range of actions aimed at conserving, restoring, or better managing ecosystems to safeguard carbon stores, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or prevent

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:25:20.880 --> 00:25:42.000

greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of natural climate solutions include conserving or restoring forests, wetlands and other natural ecosystems, sustainable forest management practices that enhance carbon sequestration and storage, and regenerative agricultural practices. So we're kind of focusing on

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:25:42.000 --> 00:25:44.840  
the first one of these, in particular.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:25:45.840 --> 00:26:06.320  
But beyond their value to carbon storage and sequestration and avoided emissions, conservation of natural areas also supports community resilience and adaptation to climate change. So forests improve soil water retention and flow regulation, which reduces risk of flooding and drought. They also moderate local temperatures.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:26:06.400 --> 00:26:26.800  
And tree canopy helps reduce heat impacts during extreme heat events. Wetlands also provides significant flood control, and improve water quality. And coastal wetlands in particular as well as natural or nature-based shorelines provide important shoreline protection by break

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:26:26.800 --> 00:26:47.280  
ing waves and buffering storm surges. Replicating these benefits once they've been lost, once nature is gone, is extremely difficult, expensive, if it's even possible. So it's currently estimated that plants and animals are plants and soils in terrestrial

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:26:47.280 --> 00:27:07.760  
ecosystems absorb the equivalent of roughly twenty percent of human cause greenhouse gas emissions, but this is offset by emissions from land use change. And natural climate solutions have the potential for large additional climate mitigation. One major study cited here estimated that

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:27:07.760 --> 00:27:28.240  
examples of nature based solutions could contribute over a third of the mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize warming below two degrees F. It's important to acknowledge that nature is just one part of the solution. In addition, we need rapid cuts to greenhouse gas

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:27:28.240 --> 00:27:36.160  
emissions in the energy, transportation, building and industrial sectors, however, you know, nature is an important part of the solution.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:27:37.840 --> 00:27:58.320  
New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act or Climate Act is one of the most ambitious climate laws in the nation. It was signed into law in 2019 and it requires actions to achieve a

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of forty percent by 2030 and eighty- five percent by 2050 above 1990

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:27:58.320 --> 00:28:10.560

Levels. Achieving a carbon neutral economy will require offsets or negative emissions of, for the remaining fifteen percent of New York's greenhouse gas footprint.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:28:13.680 --> 00:28:25.360

Forest currently cover nearly two-thirds of New York State by area, and they will play a key role in these negative emissions and, and so will some of the other natural ecosystems I've mentioned.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:28:27.120 --> 00:28:47.600

In December 2022, the state completed a scoping plan which lays out the strategies to achieve the emissions reduction requirements in the Climate Act, including a variety of land use actions and these include to protect, restore, and monitor natural and working lands, consider forest

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:28:47.600 --> 00:29:08.080

and farmland in land use policies and to promote smart growth. There are too many specific strategies relevant today's program for me to mention in this brief intro, but among others, they include assisting local governments with creating land use policies to protect natural areas, establishing programs to support

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:29:08.080 --> 00:29:22.680

local land acquisition such as statewide authorization of the Community Preservation Act, and increasing grant funding guidance and support for a variety of local ecosystem restoration and conservation efforts.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:29:24.720 --> 00:29:44.560

Aligning actions to avert biodiversity loss and meet carbon neutrality goals will require significantly increasing the pace and scale of conservation. And to this effect last December, nearly a hundred and ninety nations joined together at the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal to agree to preserve thirty percent

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:29:44.560 --> 00:30:05.040

of the planets land and seas by twenty- thirty to protect living systems that sustain human life. The White House set a similar goal for the United States and in December, Kathy Hochul signed legislation in New York, committing New York to the thirty- by thirty goal to promote biodiversity and protect land and

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:30:05.040 --> 00:30:20.840

water. And for reference at present, roughly eighteen point four percent of the Hudson River Estuary watershed is protected. Sixty percent of that being state land such as the forest preserve and the Catskills.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:30:22.320 --> 00:30:22.960

Which brings me to

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:30:23.480 --> 00:30:43.960

local governments. New York state can't do this alone. Local governments are pivotal to conserving biodiversity and meeting the goals and requirements of the climate act and as a home rule state municipalities have significant authority over land use policy and decisions. In the Hudson Valley there are two hundred and sixty one

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:30:43.960 --> 00:31:04.440

municipalities each with elected officials, planning and zoning boards, conservation advisory councils, climate smart task forces, who all have a role to play in conserving our natural heritage and taking climate action. The state's Climate Smart Communities program provides a framework with guidance, grants,

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Eleanor Peck 00:31:04.440 --> 00:31:24.920

and technical assistance, and recognition as well, for participating in proactive climate action at the local level. And so at this point I will turn the presentation over to Eleanor Peck, who can tell us more about Climate Smart Communities. Eleanor Peck: Thank you Ingrid and just share my screen.

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Eleanor Peck 00:31:24.920 --> 00:31:26.040

Screen.

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Eleanor Peck 00:31:32.600 --> 00:31:53.080

All right, so as noted, I'm Eleanor Peck and I'm here to give a quick overview of the Climate Smart Communities program. Before I get started, I'll give a brief introduction about Hudson Valley Regional Council where I work. One of nine regional councils in New York State and one of six hundred nationally,

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Eleanor Peck 00:31:53.080 --> 00:32:13.560

we provide technical support to municipalities on, across all the areas listed here, so you can feel free to reach out to us under any of these areas. We provide certification assistance on the Climate Smart Communities program. We answer questions about actions and we review certification applications. We can also assist in creating greenhouse gas inventories and climate action

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Eleanor Peck 00:32:13.560 --> 00:32:27.680

plans for your municipality and we can help your community achieve designation in the Clean Energy Communities program, a related program from NYSERDA. We pride ourselves in providing impartial, transparent, and informative technical support to local governments.

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Eleanor Peck 00:32:29.560 --> 00:32:50.040

Ingrid noted a lot of this so I will just briefly overview this, but as we all know, I think climate change is here; it's happening anyone who is in New York. This winter can attest to that: my four-year-old didn't go sledding until March, and she has no recollection of seeing snow on the ground for more than a few days. Makes me a little sad. The CLCPA, the

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Eleanor Peck 00:32:50.040 --> 00:32:57.200

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act contained ambitious targets shown here that the state is required to meet.

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Eleanor Peck 00:32:59.160 --> 00:33:18.840

The Climate Smart Communities Program is a program that provides state support for local climate action. So it was around before the CLCPA, but it's a critical piece in the state's toolkit to help meet those ambitious targets. CSC is supported by seven state agencies helping municipalities take action to fight climate change. The program

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Eleanor Peck 00:33:18.840 --> 00:33:28.280

focuses on both reducing greenhouse gas pollution also called climate mitigation and building resiliency in the face of climate change, which is also called climate adaptation.

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Eleanor Peck 00:33:32.480 --> 00:33:48.800

So we just had an announcement last week, which increased these numbers excitingly, but right now there are total of three hundred and seventy-eight total communities in the state registered in the Climate Smart Community's program and a hundred and eighteen that are certified either bronze or silver.

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Eleanor Peck 00:33:50.200 --> 00:34:10.679

The registration means that they have passed the model climate smart resolution showing that they're committed to participating in the program, and the certification, bronze certification is the first level and silver is the second level, involves completing actions and submitting documentation for points meeting the required criteria for becoming certified.

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Eleanor Peck 00:34:10.679 --> 00:34:26.240

There are twelve pledge elements in the Climate Smart Community's program and each action is listed underneath these pledge elements. There are over a hundred actions that municipalities can take to earn points to gain certification in the climate smart program.



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Eleanor Peck 00:34:27.960 --> 00:34:47.800

There are two mandatory actions that you must take if you're going to become climate smart certified. First, as I mentioned, you have to pass that municipal resolution and register as a climate smart community, then you have to establish a climate smart task force and appoint a climate smart coordinator. There are also a certain number of priority.

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Eleanor Peck 00:34:47.800 --> 00:35:08.280

actions and you have to complete a certain number to get certified either as bronze or as Silver, depending on the level of certification, there is a different number of priority that you need to meet. So this is a sampling of some of the priority actions available for municipalities to choose. The natural resources inventory, which we're here to talk about today is one of those actions

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Eleanor Peck 00:35:08.920 --> 00:35:10.800

we're highlighting today.

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Eleanor Peck 00:35:12.760 --> 00:35:32.600

So this slide shows how to get to the climate smart community's portal by going to climate smart dot NY dot gov and you can action on that webpage. We also at my organization created a series of videos to help communities navigate the climate smart portal and there's a link to that, right there.

