

# ANNUAL REPORT

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL





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LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

6 Court Street, Room 305  
Geneseo, New York 14454-1043  
Telephone: (585) 243-7550 or (585) 335-1734  
Fax: (585) 243-7566  
Website: [www.livingstoncountyny.gov/emc](http://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/emc)  
E-mail: [munderhill@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:munderhill@co.livingston.ny.us)

TREE IMAGES/GRAPHICS DEDICATED  
TO DAVID SWANSON,  
EMC MEMBER WITH  
39 YEARS OF SERVICE



## History

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 (Council) was established to foster coordinated action on environmental issues among local governments and public and private organizations within the County.

## Mission

The EMC's 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 provide a focus for their activities, the Council:

Creates a Yearly Plan -

that reflects the mission of the EMC, identifies activities that support the mission and tracks progress on those activities. The Yearly 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.

Conducts a SWOT Analysis -

to assess the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats, with a focus on the Livingston County environment. Go to Page 4 for more information.

Sets top priorities -

### 2024 EMC Yearly Plan Priorities

Emerging Contaminants

Forestry and Woodland Health

Invasive Species Environmental Education & Activities

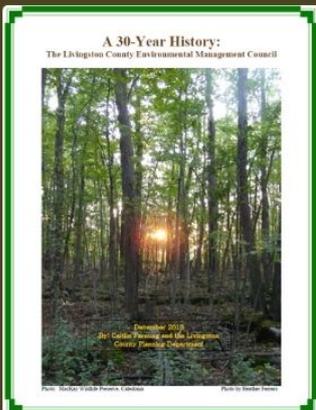
Local and Regional Partnerships

Membership Recruitment

Resiliency to Climate Change

Issues an Annual Report -

documenting the activities completed and supported by the EMC in 2024 and provides a proposed program for 2025.



The history of the Livingston County EMC was compiled in 2010 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.

To review the Report:

[www.livingstoncountyny.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/155](http://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/155)

# 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 Yearly Plan development, ensuring coverage of important topics in its efforts to protect and enhance the County environment.

### 2024 PROGRAM

#### Strengths

- EMC
- Erosion control regs/laws
- Farmland and soil quality
- Fresh water lakes
- Good location, no extreme climate risks, i.e. heat
- Hardwood forests
- Livingston County Community Clean Up
- Municipal, County, State lands & parks
- Natural Resources Inventory
- School/College/SUNY resources
- Local/Regional/State partnerships
  - Conesus Lake Association, Dept of A&M
  - NYSDEC, Genesee Valley Conservancy
- Watershed Education Center

#### 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
- Recycling, composting programs, Impact Earth
- New technologies
- Protection of soils, and farming operations
  - by organic & traditional methods
- Tree planting initiatives/seed library
- Use of Stormwater Toolkit

#### Weaknesses

- Aging infrastructure
- Competition for funding resources
- County economy
- Decline in volunteerism
- Geographic distance from community resources
- Lack of diversity of EMC membership,
  - need business and industry view
- Poverty more widespread/less concentrated,
  - can be challenging to address and fund
- Rural nature lends itself to increased single
  - vehicle occupancy transportation reliability
- State's focus on disadvantaged communities
  - and environmental justice areas limits
  - availability of funding opportunities

#### Threats

- Climate change
- Development pressure
- Economic pressure on farmers
- External interest in our resources
- Waste management
- 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 primarily comprised of volunteers in the following categories: Agriculture, Environmental Action, Environmental Education, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Technology, and General Citizen. Opportunities to join the EMC may also be available with recommendation for appointment by the Town or Village. Members serve two year terms. The EMC meets every other month, and meetings are open to the public.

Please call the Planning Department at (585) 243-7550, or (585) 335-1734 if you are interested in joining the EMC.

