



ANNUAL REPORT

LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

2022



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LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is a formal citizens advisory group that was formed by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors in 1979. The EMC was established to foster coordinated action on environmental issues among local governments and public and private organizations within the County. Its charge is to work cooperatively with the Board of Supervisors, local municipalities, and citizens of the County on the protection, preservation, development, and use of the County's natural resources.

In order to meet the mission of the EMC and to provide a focus for their yearly activities, the Council creates an Annual Work Plan, conducts a SWOT Analysis, sets top priorities and concludes the year with an Annual Report.

The Annual Work Plan reflects the mission of the EMC, identifies activities that support the mission and tracks progress on those activities. The Work Plan emphasizes the importance of education as a primary goal of the EMC and the importance of the EMC as a resource for municipal officials, environmental and government agencies, and the community.

Work Plan

The SWOT Analysis is conducted yearly by the EMC. Go to Page 4 for more information.

SWOT

2022 EMC Work Plan Priorities

Membership Recruitment

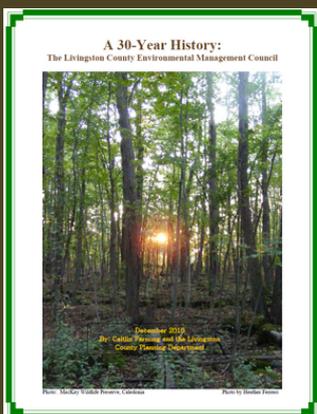
Invasive Species Environmental Education & Activities

Impact of Energy Development on Natural Resources

Priorities

This Livingston County EMC Annual Report documents the activities completed and supported by the EMC in 2021, and provides a proposed program for 2023.

Annual Report



The history of the Livingston County EMC has been compiled into a report, "30-Year History: The Livingston County Environmental Management Council," which synthesizes 30 years of history and documents the important and diverse services that the Council has provided.



SWOT ANALYSIS

From a Livingston County Viewpoint

The EMC conducts an annual SWOT Analysis to identify the internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as the external opportunities and threats, focusing on the Livingston County environment. The Analysis is used by the EMC in Work Plan development, ensuring coverage of important topics in its efforts to protect and enhance the County environment.

Strengths

- EMC
- Erosion control regs/laws
- Farmland and soil quality
- Fresh water lakes
- Genesee Valley Conservancy
- Good location relative to climate change
- Hardwood forests
- Livingston County Community Clean Up
- Natural Resources Inventory
- State lands & parks
- SUNY Geneseo & science partners
- Watershed Education Center

Weaknesses

- Aging infrastructure
- Competition for funding resources
- County economy
- Decline in volunteerism
- Lack of diversity of EMC membership, need business and industry view

Opportunities

- Aesthetic improvements to natural areas
- Climate Action Plan
- Continue to work with Highway Depts: ditching, hydroseeding
- Education
- Electric vehicle infrastructure
- Hydropower
- Keep agriculture strong
- New recycling possibilities
- New technologies
- Protection of soils, and farming operations by organic & traditional methods
- Tree planting initiatives/seed library
- Use of Stormwater Toolkit

Threats

- Climate change
- Development pressure
- Economic pressure on farmers
- External interest in our resources
- Human footprint
- Invasive species
- Inactive municipal dumpsites, junkyards
- Landfills in the County
- Large-scale solar impacts
- Long term consequences of mining operations
- State/Federal policies & regulations

What is a SWOT Analysis?

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats; a SWOT analysis is a technique for assessing these four aspects of a business or organization. A SWOT Analysis is a tool that can help to analyze what a business or organization is successful at right now, and to devise successful strategies and a work plan for the future.



The EMC has an authorized membership of 20 volunteer members, and representation in three broad categories of agriculture, general citizenry, and industry-commerce. Council members serve two year terms. The EMC meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month. All meetings are open to the public.

There are openings in all three categories at this time. Please call the Planning Department at (585) 243-7550 or (585) 335-1734 if you are interested in joining the EMC.