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Eleanor Peck 00:35:33.880 --> 00:35:53.080

The Climate Smart Communities program also has grants that are available. They come out with the CFA every year. There's a fifty- fifty match, you can either choose implementation projects which are up to two million dollars or certification action projects to help you complete certification actions, various certification actions in the program, and those are up to two hundred thousand dollars.

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Eleanor Peck 00:35:53.080 --> 00:36:04.480

We are, hopeful that these grants will come out again in 2023 with the CFA and the deadline would be the CFA deadline in the summer.

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Eleanor Peck 00:36:05.880 --> 00:36:26.360

There are also other benefits of certification, there are four other grant programs listed here that provide some additional value to climate smart communities as part of their application, either points or some sort of recognition that they are a climate smart community, and therefore it bumps them up in the application process. So this is only if you're committee is either climate

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Eleanor Peck 00:36:26.360 --> 00:36:31.520

smart certified or registered, and that is all I have. Thank you.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:36:34.040 --> 00:36:39.680  
Thanks Eleanor. All right, I'm gonna go ahead and share

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:36:41.080 --> 00:36:42.200  
screen.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:36:43.640 --> 00:36:46.440  
Right, seeing that.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:36:47.480 --> 00:37:07.960  
Thank you so much for that overview. I'm gonna wrap up the first part of the program with an outline of the climate smart actions relating to conserving nature and share some examples of communities that have implemented them. Before I start, I'll just note if you have questions, if you can please use the Q and A function, that

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:37:07.960 --> 00:37:28.440  
would be great. There's three dots at the very lower right corner of the screen that you can click on and that should open up the Q and A for you. Or if you end up using chat, please use chat to all panelists, so that our, our other moderators can see the questions. Great. So as Eleanor explained the Climate Smart

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:37:28.440 --> 00:37:48.920  
Program provides this broad framework for actions needed at the local level to both reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The actions relating to local land use regulation and natural areas are found within pledge element six, the climate smart land use element, and actions relating to conserving

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:37:48.920 --> 00:38:09.400  
and restoring specific natural areas to increase resilience and adapt to climate change are found within pledge elements seven: enhanced community resilience. I've listed the six actions on the right that are most directly related to natural areas, but note that there are some additional actions that may relate to preserving open space, farmland,

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:38:09.400 --> 00:38:13.480  
and important natural spaces too.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:38:15.840 --> 00:38:35.000  
So creating a natural resources inventory is a priority action for both the bronze and silver certification levels. A natural resources inventory or NRI is a document that compiles maps, data, in a report describing the natural resources in a municipality. NRIs include

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:38:35.000 --> 00:38:55.480

information about geology, soils, topography, water resources, habitats, and wildlife among other resources, and they are a priority because they provide the foundation for comprehensive land use, planning zoning and environmental policy to protect key natural areas. And they're also a great tool for reviewing development projects to

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:38:55.480 --> 00:39:15.960

avoid or minimize impacts to important natural features. And NRIs also provide the basis for open space and conservation planning, which are covered in a further action. Municipalities receive additional points if they adopt the NRI by local law, which formally integrates it into local

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:39:15.960 --> 00:39:36.440

land use policy. And the image on the right here is of the city of Poughkeepsie online NRI- map viewer. And the city adopted its NRI through a natural resource resource law that requires conservation analysis using the NRI for all projects that are subject to the state environmental quality review process.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:39:36.440 --> 00:39:42.560

So we'll hear more about NRIs in the New Paltz case study coming up shortly as well.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:39:44.120 --> 00:40:04.600

The local forestry program action encourages communities to assess their tree canopy resources and take steps to plant and protect trees. Urban and community forests help cool the local environment, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, as well as mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Communities can receive

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:40:04.600 --> 00:40:25.080

points under this action for conducting a tree inventory, which includes street tree inventories as well as enacting tree preservation ordinances or participating in the state's urban and community forest programs or Tree City USA and lastly.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:40:25.080 --> 00:40:25.720

by

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:40:25.880 --> 00:40:46.360

A tree planning program. The example on the right is a brochure from the city of Albany, which created an adopt-a-tree program in response to major losses of street trees due to Emerald ashborer and other issues, and this program provides residents with trees of their choice at a very low cost for planting in

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:40:46.360 --> 00:40:54.600

front of, or adjacent to their homes, and the city will also help plant the tree and provide care instructions.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:40:56.600 --> 00:41:16.440

The zoning for protection of natural areas action encourages local governments to use their land use authority to enact policies to protect natural areas, and to do so to avoid greenhouse gas emissions from land use change. A wide variety of zoning techniques can be used to conserve natural areas to increase

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:41:17.080 --> 00:41:36.920

or increase consideration of these areas in environmental reviews. So these include conservation overlay zoning or zoning districts, conservation or cluster subdivision regulations, which we profiled in last month's webinar, wetland and watercourse protection measures, critical environmental

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:41:36.920 --> 00:41:57.400

area designation, habitat assessment guidelines and others. In addition, there are several techniques that can be used to focus development in areas best suited for development, helping to conserve natural areas. And note that there is some overlap between this action and this smart growth policy action, which i.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:41:57.400 --> 00:41:59.320

also in this pledge element.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:42:00.720 --> 00:42:22.360

So, communities may receive additional points if their local ordinance is based on high priority conservation targets identified in an NRI or open space plan, and these include coastal shorelines and areas where dunes, beaches, and tidal wetlands will migrate as sea level rises; stream buffers, floodplains, wetlands and well, and buffers;

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:42:23.000 --> 00:42:42.840

large natural areas such as intact forests and wetland complexes; local and regional habitat corridors and areas that have diverse physical settings predicted to support high biodiversity in the future. So an example on the right is the town of Warwarsing which designated a critical environmental

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:42:42.840 --> 00:43:03.320

area for the Catskill Shawangunk Greenway Corridor. This is based on the significance of this area for habitat connectivity between the Catskill Mountains and the Shanwangunk Ridge in Ulster County. CEAs are not zoning, but they do bring attention to significant environmental resources during the SEQR

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:43:03.320 --> 00:43:20.600

process and they can be a first step toward additional protection measures. There's a great short climate smart communities video about this project, which we will share later and we'll hear more about conservation overlay zoning later on, in the New Paltz presentation.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:43:22.760 --> 00:43:43.000

The conserved natural areas action builds on the premise of the zoning action and recognizes the importance of conserving natural areas and open spaces as a climate resilience and adaptation strategy. Action is really needed at every level to achieve the thirty by thirty goal. I spoke about earlier and local governments

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:43:43.000 --> 00:44:03.480

can play an important role through developing open space plans or similar conservation plans and taking steps to establish conservation finance strategies to protect land through acquisition or conservation easements. Communities can receive points for a range of open space planning and protection actions here. We'll hear

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:44:03.480 --> 00:44:23.960

more in depth about this strategy, including the Mill Brook Preserve example that I've shown on the right from New Paltz. In this case, the town created a vision for this nature, preserve within its open space plan. This was an area with forest and a major wetland complex just outside of the village, they ended up then passing

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:44:23.960 --> 00:44:30.240

an open space bond measure and were able to acquire key parcel here to create the preserve.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:44:32.400 --> 00:44:52.120

The final two examples I'll mention are ecosystem restoration- focused. The riparian buffers action encourages communities to undertake an assessment process to identify priority areas for riparian or stream buffer plantings, or for conservation of those areas.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:44:52.760 --> 00:45:12.600

Communities can also receive points for local government led-riparian buffer restoration and maintenance efforts. Many communities in our watershed have undertaken stream buffer restoration projects on public land in partnership with our Hudson River estuary trees for tribes program.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:45:12.600 --> 00:45:33.080

And this includes the town of Gardiner in Ulster County, which planted three hundred trees and shrubs in 2021 at the River Bend trails at Gardiner Park site. This is a site subject to frequent flooding along the Wallkill River, and the tree planting will hopefully help stabilize the riverbank and protect water quality.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:45:35.000 --> 00:45:48.360

And so I do wanna just give a shout out to our trees for tribs program and encourage you to contact our coordinator Beth Roessler if you're interested in assistance with Riparian buffer restoration.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:45:49.720 --> 00:46:10.200

The final action I'll share is nature based shorelines which mimic natural features and processes using living materials, often vegetation, sometimes in combination with structural elements to reduce erosion impacts on shorelines. These are sometimes called living short lines or green short lines or

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:46:10.200 --> 00:46:30.680

bio- engineered short lines and they can, in some cases also help provide flood risk reduction. They're often also more adaptable to changing conditions like level rise then traditional hard engineered methods. Communities can receive climate smart points for installing maintaining or

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:46:30.680 --> 00:46:51.160

Mmmonitoring these nature- based shorelines. As of now, when I checked, it looks like only one local government in New York has awarded certification points for this action, and that is Erie County, which undertook a shoreline restoration project in partnership with the Army Corp Engineers at the Erie County Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:46:51.160 --> 00:46:55.120

Park shown here on the right, Which is along the Buffalo River.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:46:56.280 --> 00:47:16.760

I do also want to know, however, that the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Initiative has been doing similar work with partners along the Hudson River for many years, and we have a lot of examples of nature based shorelines in our region. Their website is a great clearinghouse of information on this topic and Lindsay Charlop provides training

109

Ingrid Haeckel 00:47:16.760 --> 00:47:22.960

and technical assistance for the project. So you can reach out to her if you're interested in learning more about that.