**MEMBERSHIP LIST 2024**

<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>
Robert Donnan	York	38 years	Patti LaVigne	Geneseo	5 years
Susan Walker	Springwater	30 years			
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION</b>			<b>ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Ray Case	Livonia	14 years	Ronald Jennings	Leicester	1st year
Katie Fish	Geneseo	2 years	Darlene Necaster	SUNY Geneseo	8 years
			Alex Pierce	Nunda	10 years
			Paula Smith	Leicester	5 years



The EMC identified the goal to update the Council’s bylaws which required updating the Livingston County Board of Supervisors’ Enabling Resolutions first. In 2024, the Enabling Resolutions were approved, and in 2025, the Council will address updates to the Bylaws.

As a result of these changes, the Council anticipates positive impacts on membership recruitment and achieving quorum, and improved support of the Council’s overall operations.

**In memorium**



David with daughter, Colleen, and son, Jeff at Osage Farms

In 2024, the EMC and our Livingston County community lost a valuable, long term member, David Swanson. David was our second longest serving member of the Council, with 39 years of dedicated service.

David was a strong agricultural voice at the EMC table as owner of Osage Farms in Mount Morris, the multi-generational family farm that he ran with his wife, Helen, and his son, Jeff. David embraced the mission of the EMC to connect those to the natural world around them by experiencing it directly. David was that direct connection for many people over many years, opening their family farm to school groups, college students, staff from NYSDEC and Letchworth State Park, our EMC, the general public, and many friends and family. All were inspired by David’s dedication to family, farm, and land.

The EMC benefitted from several of David’s special interests. He was knowledgeable on local history and advocated for historic preservation. David was also an advocate for combining farming and forestry on their lands, and due to his care of the land and his passion for trees, he maintained an historic osage orange hedgerow and the NYS Co-Champion Bur Oak tree.

We valued David’s candor and honesty, for sharing his environmental passions, for encouraging us to take action, and for asking the questions, why or why not? We appreciated his commitment to the EMC, and feel fortunate to have served alongside him for these many years. David will be greatly missed as a member of the EMC and as a member of our community.



# CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

## State Actions

2019 - NYS passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2022 - NYS Climate Action Council released the Final Scoping Plan with recommendations to meet the Climate Act's goals and requirements.

2023- EMC reviewed the Final Scoping Plan, assessed potential impacts for the County and local municipalities, and provided recommendations and considerations to the County, as the County considers a plan of action.

2024- EMC has prioritized support of the County's climate action planning and remains available as needed.

## Regional Actions

2022 - EPA provided funding to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (GFLRPC) to create a climate action plan for the region, including Livingston County.

2024 - GFLRPC created the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the region using Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funding. GFLRPC is working on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). EMC and Livingston County representatives are supporting the County in this process by participating in all 7 of the CCAP Focus Groups.

## Local Actions

The EMC will continue to support County and municipal involvement in NYS energy efficiency programs, such as NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities. The EMC will also assist the County and municipalities with access to resources and grant information.

2024 - EMC hosted a presentation by GFLRPC on both Energy programs and an update on CCAP.

# 2024 EMC ACTIVITIES

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & TRAIL WORK DAYS



ISAW WORK DAY AT SUNY GENESEO ROEMER ARBORETUM



LETCHWORTH STATE PARK TOUR

The EMC sponsors/co-sponsors educational programs, trail work days and tours focused on environmental topics of interest or concern.

**4** EMC sponsored activities

**25** saplings planted

**70** People served



GVC GREEN TEAM WORK DAY AT INDIAN FORT NATURE PRESERVE

WEC ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS NIGHT

SEE PAGE 9



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 Impact Earth and their founders as the 2024 Earth Day Award recipient.

The Livingston County Environmental Management Earth Day Award was presented to Elizabeth Carey & Robert Putney, Co-Founders of Impact Earth in recognition of outstanding and consistent contributions to environmental protection and stewardship in Livingston County.

The EMC commends Impact Earth for their impressive work with SUNY Geneseo, Livingston County, and the Finger Lakes region at-large, to inspire behavior change that will lead to a more sustainable future. Their achievements have contributed to the protection and conservation of Livingston County's natural resources and to the quality of life for our residents.

The EMC thanks Impact Earth for their efforts.