**NEW IN 2022
RECRUITMENT FLYER**



MEMBERSHIP LIST 2022

AGRICULTURE	MUNICIPALITY	SERVICE
Robert Donnan	York	36 years
Susan Walker	Springwater	28 years
INDUSTRY-COMMERCE	MUNICIPALITY	SERVICE
Paula Smith	Leicester	3 years
GENERAL CITIZEN	MUNICIPALITY	SERVICE
Ray Case	Livonia	12 years
Dan DeZarn	SUNY Geneseo	7 years
Patti LaVigne	Geneseo	3 years
Darlene Necaster	SUNY Geneseo	6 years
David W. Parish	Geneseo	40 years
Alex Pierce	Nunda	8 years

The Council expresses appreciation to two long term members that retired from the Council in 2022:

David H. Swanson, serving 39 years
William McCleary, serving 25 years

The Council proudly recognizes the commitment of several long-term members currently serving::

David W. Parish (40 years)
Robert Donnan (36 years)
Susan Walker (28 years)



CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL SCOPING PLAN

The 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) is one of the most ambitious climate laws in the nation. In 2021, the Climate Action Council completed and released the Draft Scoping Plan which included recommendations to meet the Climate Act's goals and requirements.

The Plan identifies actions needed for New York to achieve:

- 70% renewable electricity by 2030
- 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040
- 40% reduction in statewide GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2030
- 85% reduction in statewide GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2050
- Net zero emissions statewide by 2050

In 2022, the State held a public comment period to receive feedback on the Draft Scoping Plan. The EMC submitted comments directly to the State and also joined in a regional response facilitated by the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. The EMC comments provided a brief summary of major strategies and goals within the Plan, potential impacts to the County and local municipalities, and recommendations and considerations for the County.

The Final Scoping Plan was released in late 2022. The EMC is considering a priority for 2023 to review the Final Plan, continue assessment of potential impacts, and provide recommendations to the County, as the County considers a plan of action.

2022 EMC ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION



AUTISM NATURE TRAIL

The EMC sponsors/co-sponsors educational programs, workshops and/or tours focused on community environmental topics of interest or concern. The 2022 Work Plan focused on environmental education prioritizing invasive species. The EMC sponsored the following educational & training tours in 2022:



LETCHWORTH STATE PARK TOUR



**INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WALK AT
GVC NDIAN FORT NATURE PRESERVE**



EARTH DAY AWARD

In observance of global Earth Day, the EMC implements the Livingston County Earth Day Award Program. This annual program provides recognition to individuals, organizations, groups or businesses for outstanding achievements in preserving or improving Livingston County's environment or educating others about the environment. The EMC selected Richard Thomas as the 2022 Earth Day Award recipient.

The EMC recognized Mr. Thomas for his long-term commitment to the protection of Livingston County natural resources. During Mr. Thomas' 32-year career in environmental law enforcement with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, he was charged with protecting the natural resources of 11 counties in Western NY, including Livingston County.

Mr. Thomas is also known locally for management of his forever-wild 23-acre nature preserve, White Hawk Marsh, and the family's Walnut Woods Farm, which he maintains under an active conservation plan. As a public speaker, he inspires and educates students and the community on natural resource conservation, and makes use of these areas for hands-on learning. Upon retirement, Mr. Thomas has continued his passion for environmental appreciation and knowledge through his professional photography business.

The EMC commends Mr. Thomas for his impressive work on behalf of Livingston County.



RICHARD THOMAS WITH THE EMC

RICHARD THOMAS WITH NYS DEC STAFF



COMMUNICATION WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A goal for 2022 was to continue a dialogue with the Livingston County Board of Supervisors through the Public Services Committee to maintain communications, foster good relations, and gain a better understanding of how the EMC can best serve the County's environmental needs. The Planning Department continued to communicate bi-monthly activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors and the Public Services Committee. Annually, the EMC Chairman presents to the Livingston County Public Services Committee, providing an overview of the EMC.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

The EMC sponsored the Annual Livingston County Community CleanUp Event in 2022. As part of this countywide initiative, citizens, groups, organizations, and municipalities rallied together or worked on socially distanced activities to clean up roadsides, parks, and cemeteries in celebration of Earth Day. Local organizers worked with their communities to coordinate their events. The County provided social media promotion of the events and a site for posting pictures.