110

Ingrid Haeckel 00:47:25.080 --> 00:47:44.920

The climate smart community's program website has a great portal where you can explore which communities have achieved certification status, according to which action. So if you wanna see which communities have done NRIs and received points, you can filter by NRIs for example. So this is a great way of finding some nearby towns that have

111

Ingrid Haeckel 00:47:44.920 --> 00:47:52.480

or cities that have implemented different practices that we've highlighted here or other actions within the framework.

112

Ingrid Haeckel 00:47:53.880 --> 00:48:11.560

So in conclusion I want to return to the message that natural areas are integral to climate solutions and there are many different ways local governments can help to identify, prioritize, and protect natural areas to benefit biodiversity and increase community resilience to climate change.

113

Ingrid Haeckel 00:48:13.360 --> 00:48:33.560

We hope that a new round of Estuary grants will be announced soon. I want to remind you that these grants can provide funding for many of the actions that I just discussed. So please stay tuned for those for that announcement. Thanks, that's all for this first part of the webinar.

114

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:48:33.560 --> 00:48:48.240

So I think we should have time to take some questions for Eleanor and myself before we move along to the New Paltz case study, and my colleague Laura Heady is here to help moderate and answer your questions. Thanks.

115

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:48:50.200 --> 00:49:10.680

Thanks to you and Eleanor for the wonderful presentations, Ingrid, while your mic is hot, I will direct a question to you related to NRIs. Adam asked about comprehensive plans and that they usually include something similar to an NRI, but the creation of an NRI be rolled into a comp plan update.

116

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:49:10.720 --> 00:49:11.840

117

Ingrid Haeckel 00:49:11.960 --> 00:49:32.440

Yes, yes, absolutely. So you're right comp plans usually have some type of NRI component to them. So certainly we've worked with many communities that have developed in NRI and then incorporated it to their next comp plan update, but it could be all done

118

Ingrid Haeckel 00:49:32.440 --> 00:49:47.800

simultaneously, and I think that would be eligible for points in the certification program, as long as it meets the criteria that are outlined, which is based on our guidebook for creating an NRI. We can share that link later on.

119

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:49:47.800 --> 00:50:08.280

And I'll also add next month's webinar, which will talk about adopting and implementing NRIs, will talk a little bit about that relationship with comp plans and NRIs, too. Also somewhat related, and this is a question that I started to answer in the Q and A chat box, but I think you

120

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:50:08.280 --> 00:50:21.000

and Eleanor could probably both elaborate on grant opportunities. How can a small community conduct the research that would seem necessary for a credible NRI? Are there grants or DEC resources?

121

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:50:24.280 --> 00:50:24.920

So.

122

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:50:24.920 --> 00:50:43.480

I did mention in the Q and A box that oftentimes these projects don't require research and they rely on existing data, but it does require some coordination either by volunteers or professionals. But there are grants as you mentioned Eleanor, the climate smart communities grants to maybe cover NRIs for towns outside of the Hudson Valley.

123

Ingrid Haeckel 00:50:45.300 --> 00:51:06.380

Eleanor Peck: Yes, absolutely. The climate smart communities program, the grant slide that I had up, you can use those towards NRIs, absolutely. Ingrid Haeckel: Yeah, for the projects we've funded, you know, of course it's possible to create an NRI purely using existing information and that's valid and still

124

Ingrid Haeckel 00:51:06.380 --> 00:51:20.700

useful. Some of the grant funded projects have incorporated, you know, funding for additional studies. So based on the priorities and interest of the community,

125

Ingrid Haeckel 00:51:22.380 --> 00:51:35.980

Biodiversity assessment, work stream and wetland mapping, et cetera, or more in- depth in a assessment of local conservation areas and parks, for example, to inform stewardship and management.

126

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:51:38.380 --> 00:51:58.860

Wow, right, here's a question that you started responding to, or you did respond to, but just for the sake of folks who aren't paying attention to the Q and A chats, you might wanna discuss this more. The question was, if I have time to work on only one action to support our town's climatesmart community program, what is the best way to obtain funding to

127

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:51:58.860 --> 00:52:04.620

fund measures to reach certification in the CSC program. So maybe you could elaborate on that a little bit more.

128

Eleanor Peck 00:52:04.620 --> 00:52:25.100

Yeah, so I put two, two different grant opportunities in, in the Q and A, the first one is the program that I generally work on and it is much more related to energy than it is to the conservation actions that we're



here to discuss today, but the clean energy communities program from NYSERDA does have no match grants, available

129

Eleanor Peck 00:52:25.100 --> 00:52:45.580

for completing energy- related actions that often save municipalities money at the same time, and those grants, are a lot of them are very open- ended. The smaller ones. So you could spend them on actions to help your community achieve climate smart certification, and I put the link to the clean energy community's program in the Q and A, but in addition, the, the Estuary program

130

Eleanor Peck 00:52:45.860 --> 00:52:52.020

grants that Ingrid had a slide about would be a great opportunity for this as well. I'll let Ingrid elaborate.

131

Ingrid Haeckel 00:52:54.540 --> 00:52:57.100

Ingrid: I'm sorry, I got distracted by

132

Eleanor Peck 00:52:57.100 --> 00:52:57.740

another question.

133

Ingrid Haeckel 00:52:57.740 --> 00:52:58.380

Can, can you just?

134

Eleanor Peck 00:52:58.380 --> 00:53:07.420

I was just mentioning that the program grants that, that you all have and how that you had a slide about that, but if you wanted to say anything else, Ingrid.

135

Ingrid Haeckel 00:53:08.620 --> 00:53:29.100

Nothing, in particular. Communities have used those grants to achieve, you know, to complete their NRIs. I don't know if they've been done for other, Well, I guess they, they've funded other conservation actions that can also achieve certification points. I don't know if communities have done that have applied for our

136

Ingrid Haeckel 00:53:29.100 --> 00:53:45.660

grant specifically with that in mind. I think that the certification points are often icing on the cake, right? You know, the communities are motivated to pursue these actions for many reasons, and then they like to get the benefit of these points and recognition.

137

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:53:48.300 --> 00:54:03.660

Looks like we still have a few more minutes to be answering questions. One of the questions in the Q and A was when will the presentation be available, and as you mentioned, it'll be sent out a link will be sent out to participants. It should be on the website by next week.

138

Ingrid Haeckel 00:54:04.300 --> 00:54:04.940

Yes, yes.

139

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:54:06.220 --> 00:54:17.740

Regarding Ingrid to your mention of CEAs. Ruven asked what is the, what are the actual teeth to CEA designation?

140

Ingrid Haeckel 00:54:19.020 --> 00:54:19.660

And...

141

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:54:19.660 --> 00:54:26.860

I put the link just to our CEA section of our website in the chat, but maybe you could elaborate on his specific question.

142

Ingrid Haeckel 00:54:27.340 --> 00:54:47.820

Yeah, so CEA designation it essentially adds another check box to the state Environmental Assessment form. The checkbox is there, but it ensures, you know, that a project within one of these areas is being flagged as being within or adjacent to a critical environmental

143

Ingrid Haeckel 00:54:47.820 --> 00:55:08.300

area, which then requires the lead agency, which is usually the planning board reviewing a project to consider and evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project or action on the critical environmental area. So it ensures that these areas and their importance are not being

144

Ingrid Haeckel 00:55:08.300 --> 00:55:28.780

overlooked in the environmental review process; kind of creates a streamlined process for them to be considered amongst other considerations, like impacts to wetlands and streams, for example. So if you have an area with significant resources and maybe it's been recognized

145

Ingrid Haeckel 00:55:28.780 --> 00:55:49.260

in your comprehensive plan or an open space plan, this is a way of making sure that consideration of those areas is also being integrated to the standard environmental review process. Beyond that, it does not really have teeth, and you would really need to adopt zoning or, or other measures to protect the resources and

146

Ingrid Haeckel 00:55:49.260 --> 00:55:59.420

enact specific requirements. So this is, it's more of an informational and review process than a regulation.

147

Ingrid Haeckel 00:56:02.060 --> 00:56:05.260

And I saw Ruven also asked about, Oh, you.

148

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:56:05.260 --> 00:56:25.740

Want to follow up on that. Laura Heady: I did respond to Rubin's question about CEAS in the chat, but I was just gonna say in additions to benefits of the CEA, besides what you described is, the fact that the municipality and the residents go through the process of identifying this area of importance and highlighting it as kind of maybe the

149

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:56:25.740 --> 00:56:30.860

predecessor to then taking those steps and we might hear more about that today. Is that right?

150

Ingrid Haeckel 00:56:32.820 --> 00:56:37.260

Yeah, we'll hear more in the New Paltz case study, if that's.

151

Ingrid Haeckel 00:56:37.260 --> 00:56:38.540

Some of these things.

152

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:56:38.540 --> 00:56:42.500

So I think we're nearing. I'm not seeing any new.

153

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:56:43.660 --> 00:56:47.420

There is a new question.

154

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:56:49.420 --> 00:57:07.580

If a designated CEA is adjacent to a proposed project. Does that increase the likelihood of a positive declaration determination for SEQR or does it change the level of scrutiny required during SEQR?

155

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:57:09.900 --> 00:57:13.020

If the CEA is adjacent to a proposed project.

156

Ingrid Haeckel 00:57:14.380 --> 00:57:34.220

Yeah, I think it's impossible to generalize about that answer. I think with SEQR with any of these questions, it depends what is being proposed. What is the action? What is the scope and magnitude of that action? What is the resource of concern and how might it be effected? So it's.

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:57:34.220 --> 00:57:54.700

really up to the lead agency to look at those questions and make a determination, but designating the CEA does not automatically trigger a different status for the action, doesn't create, you know, make something a type one action and it does not necessitate an

158

Ingrid Haeckel 00:57:54.700 --> 00:57:57.180

EIS process.

159

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:57:58.540 --> 00:58:08.140

I guess the question that would need to be asked is, is the reason why the CEA was designated going to be impacted by the proposed project, just like any of the other questions on EAF.

160

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:58:10.060 --> 00:58:17.900

So I think we're at the point where we need to shift gears and we can take more questions, right at the end of the, the webinar.

161

Ingrid Haeckel 00:58:19.020 --> 00:58:20.300

Yes, thank you.

162

Laura Heady (she, her) 00:58:20.300 --> 00:58:22.220

Everybody, thanks for everybody with good questions, too.

163

Ingrid Haeckel 00:58:22.220 --> 00:58:42.700

Yeah, so I, you know, to segue, I'd like to introduce our other guests. So we'll be hearing a case study of climate smart conservation land use actions from the town of New Paltz and starting us off will be Amanda Gotto. Amanda

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:58:42.980 --> 00:59:03.180

has utilized her degrees in engineering and biology and her professional background in project management, and lifelong interest in environmental stewardship, to participate firsthand in the intersection of municipal land use and environmental and energy conservation. She has served as an appointed member of both the town of New Paltz and Ulster County

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:59:03.180 --> 00:59:23.660

planning boards, as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals in Suffern, New York, and since twenty eighteen, she has also volunteered as the project manager for New Paltz climate smart. So she'll be starting off by telling us about New Paltz's climate smart work, and in particular the natural resources inventory

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Ingrid Haeckel 00:59:23.660 --> 00:59:44.140

Project, and following Amanda will hear from supervisor, Neil Bettez, he has been New Paltz's town supervisor since twenty sixteen. He is also a visiting scientist at the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, where prior to being elected, he did research on nutrient cycling in urban

167

Ingrid Haeckel 00:59:44.140 --> 00:59:53.340

ecosystems. So at this point, Amanda, you can go ahead and share your slides. Thank you so much for joining us.

168

Ingrid Haeckel 01:00:03.980 --> 01:00:06.060

Up your muted Amanda.

169

Ingrid Haeckel 01:00:12.940 --> 01:00:14.860

See if I can.

170

Amanda Gotto 01:00:14.860 --> 01:00:16.140

By it's starting over.

171

Ingrid Haeckel 01:00:16.140 --> 01:00:18.700

There we go. Yes, we can hear you now.

172

Amanda Gotto 01:00:18.700 --> 01:00:23.020

Okay, great, and I need to also put this in slides.

173

Amanda Gotto 01:00:25.100 --> 01:00:28.180

Okay, there we go. Alright, yes.

174

Amanda Gotto 01:00:29.580 --> 01:00:50.060

Jumped before I was ready for it, too. Good heavens- all right, starting at the beginning, the town and village of New Paltz undertook a climate smart project to develop an NRI, and we were funded through a grant from the Hudson River Estuary program from the DEC from

175

Amanda Gotto 01:00:50.060 --> 01:00:50.700

New York,

176

Amanda Gotto 01:00:51.520 --> 01:01:02.240

That was very important to us to be able to do the project that we did. So we were certified bronze in twenty- twenty one. We're very proud of that fact and we actually

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Amanda Gotto 01:01:03.680 --> 01:01:24.160

managed to get it up hundred and fifty- eight points by that time, which included some of the priority projects like the greenhouse gas inventories for both the town government operations, and the community, proposed climate action plans to reduce those greenhouse gases. We had a climate smart resiliency planning tool developed with

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Amanda Gotto 01:01:24.240 --> 01:01:45.280

Cornell Cooperative Extension, they did that for free. They chose us as a pilot. Then we had a couple of DEC grant funded actions, the assessment of vulnerabilities to climate change, which we contracted with ICLEI, the International Coalition of Local Environmental Initiatives, to do that

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Amanda Gotto 01:01:45.280 --> 01:02:05.760

Work. And what we're here to talk about today, the natural resources inventory. But this wasn't, these weren't all the actions, obviously, that got us those hundred and fifty- eight points. There were also a lot of town land use actions that had taken place, some of them even way before climate

180

Amanda Gotto 01:02:05.760 --> 01:02:26.240

smart even existed. Cluster subdivision regulations, which actually contain some serious conservation regulations. There was an open space inventory already in place. An open space plan, so we were able to draw in a lot of that information for our, our natural resource inventory. They were already conserved natural

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Amanda Gotto 01:02:26.240 --> 01:02:46.720

areas. There is an existing functioning environmental conservation board in New Paltz. There's a farmland preservation plan. We have a very strong wetlands and watercourse law. We have a tree law, we've done tree inventory and management plan, and we have done rezoning for smart growth in our gateway area of town.

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Amanda Gotto 01:02:48.000 --> 01:03:07.200

And looking to the future, for silver certification, there are upcoming things that we can be able to use, of course, the NRI. There has been a conservation finance feasibility study done. There is a community preservation plan in place. There is a community preservation fund to enact

183

Amanda Gotto 01:03:07.200 --> 01:03:27.680

that plan in place with a team that works on that. We hope to conserve more natural areas. We do have one critical environmental area designated, which is shown on the slide here, which is along the ridge, and I would just like to say as a member of the planning board, these CEAs are important to us

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Amanda Gotto 01:03:27.680 --> 01:03:48.160

because it highlights things we should pay special attention to, and we are required to take a hard look at anything that's in that area, but it's also a way for anyone who's planning a project to be forewarned and knowledgeable about what's there that they should be planning to deal with.

185

Amanda Gotto 01:03:48.160 --> 01:04:08.640

Before they even start to come to us. So we hope that it saves people time and money by doing that, and yes, we have a conservation overlay zone in progress. So what did we do to create our NRI? We followed the DEC's Guide for creating NRIs and that led us to an NR report.

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Amanda Gotto 01:04:09.280 --> 01:04:29.120

A written report that includes series of eleven by fourteen maps that are fold out. They're included in the report, we have this interactive online storyboard map series. We also produced four large scale hard copy maps, then it, that look at the important water, habitat, and culture resources. So.

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Amanda Gotto 01:04:29.120 --> 01:04:49.600

So when you're in a meeting and you wanna put this big map out on the table, everybody can be looking at the same thing at the same time. We also produced an NRI training video for people to look at online- what isn't NRI. What's, what does it do, what does it tell you? How do I use it? And a Tutorial on those interactive story boards for folks who might not

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Amanda Gotto 01:04:49.600 --> 01:05:10.080

be familiar with how those work. How did we do it? Well, thanks to our grant, we were able to hire very knowledgeable experience consultants. Rick Lederer, Barnes and Nan Stoltzenburg of Upstate GIS. And our Environmental Conservation Board was critical. They

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Amanda Gotto 01:05:10.080 --> 01:05:30.560

knew where all of the background references were, were how to find them, they identified numerous amounts of databases and reports that they were, we were able to make available then to our consultants to start populating this report. They also had about twenty community volunteers who donated

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Amanda Gotto 01:05:30.560 --> 01:05:51.040

more than two hundred and seventy hours of their time, their photos, their local knowledge of areas in New Paltz. And they were able to also review the documents and the maps that we got from our consultants for accuracy and completeness. So, yes, this, this can take quite

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Amanda Gotto 01:05:51.040 --> 01:06:11.520

a lot of input from your community. Our town and village staff provided support for the grant administration, for setting up meetings, and for web support, which was really important because the report, the storyboards, the training, the tutorials, are all on the town website. You can access them there.