[HTTP://WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTY.US/CLEANUPLIVCO](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/cleanuplivco)

WEBSITE

The EMC maintains a website to enhance awareness of the Council and promote access to local and regional environmental resources. The site provides EMC history, membership and meeting information. Resources include EMC Annual Reports, EMC 30-Year History Report, Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory, Earth Day Award Program and EMC sponsored events. [WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTY.US/EMC](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/emc)

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The EMC reports on the status of regulatory permitting and redevelopment programs that may have an impact on local communities. In 2022, the EMC reported on NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Environmental Permits and State and Federal Proposed Regulations. NYS DEC Environmental Notice Bulletins (ENB) were reviewed and municipal notification was provided:

- Town of Groveland, CRNG- Cale Anode Upgrade Project, Freshwater Wetlands Permit
- Town of Ossian, Wilson Pit, Mine Land Reclamation
- Town of Avon, Oak Openings, Article 15 Water Withdrawal Permit



ALERTS & INFORMATION

Invasive species can cause harm to the environment, human, animal and plant health, and the economy. Human activity and climate change have dramatically increased the rate of spread of invasives. Prevention, early detection and rapid response can help stop or slow the spread of new and emerging invasive species, and public education is key. The EMC addresses the priority of invasive species education by disseminating invasive species alerts and information to municipalities, agencies and interested partners, and incorporating these topics in their public education programs and tours.

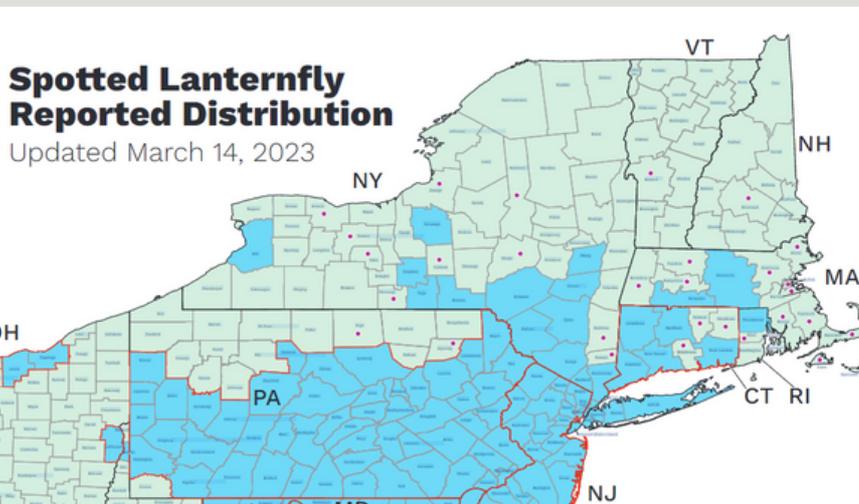
In 2022, the EMC participated in the deployment and monitoring of SLF traps in the Conesus Lake watershed in Livingston County.



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF) EGG MASSES

SLF LIFE CYCLE

TREE OF HEAVEN, HOST FOR SLF



For more information: spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov



NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Per New York State Environmental Conservation Law, a primary goal of the EMC is to develop and maintain an inventory of natural resources within Livingston County. A major undertaking of the EMC has been the development of the Livingston County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Over the course of many years, the EMC compiled information on Livingston County's natural and historic resources, engaged local governments in the identification process, and produced NRI Volume I in 2005 and Volume II in 2007. The full NRI was widely distributed.

The NRI is available on the Livingston County website, and the EMC updates the NRI regularly as new resources are identified. The NRI is utilized by the Livingston County Planning Board regularly as part of their zoning referral review process. Advisory comments on the presence and location of natural and historic resources and potential impacts are forwarded to municipal boards for their consideration. In 2021, the County Planning Board utilized updated Soils maps, with data provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTY.US/EMC

WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER

In line with the priority of invasive species education, the EMC supports the Watershed Education Center (WEC) presentation series and events. The Town of Livonia’s Watershed Education Center, located at Vitale Park, is the first of its kind in Western New York. The WEC functions as a center for citizen-science programming and invasive species monitoring and hosts a monthly speaker series on educational topics with a focus on the watershed. The educational programming is a collaborative effort involving the Town of Livonia, Conesus Lake Association, Livingston County Department of Health, Livingston County Planning Department/EMC, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Chip Holt Nature Center.