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Amanda Gotto 01:06:12.160 --> 01:06:32.000

We also have hard copies of the reports at the local library for reference. Funding was necessary for us to be able to do this at the scale and in quality that we wanted to. We had invaluable guidance and input from the Hudson River Estuary Program and we had a very

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Amanda Gotto 01:06:32.000 --> 01:06:52.480

dedicated manager Nate Nardi Cyrus who helped us so much, and then with the state master contract, we had support and guidance from Susan Pepe of DEC as well. So, who might want to use the NRI? Well certainly land owners might want to find out more about

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Amanda Gotto 01:06:52.480 --> 01:07:12.960

what's on their property and how they might manage it or enhance it. Elected officials, when they're making land use policy or doing conservation decision making, and whenever they have to conduct SEQR this would be helpful. Appointed officials, like the members of all the boards, the planning board,

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Amanda Gotto 01:07:12.960 --> 01:07:33.440

the zoning board of appeals, the conservation boards they are all involved in reviewing land uses and doing SEQR quite often. And in fact, we have a section in our NRI, think it's pages fifteen through eighteen, it's a big table and it lists all of our local land use regulations that are found in the code and

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Amanda Gotto 01:07:33.440 --> 01:07:53.920

next to it, it's the section and the maps and the NRI that you might apply to that, that would be helpful in considering that regulation. Other municipalities, for intermunicipal organization and cooperation on conservation activities. Conservation organizations to get very more site

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Amanda Gotto 01:07:53.920 --> 01:08:14.400

Specific information to feed into the more general area and ecology. Certainly anyone who's purchasing selling or developing land could get information that could be useful for them in how they proceed. And the general public just for the overall information

198

Amanda Gotto 01:08:14.400 --> 01:08:19.680

and the ability to find all of this information in one place.

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Amanda Gotto 01:08:21.440 --> 01:08:41.279

Okay, so what was the result of our project? First of all, the comprehensive written NRI report, it's twelve chapters. Each one has, besides the text, written text boxes that explain certain ideas or concepts and a lot of photos, and these chapters are the ones you

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Amanda Gotto 01:08:41.279 --> 01:09:01.759

expect on geology, water resources, habitat and so forth, but we also have a chapter on cultural recreational and historical resources, and we have a chapter on threats to these natural resources, possible threats and possible conservation

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Amanda Gotto 01:09:01.759 --> 01:09:22.080

measures that could help manage them. The chapters are organized consistently. First: key concepts. What is this resource? Why do we care about it? Then what, where is it in the town and village of New Paltz? So you see the maps and then details about that resource that exists specifically in New Paltz.

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Amanda Gotto 01:09:22.240 --> 01:09:42.720

At the end of every chapter are those eleven by fourteen, fold-out, color-coded resource maps. And also anything that's referenced within the chapter is there at the end with links when you're using it online. So you can go straight to the actual reference if you need to get even more information.

203

Amanda Gotto 01:09:43.359 --> 01:10:03.200

Okay, that was the written report. That interactive series of story boards compiles all the data layers that are in the linked report into a set of seven interactive maps. User can look, can choose a resource, there comes the map and then they can go and enter an address or

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Amanda Gotto 01:10:03.200 --> 01:10:23.680

tax parcel number and Zoom in to see what resources might be present or adjacent to a given location. Each of those storyboards shows the information that's in the NRI report with color coded layers and we'll just show you an example of one. Okay, you can see the tabs up at

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Amanda Gotto 01:10:23.680 --> 01:10:44.160

The top these are different storyboards and on the left hand side, there's a column that contains information about what is particular resource, How is it being in this case, it's climate resiliency being shown here, and so what is climate resiliency, how is it rate? Who did that rating?

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Amanda Gotto 01:10:44.160 --> 01:11:04.640

And so forth. And the color coding we're looking right now at what's called the legend. This color coding indicates the different scores for Resiliency. You can also when you see that little magnifying glass thing, that's how you go search for an address or a tax parcel and the thing that looks like layers

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Amanda Gotto 01:11:04.640 --> 01:11:05.280  
of paper that lets you

208

Amanda Gotto 01:11:05.920 --> 01:11:26.400  
look at all the different base layers that are under here. So, in other words, all of the maps that we created for this particular type of resource and you can turn them on and off to see where things are and highlight different aspects. The other thing you'll notice in here, if you can see on your screen, the little dotted orange line

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Amanda Gotto 01:11:26.400 --> 01:11:46.880  
sort of in the center there, that's the, that's the boundaries of the village, which is entirely within the town of New Paltz. There's another example under water resources, this particular layer again, on the left hand side, what are all different types of water resources. This particular one is looking at the modeled

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Amanda Gotto 01:11:46.880 --> 01:12:07.360  
hundred year flood depths. No surprise, it's following the Walkill and its tributaries, but the color differences indicate the possible extent of flooding that could be occurring. So that's just another example of the maps. The third thing that we

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Amanda Gotto 01:12:07.360 --> 01:12:27.840  
got that was really very important was the resolution that was passed by both the town and village boards in June of 2021. Resolved three things. First that the NRI is adopted by the town of Village of New Paltz; second that the NRI be considered by the planning boards, so that proposed lot layouts and develop

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Amanda Gotto 01:12:27.840 --> 01:12:48.320  
-ment are designed and arranged to minimize impact to the features in the NRI; and the third thing is that the applicants who have projects that need land use review that's subject to SEQR have to complete this conservation analysis, in formats provided by the town and village. And it includes the

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Amanda Gotto 01:12:48.320 --> 01:13:04.280  
NRI maps a description of the land and the description what project may impact as far as site features that are in the NRI. And it specifies that no application should be acted upon without a fully completed conservation analysis.

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Amanda Gotto 01:13:06.240 --> 01:13:26.720  
Then the last thing I was gonna just talk about briefly is what have we learned in the course of getting the grant, administering the grant, and doing the project. And so just a few little suggestions for any of y'all thinking about proceeding with your own NRI is get your input and recommendations from your DEC

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Amanda Gotto 01:13:26.720 --> 01:13:47.200

Managers, your Hudson River Estuary Program managers. Reach out to other communities for examples and advice. Think about what you want your NRI to look like, and what features you really want. When you put together your request for proposals for your consultant, be as specific as possible regarding deliveries

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Amanda Gotto 01:13:47.200 --> 01:14:07.680

and timelines. Reference the DEC guide and include the climate smart requirements for submission and approval of points so that they know your, your consultant knows what to include in their proposal that you don't want to have to deal with after the fact. It's really good to have a consultant who's had recent

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Amanda Gotto 01:14:07.680 --> 01:14:28.160

relevant experience with an NRI that you looked at and liked. Use the RFP to create your consultants contract and make sure you get monthly detailed invoices for the hours worked and other expenses so that when you create your quarterly reports and submit your request for reimbursement, you've got everything you need, right in your hands.

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Amanda Gotto 01:14:28.160 --> 01:14:48.640

Make sure your state master contract is consistent with the consultant's contract or deliverables, budget, and timelines. Those need to really like overlap each other, they need to be identical. Keep detailed accurate weekly records of your volunteering staff hours, your match because again, you're required to report

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Amanda Gotto 01:14:48.640 --> 01:15:09.000

that in both the quarterly reports and in the final report, when you close out the project and close out the grant. And you get, if you get regular input guidance and support from your Hudson River Estuary program and DEC managers, they can just be invaluable sources for you as far as technical and procedural information.

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Amanda Gotto 01:15:09.120 --> 01:15:11.320

Thank you very much.

221

Ingrid Haeckel 01:15:13.600 --> 01:15:26.400

Thanks, thank you, Amanda. That was really excellent, Neil, would you like to try to show your screen at this point, or should I put up the slides for you?

222

Neil Bettez 01:15:26.400 --> 01:15:28.960

I'd like to try one more time.

223

Ingrid Haeckel 01:15:28.960 --> 01:15:30.080

Hi.

224

Neil Bettez 01:15:41.160 --> 01:15:42.280

Well.

225

Ingrid Haeckel 01:15:44.320 --> 01:15:57.200

And just a reminder to participants that you can go ahead and add your questions to Q and A and chat or Amanda and Neil, once he starts.

226

Neil Bettez 01:16:01.640 --> 01:16:04.000

Oh, that's fine.

227

Neil Bettez 01:16:05.440 --> 01:16:08.560

Saying that is connecting right now.

228

Ingrid Haeckel 01:16:09.920 --> 01:16:22.360

We were trying to sort this out earlier before we started, but another Webex, which should I, you wanna wait for a minute and see.

229

Neil Bettez 01:16:24.000 --> 01:16:26.560

I guess we may have to have you do it.

230

Neil Bettez 01:16:27.840 --> 01:16:39.880

Anyway I lost all my technology abilities, but I will, I guess I'll let you do it, but then I have to say, next slide next slide, which is frustrating.

231

Ingrid Haeckel 01:16:41.280 --> 01:16:41.920

Okay.

232

Ingrid Haeckel 01:16:42.560 --> 01:16:44.480

Let's just go ahead, right?

233

Neil Bettez 01:16:50.240 --> 01:16:50.880

Right?

234

Neil Bettez 01:16:50.920 --> 01:16:51.520

So.

235

Ingrid Haeckel 01:16:51.520 --> 01:16:52.160

Lets just go ahead.

236

Neil Bettez 01:16:52.800 --> 01:17:09.560

Yeah, so thank you. We talked a little bit earlier about enhancing community resilience and how it's important to have open space for that sort of protection.

237

Neil Bettez 01:17:10.720 --> 01:17:31.200

And so, you know, it's always good to have a plan to do that, and it's better to have a plan than to just assume that while things are gonna work out. Most towns do have master plans already, and so, you know, in the, in New Paltz we have a master plan that's about thirty years old right now, but even though it's thirty years old,

238

Neil Bettez 01:17:31.480 --> 01:17:51.480

one of the five recommendations was that we preserve open spaces. Including hundred year floodplains and expand community owned recreation spaces, and so even though it's old, it's still very relevant. That hasn't changed.

239

Neil Bettez 01:17:51.680 --> 01:18:12.160

And so, a few years after the master plan was adopted in nineteen ninety- five, the town board created the committee to create an open space plan. Their job was to define an inventory, evaluate priority open spaces and work with the community to recommend and promote a plan and so with the next slide, please and.

240

Neil Bettez 01:18:12.280 --> 01:18:32.640

So by two thousand six, they had created an open space plan and the goals of that plan were to create trail connections, conservethey're working landscapes, focus on priority parcels, but at the same time, balance out the open space preservation with the tax base and

241

Neil Bettez 01:18:32.640 --> 01:18:40.520

their job was also to facilitate intermunicipal regional conservation initiatives. So next slide, please.

242

Neil Bettez 01:18:41.600 --> 01:19:02.600

One of the big recommendations of the plan was financing, it's really hard to preserve open space unless you have a way to pay for it, and so they recommended that the town develop a municipal bond that would meet the needs of what the town really wanted to preserve. It also recommended

243

Neil Bettez 01:19:03.360 --> 01:19:14.160

leveraging local investment, getting grants working with conservation organizations, so that the town wasn't paying for all of the conservation. So next slide, please.

244

Neil Bettez 01:19:15.520 --> 01:19:36.000

I wanted to maybe just give a little background now about the different types of funding that is available for preserving open space. So the simplest one is that local governments can just allocate funds, they could put money in their budget, put it on the tax roll. They could purchase land, do easements, a lot of towns do that.

245

Neil Bettez 01:19:37.920 --> 01:19:58.400

You know, the upside is that it's pretty easy to do. It's hard to do it many years in a row. So, to big do bigger projects, or multi- year planning, it often doesn't happen because you have to deal with the day-to- day issues in town, like, you know, the highway department needs a new truck or, you know, your negotiating a new contract. So

246

Neil Bettez 01:19:58.400 --> 01:20:18.880

open space conservation often doesn't work out in the long term, if you're just using budget appropriation. So if we go to the next slide, the other avenues are bonding. And so this is just like you're borrowing money for your house, right? So you got to pay for it over twenty or thirty years, instead of each year.

247

Neil Bettez 01:20:18.880 --> 01:20:39.360

And so let's let you raise a lot more capital and invest in long term gains, but you have to pay for those with the taxes. And there's two different ways that you can bond. You can put it on the ballot and let the voters decide or the

248

Neil Bettez 01:20:39.360 --> 01:20:59.840

town board can just approve borrowing the money, but then it opens itself up to a permissive referendum and so you can't, the board can vote on it, then you may have to wait thirty to ninety days if someone is opposed to that, then they can collect signatures and put it on a ballot and let the voters decide. So you, you'll often do things like if

249

Neil Bettez 01:20:59.840 --> 01:21:20.320

you're gonna buy a, a truck for the highway department and you're gonna borrow you, These are smaller purchases. For big capital improvements you often have to put it on the ballot. So for the next slide, I just wanna talk about the two different types of bond proposals. One would be a, a project driven bond proposal. So you identify a specific project followed by bonding authorization.

250

Neil Bettez 01:21:20.320 --> 01:21:20.960

251

Neil Bettez 01:21:21.480 --> 01:21:41.680

The benefit is that every people know what they're, what you're borrowing the money for. The downside? It just requires up front cost to identify and refine the proposal for the voters. Next slide, the other type is a bond amount proposal, so you, identify the amount of money you wanna borrow.

252

Neil Bettez 01:21:41.960 --> 01:21:56.640

And then you figure out what you want to buy afterwards. The advantage of this is that the community has a commitment to funding, but you don't have the upfront cost of identifying all separate parcels. Next one please.

253

Neil Bettez 01:21:58.600 --> 01:22:18.440

So in the town of New Paltz, after we passed the open space plan in November, there was a bond proposal for two million. It was placed on the ballot. The voters approved it with sixty- three percent approval rating after that, the town

254

Neil Bettez 01:22:18.440 --> 01:22:38.920

created a committee by passing a law for agricultural and open space preservation. This was the clean water open space commission. Their job was to list solicit, review, score applications and then submit them to the town board, and then the town board within thirty days, either approved their recommendations or had a public hearing where they

255

Neil Bettez 01:22:39.560 --> 01:22:46.520

had to defend why they did not agree with the recommendations and were not gonna be following through with that. So next slide, please.

256

Neil Bettez 01:22:49.200 --> 01:23:08.320

And so how, how has it worked out in New Paltz? So in two thousand and fourteen we mentioned earlier, the town used these funds to purchase sixty- three acres, the Millbrook preserve, for five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Basically created an urban green space park, adjacent to the village.

257

Neil Bettez 01:23:08.360 --> 01:23:27.880

It's very popular and then in two thousand eighteen, we purchased an easement for a hundred and twenty- nine thousand dollars on a thirty- two acre farm, right next to the village as well. So over twelve years, there were two purchases. We used 34 percent of the bond to preserve 95 acres.

258

Neil Bettez 01:23:28.840 --> 01:23:37.000

We wanted to figure out a more efficient and sustainable method to do this preservation. So if you go to the next slide.

259

Neil Bettez 01:23:41.000 --> 01:24:01.480

We wanted to take advantage of the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act. This act, some towns on Long Island have been creating community preservation funds for over twenty years. The Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act was

260

Neil Bettez 01:24:01.480 --> 01:24:21.960

applicable to some towns in the Hudson Valley. In two thousand nineteen we worked with Senator Metzger to have it expanded to include all of Ulster County and so we were part of it. next slide, please What it does is allows you to create a dedicated non- transferable fund to protect community character.

261

Neil Bettez 01:24:22.640 --> 01:24:40.960

You know, you can, it helps you create a preservation plan which lets you acquire interest in properties, you know, buying them or put easements on them. People can give you gifts and you can put them in the fund, but really what this is all about is it creates a local real estate transfer tax. So next slide, please.

262

Neil Bettez 01:24:42.440 --> 01:25:02.920

It's not as easy as it sounds to do this. You have to pass three different laws. One law establishing the preservation fund. Another law establishing the preservation plan, and then people have to review them. You have to send it to the DEC.

263

Neil Bettez 01:25:02.920 --> 01:25:23.400

After adopting the plan, then you have to pass another law, creating the transfer tax up to two percent, and then finally it has to go on to the ballot for a mandatory referendum, so you can do whatever you want, but then the voters get to decide and it's really up to them.

264

Neil Bettez 01:25:23.400 --> 01:25:29.680

Them, so you have to do a good job, putting your plan together and convincing people to do it. And go to the next slide.

265

Neil Bettez 01:25:33.000 --> 01:25:51.560

And so what's involved in the plan, the, you know, it's like most plans, you know, you have to describe the purpose of the plan, you have to create maps that define seven specific focus areas, and for each focus area

266

Neil Bettez 01:25:51.560 --> 01:26:12.040

you have to identify individual parcels by their identification number, their acreage and then prioritize them all. And in the end, if a parcel's not in the plan, you can't use the funds to do anything with it to buy it or to put an easement on it. And it, this is really so that the funds are not mismanaged and that they're used



267

Neil Bettez 01:26:12.040 --> 01:26:18.600

based on data. So I think it's really good idea to have these plans. next slide, please.