Some EMC members also serve on the WEC Education Committee; the entity that designs and implements the Annual Education Series.

COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATION

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan

The Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan is a comprehensive plan that outlines measures designed to improve and protect the water quality of Conesus Lake. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council, with support from cooperative watershed partners and agencies, is responsible for plan implementation. The EMC receives updates on the implementation efforts and activities and water quality issues.

Livingston County has been awarded a grant through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to undertake an Update to the Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan. The EMC was a participant in the development of the Watershed Management Plan in 2003; the EMC has been invited to participate in the Update process beginning in 2023.

County & Regional Projects

One of the primary goals of the EMC is to act as a resource for Livingston County. The EMC provides municipalities with educational and environmental resources. The EMC has identified that countywide communication is a way to meet this goal by connecting municipalities with resources that assist them in increasing energy efficiency, reducing energy costs, and accessing low or no-cost funding sources.

In 2022, information on solar and battery energy storage (BESS) and NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program was distributed. The EMC also participated in and promoted the Clean Energy Communities Training program; participation in these trainings resulted in Livingston County earning their Clean Energy Communities designation and a \$5,000 grant to be used for a future clean energy project.



2023 CONESUS LAKE EDUCATION SERIES

Watershed Education Center
2023 Program Schedule

You're invited to attend FREE monthly educational programs and lectures on a wide range of environmental and historical topics of interest and concern to residents and friends of the Conesus Lake watershed. All programs will be held online and/or at the Watershed Education Center at Vitale Park in Lakeville. Most programs start at 6:30 p.m. For updates on our 2023 schedule, scan the QR code below or visit our website: www.conesuslake.org/lake-community/wec

Call (585) 346-6864 to register.

We hope to see you at our next FREE program.




Date	TOPICS
January 10	Livonia High School Student Projects
February 8	Farming in the Watershed, Farmer Panel Discussion
March 22	Lake Monitoring and Tools You Can Use
April 12	Letchworth State Park, a Fresh Perspective
April 17	Rain Barrel Make and Take
May 1	Watershed Management Plan Updates
June 14	Managing Nuisance Wildlife
July 20	Property Owner's Guide to Rain Gardens, Bioswales & Rainwater Harvesting
August 23	Property Owner's Guide to Increasing Resiliency to Flooding, Erosion & Ice Jams
September 12	In-Lake Phosphorus Control
September 16	Invasive Species Paddle
October 7	Bird Walk with Hans Kunz
November 15	Drones: Their Surprising Uses & Benefits
December 5	SUNY Brockport / Geneseo Student Projects / Antarctica project

This ad was funded by the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance through an appropriation from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

[HTTPS://CONESUSLAKE.ORG/](https://conesuslake.org/)





2023 EMC Work Plan Priorities

- Resiliency to Climate Change
- Membership Recruitment
- Invasive Species Environmental Education & Activities
- Impact of Energy Development on Natural Resources



Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan
Participate in the Plan Update process



Earth Day Award
Select 2023 Award Recipient



Environmental Education
Invasive Species Work Day at GVC Indian Fort Nature Preserve
Letchworth State Park Tour
Networking with state & local organizations on IS awareness



Green Infrastructure
Pollinator Garden Spring Opening



Livingston County Community CleanUp
Promote and organize events for countywide initiative



Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)
Identify cultural, historical & natural resources for the NRI



Statewide Environmental Activities
Climate Action Council Scoping Plan Review



Website
Participate in updates of County Alternative Energy website



EMC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES



Support Watershed Education Center Presentations



Support County projects and communication

ACRONYMS

BESS - Battery Energy Storage Systems

CLA - Conesus Lake Association

DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation

DPW - Department of Public Works

EMC - Environmental Management Council

ENB - Environmental Notice Bulletin

GVC - Genesee Valley Conservancy

FLI - Finger Lakes Institute

IS - Invasive Species

ISAW - Invasive Species Awareness Week

NRI - Natural Resources Inventory

NYSERDA - New York State Energy Research & Development Authority

PRISM - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

SLF - Spotted Lanternfly

SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

WEC - Watershed Education Center

WQC - Water Quality Committee