268

Neil Bettez 01:26:22.920 --> 01:26:40.840

So I just wanted to talk a little bit about the focus areas. If you've done, like natural resource inventories or anything else, you'll recognize the value, if you've done a historic preservation plan or wetlands plan or anything you'll recognize these focus areas. So there's water resources, agricultural

269

Neil Bettez 01:26:40.840 --> 01:26:50.360

lands habitat, natural areas, historic resources, scenic resources, recreation lands and trails and open space. next slide, please.

270

Neil Bettez 01:26:52.360 --> 01:27:12.120

And you may say, well, I already have all of these, if you've been working on these projects for years, you may already have a comprehensive plan, an open space inventory, open space plan, farmland protection plan, you know, all of these things. And one of the reasons that this plan wasn't even controversial in New Paltz because we had these plans and we built

271

Neil Bettez 01:27:12.240 --> 01:27:32.680

We use them to make the preservation plan. I would recommend you do the same sort of thing. next slide please. And so just for some background here, for one of the focus areas for water resources priorities, these are the type of things you would look at and you'd say, well, is this parcel.

272

Neil Bettez 01:27:32.680 --> 01:27:51.360

Is it in? Does it have the reservoir on it? Is it in an aquifer? Is it in a floodplain? Does it have wetlands in it? And then you, and then there's four more criteria as well, and then you would add all of those up and then that would be its order resources score. next slide. Please.

273

Neil Bettez 01:27:52.520 --> 01:28:04.840

And then you do the same thing for all of the different seven criteria. So ag, habitat, historic recreation, scenic, open space and then you add all of them up and that gives you the total score.

274

Neil Bettez 01:28:05.960 --> 01:28:26.440

Next slide, and then in the end, you know, we ended up with a 1,572 parcels, the scores range from one to twenty three. Like I said, even if you're not gonna be doing a preservation fund, this plan is really good way to kind of look at things holistically and instead of

275

Neil Bettez 01:28:26.440 --> 01:28:40.960

just looking at it's value for water. Or It's value for open space. It gives you a way to look at all of the different aspects that make a parcel valuable. I think it's a good plan. It's a good way to look at things too. next slide, please.

276

Neil Bettez 01:28:43.080 --> 01:28:52.560

And then, so I'm going over here the referendum, we, we passed it in New Paltz. next slide, please.

277

Neil Bettez 01:28:55.240 --> 01:29:14.440

So problem solved, right? We passed it, we've, it's been going well for a couple of years now. The committee's working with landowners. I'll go to the next slide. I gotta go hurry up gone to the next few problem solved, right, Actually, no, you, you can't just preserve open space. We've added

278

Neil Bettez 01:29:14.440 --> 01:29:34.920

Amanda talked about rezoning, We added density. We're working on accessory dwelling unit laws to add more density in certain parts of town, but you can't just preserve open space because people are gonna live everywhere they wanna live, so we need to start looking at how land is developed. So we got a grant from the DEC to look do a conservation

279

Neil Bettez 01:29:34.920 --> 01:29:37.800

overlay zone. Next slide, please.

280

Neil Bettez 01:29:40.680 --> 01:29:59.240

So this is really work in progress. We hope to have it done in the next few months. What we're doing is we're looking at areas that were already identified, multiple sources as containing large undisturbed ecosystems. These are valuable for lots of different reasons,

281

Neil Bettez 01:29:59.240 --> 01:30:19.720

for climate resiliency. And if you don't look at things from a bigger perspective, instead of, on an individual parcel level, eventually, everything is going to be developed, maybe not with a large subdivision, but with an individual development of like one house where they don't have to go before the planning board and they don't have to do SEQR. So it may not be tomorrow, next

282

Neil Bettez 01:30:19.760 --> 01:30:36.680

Year, five years, ten years, but eventually there's gonna be development and if you don't look at things from a holistic perspective and step back and see what sort of impact each project is going to have on that large intact ecosystem, it's gonna be death by a thousand cuts. So next video, next slide, please.

283

Neil Bettez 01:30:38.920 --> 01:30:49.840

So, you know, just a few questions people say, well this is gonna reduce the use of land? It doesn't change what's allowed on the land and it doesn't reduce the number of houses that are on the land. Next slide.

284

Neil Bettez 01:30:54.920 --> 01:31:14.760

All, you know, if you were building a subdivision, it's pretty much the same thing. The big difference is if you were gonna be building a single family home on a lot right now, you don't go before the planning board and you don't do SEQR; you just get to build what you want. We're not gonna not allow that, but we want you to kinda when you want to build

285

Neil Bettez 01:31:14.760 --> 01:31:35.880

your house on that property, if it's over six acres, so that already exempts about forty percent of the parcels in this area, which has a lot of intact forests, wetlands, everything else. The larger lots we want you to look at how your development of a single family home is going to impact that larger intact, natural ecosystem.

286

Neil Bettez 01:31:35.880 --> 01:31:36.520

And

287

Neil Bettez 01:31:37.160 --> 01:31:47.560

The mapping that we put together with the NRI, and we'll try to direct you just like we would with a cluster subdivision to say, well, maybe instead of putting your house here, put it over here. next slide please.

288

Neil Bettez 01:31:51.880 --> 01:32:11.720

Basically, it starts with a sketch plan, you work with the planning board, then there's a five-step process and they work with you to kind of prioritize preserving natural areas, where your house goes or your driveway goes, and it may seem like we're overstepping, but believe me in the long run your house will be better off if you

289

Neil Bettez 01:32:11.720 --> 01:32:27.800

leave those ecosystems intact and as climate change happens, you're gonna be luckier. And so that's what we're trying to do here, and I think that's all I have. Sorry to go over by minute a couple of minutes.

290

Ingrid Haeckel 01:32:31.560 --> 01:32:37.960

Thank you so much supervisor Bettez and, and Amanda Gotto for your presentations.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:32:41.200 --> 01:33:01.000

We asked, we invited you to present in part because New Paltz has is one of the communities that's really undertaken such a broad array of these different actions and although, you know, as Amanda said they weren't, many of them were under began well before this climate smart program, even

292

Ingrid Haeckel 01:33:01.000 --> 01:33:12.600

existed the town has continued to build on prior inventory and planning efforts to develop more policy that will protect natural areas in the long run.

293

Ingrid Haeckel 01:33:13.800 --> 01:33:18.920

There are there any questions coming in through chat or Q and A.

294

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:33:18.920 --> 01:33:38.960

Yeah, and I'll echo, thank you both for that great overview of new policy success and conservation planning. This is a question for Neil. Is there a risk that designating specific parcels in the community preservation plan will result in higher prices to secure these properties?

295

Neil Bettez 01:33:42.600 --> 01:33:49.280

We've identified them, but the list has not been made public, right? I don't think so.

296

Neil Bettez 01:33:50.280 --> 01:34:10.760

But, you know, these, every single one of these, if, if there's gonna be a purchase or an easement put on it, you have to have an outside assessment anyway, so it's really what, you know, the easement is worth what it's worth, or the assessment is worth.

297

Neil Bettez 01:34:11.400 --> 01:34:21.640

You have to have independent outside assessors, do it, so it doesn't really change what we would have to pay for it. Did I answer that?

298

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:34:22.920 --> 01:34:28.680

I mean, I don't know if the person who asked a question feels it got answered.

299

Neil Bettez 01:34:28.680 --> 01:34:29.960

Better, but.

300

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:34:29.960 --> 01:34:46.560

I mean, my guess is to one of the, the related issues with this question, is this idea that we're all struggling with, right? That if you can serve more land, it increases property values and there can be kind of unintentional

301

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:34:48.520 --> 01:34:59.040

outcomes, right for some, from some conservation work. So I think the fact that you're also looking at affordable housing and accessory dwelling units might be something worth talking about.

302

Neil Bettez 01:34:59.400 --> 01:35:19.880

So I, I think you'll, I think historically towns instead of preserving the land with easements or purchasing it they would say, well, let's just make the lots really big, and that will preserve the open space. Let's have a ten-acre lot size requirement, you know, all that does is create sprawl, and make it so each lot is then really expensive. So that's not a good

303

Neil Bettez 01:35:19.880 --> 01:35:40.360

way to do it. The, the way to do it is, I think what we're trying to do is with easements and preserving open space, and then you add density in other areas. The accessory dwelling units, like that's a priority, I think in the whole county. One of the reasons that we're pushing that is, you're getting density without sprawl. So you're not building a new subdivision, but

304

Neil Bettez 01:35:40.360 --> 01:36:00.840

you're adding another housing unit on a lot that's already developed, without building more roads, which is gonna cost us money to maintain, and to plow, and everything else, but we're also, there's been a lot of research that shows accessory dwelling units, allows, multi- generational families to live together or lets

305

Neil Bettez 01:36:00.840 --> 01:36:07.400

a family, maybe rent it out and get some income. So I think it's a good approach.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:36:07.880 --> 01:36:08.520

We have.

307

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:36:08.520 --> 01:36:15.120

One related question Ingrid, I'll just throw in here before we switch over to you is.

308

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:36:16.200 --> 01:36:26.440

Have you experienced any pushback from landowners opposed to seeing their parcels listed in the open space plan, but I'm assuming they're also referring to the community preservation plan.

309

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:36:27.720 --> 01:36:32.200

So, pushback from land owners whose property have been listed in these plans.

310

Neil Bettez 01:36:35.400 --> 01:36:55.880

No, I mean, it, it is what it is, right? The, it's data, right? We didn't no one sat around and said, Oh, we love that property. It's worth a lot of money to us. It's like, well you're property is worth x, y- plus z because it has wetlands or, you know, open space or

311

Neil Bettez 01:36:55.880 --> 01:37:04.280

floodplain in it, you know. All we're doing is quantifying what they're worth.

312

Ingrid Haeckel 01:37:04.840 --> 01:37:25.320

And I would add to that Neil, you know, the New Paltz plan doesn't actually, there's, there's no map showing the top priority parcels. And because the plan is so inclusive in its approach, most properties with any development potential are included if they have a natural resource on them, and the

313

Ingrid Haeckel 01:37:25.320 --> 01:37:42.480

way the data shared is, like, large tables of parcel lists, right? So it's not, I think that was done in part to avoid this situation of landowners feeling like their property was being singled out for preservation, but.

314

Neil Bettez 01:37:43.240 --> 01:37:43.880

It's just one

315

Ingrid Haeckel 01:37:43.880 --> 01:37:49.000

approach, you know, just to avoiding potentially landowners by.

316

Neil Bettez 01:37:49.000 --> 01:38:04.360

Yeah, that's a good point. We didn't say, Oh, well these are the most valuable properties in town. We tried to put a score on almost every single parcel, right? Be because everything has some value to it.

317

Laura Heady (she, her) 01:38:04.360 --> 01:38:17.800

And also shouldn't we add to that, the land owner needs to be willing to even participate in any conservation actions, so it's not like being on the list, make some subject to some action that they're not interested in being involved in.

318

Neil Bettez 01:38:17.800 --> 01:38:29.880

Yeah, I mean, if anything having the list makes it harder for the town because they'll say, well, my property is rank number one. You should be, you should be giving me lots of money and, but that's why you do the outside assessment.

319

Ingrid Haeckel 01:38:31.240 --> 01:38:51.720

There's a question from Riohbart saying some communities seem to rely mostly on securing state and federal grants for doing conservation work rather than raising taxes. New Paltz has been more creative. Is there a problem of just using state and federal grants to do critical local conservation work.

320

Neil Bettez 01:38:53.640 --> 01:39:12.840

Well, as someone who writes lots of grants, they're hard to get and it, they take a long time to get and you may miss your opportunity to preserve that, that critical area because you didn't get the grant. I mean, what I find is it often takes

321

Neil Bettez 01:39:12.840 --> 01:39:33.320

you know, one, two, three, usually more attempts to get the grant. What I've also been told and I've actually seen it now, is when you have a pool of money you get approached by the state and other agencies to see if you wanna collaborate with them because they know you're ready to go.

322

Neil Bettez 01:39:33.400 --> 01:39:53.800

Versus like, Oh, well, we'll work with you, but we have to get a grant and, you know, then they're gonna go somewhere else. So having either the bonding ability or the fund means that you're, you're ready to go and it's more likely to happen. At least that's what I've been told, and the two other towns that we've interacted

323

Neil Bettez 01:39:53.800 --> 01:40:14.200

with a lot before we passed this Warwick, and Red Hook, I think both of them, you know, they've gotten more than more than half of all of the funding has come from outside sources because they've collaborated instead of just having to fund it with grants. And even if you get a grant, you still have to do a match.

324

Neil Bettez 01:40:14.280 --> 01:40:18.680

So grants aren't the only answer, but they help.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:40:22.600 --> 01:40:43.080

There, there's a question from Ruben about whether there's a published, delineated process available for CPP preparation, and I can go ahead and answer that and say, no, there's no specific guidance on developing a CPP. There is criteria laid out in state policy

326

Ingrid Haeckel 01:40:43.080 --> 01:40:51.400

in order to pursue community preservation fund, you need to have authorization from the legislature and we should, I don't think this was in

327

Ingrid Haeckel 01:40:52.040 --> 01:41:12.520

Neil's presentation. At present there's only certain communities that have that authorization. In the Hudson Valley, the communities in the counties of Westchester, Putnam and Ulster are authorized currently, and then there's a handful of individual municipalities that have gotten

328

Ingrid Haeckel 01:41:12.520 --> 01:41:33.000

authorization like Warwick and Red Hook and the town of Chatham. So that's kind of a big first hurdle is to, you know, to achieve the authorization. And those laws then say, you know, they lay out what needs to be included in the CPP, but our staff, if you are in an area that's authorized.

329

Ingrid Haeckel 01:41:33.000 --> 01:41:37.480

If you're interested in pursuing this, we can provide some guidance and, and assistance with it.

330

Neil Bettez 01:41:38.220 --> 01:41:58.700

I Approached our state senator before Metzger and I asked if they would be willing to sponsor us and, and so New Paltz could do this, and it was different political climate at the time, and that it's a big hurdle to, to get over. That's why I hope the state passes the statewide.

331

Neil Bettez 01:41:58.740 --> 01:41:59.860

332

Neil Bettez 01:42:01.260 --> 01:42:17.220

law saying that, you know, I, what I told our representative at the time is like, let the people decide, let the local people. They still have to vote on it and decide in the end, and so if you believe in democracy, let the local people decide whether they wanna tax themselves or not.

333

Ingrid Haeckel 01:42:19.820 --> 01:42:26.860

We're getting close to two thirty. There's one last question here from Chris saying some parcels.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:42:27.500 --> 01:42:40.900

May have value and need protection because they're particularly vulnerable or presents a risk to the greater human or natural community, others may have value because they provide an opportunity for future,

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:42:42.220 --> 01:42:51.660

for the future for conservation, like habitat, that might be important in the future, I guess,

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:42:53.100 --> 01:42:58.300

Did the new Paltz approach distinguish between these conditions, and if so how?



337

Ingrid Haeckel 01:43:01.420 --> 01:43:02.700

Did you get that Neil? I guess.

338

Neil Bettez 01:43:02.700 --> 01:43:23.060

Yeah, no, I mean, I think we tried to look at all of these different areas. I think the, the water is a good one. You know, we looked at if it was in the floodplain, if it had wetlands, was it, you know, in the aquifer, we tried to look at as many different possibilities

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Neil Bettez 01:43:23.180 --> 01:43:43.660

as there were, does it have open space. So hopefully we, we captured some of those things like, does that make it more resilient than the future? You know, it wasn't just like, Oh, I love the view of that one, right? And so I, I think we had, you know, so many different criteria that adde.

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Neil Bettez 01:43:43.660 --> 01:44:04.140

all of those points up that we tried to capture all of them, but the plan also gets has to be revisited once every five years, so, you know, there have already been a few parcels that for whatever reason they weren't on the list, and they've come up as like, Oh, that would have been valuable for different reasons.

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Neil Bettez 01:44:04.140 --> 01:44:15.900

So we would try to be as broad as possible, and hopefully we caught them, but we, you don't know what, what the future holds, which is why under the law you have to revisit the plan.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:44:16.300 --> 01:44:33.580

Yeah, it's, that's a great point and the New Paltz plan does include the nature conservancy resilient land mapping as one criteria for climate resilience for biodiversity. So that is kind of a forward looking habitat value

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:44:33.580 --> 01:44:34.220

assessment.

344

Neil Bettez 01:44:34.220 --> 01:44:34.860

345

Ingrid Haeckel 01:44:35.100 --> 01:44:55.340

But it is two third. Really wanna thank our guest speakers, Eleanor Peck, Amanda Gotto, and Supervisor Neil Bettez for joining us today and for your wonderful presentations and we will share out the slides from these presentations and the link to the recording with everyone.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:44:55.340 --> 01:45:03.300

On sometime early next week. So thank you very much for attending and have a wonderful rest of your afternoon.

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Neil Bettez 01:45:03.660 --> 01:45:05.460

No, thanks.

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Ingrid Haeckel 01:45:06.860 --> 01:45:08.140

I think it's everyone.