Earth Day Awards presented since 1999



Award presented by the Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors

Robert Putney, Co-founder of Impact Earth, joined by Katie Fish, EMC member, Mary Underhill, EMC support staff, and Alex Pierce, EMC Chairman



## COMMUNICATION WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A goal for 2024 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 2024. As part of this countywide initiative, groups, organizations, municipalities and individuals cleaned 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.



CONESUS LAKE ASSOCIATION



WEST SPARTA

**8** Towns & Villages hosted events

**5** Agencies, organizations and schools participated

**14** Sites cleaned or improved

**100+** Fantastic volunteers



LIVINGSTON COUNTY CARES

[WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTYNY.GOV/CLEANUPLIVCO](http://WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTYNY.GOV/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.LIVINGSTONCOUNTYNY.GOV/EMC](http://WWW.LIVINGSTONCOUNTYNY.GOV/EMC)

## REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

The EMC reports on the status of regulatory permitting and redevelopment programs that may have an impact on local communities. In 2024, the EMC reported on NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Environmental Permits and State and Federal Proposed Regulations. The EMC reviews NYSDEC Environmental Notice Bulletins (ENB) monthly for Livingston County and provides notifications to municipalities as needed.

**19** NYSDEC Environmental Notice Bulletins reviewed on behalf of **8** Towns & **2** Villages & **1** County  
**3** Municipal notification provided

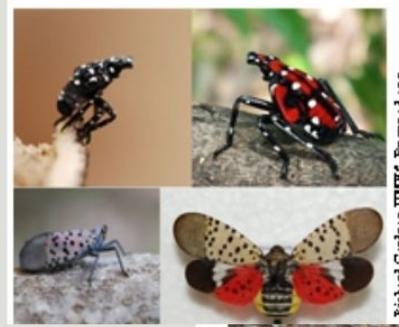


## ALERTS & INFORMATION

Invasive species (IS) 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 IS. The EMC prioritizes IS education, disseminates alerts and information to municipalities, agencies and interested partners on invasives, and incorporates these topics in their education programs and tours.

In 2024, the EMC supported the CLA deployment and monitoring of SLF traps by hosting traps in the Conesus Lake watershed.

2 SLF traps deployed    0 Detections



SLF LIFE CYCLE

**WATCH FOR & REPORT!**



**SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF) EGG MASSES**

For more information: [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov)

## Environmental Careers Night at the WEC

In 2024, the EMC supported a ‘first of its kind’ presentation at the Watershed Education Center (WEC) - an Environmental Careers Night focused on youth/students seeking first time employment and job seekers looking for a career change. A well rounded group of panelists gave a sneak peek into their daily work lives, backgrounds, and qualifications so that participants could see if that job might be for them. EMC members assisted with coordination, and one member was a guest panelist.



**Amy Slentz**

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager  
PRISM/Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

**Josh Galiley**

J. Galiley Arbor Consulting LLC

**Lexie Davis**

Great Lakes Water Resources Scientist  
NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University  
NYSDEC/Finger Lakes Watershed Hub & Great Lakes Program

**Timothy Ellis**

Land Surveying Technician, Stantec

**Darlene Necaster**

Assistant Director Custodial and Grounds, SUNY Geneseo

## NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Per NYS Environmental Conservation Law, a 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). The EMC compiled information on the 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 NRI is available on the Livingston County website. The NRI is utilized by the Livingston County Planning Board regularly as part of their zoning referral review process. Advisory comments on the presence/location of natural and historic resources and potential impacts are forwarded to municipal boards for their consideration.

In preparation for the NRI Update in 2025, the EMC started their review of other NRIs and corresponding websites and story maps, both in and out of NYS.

## WATERSHED EDUCATION CENTER

The EMC supports the Watershed Education Center (WEC) presentation series and events. The Town of Livonia’s Watershed Education Center functions as a center for citizen-science programming and invasive species education and hosts a monthly speaker series. The program 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.



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 Lakewille. Most programs start at 6:30 p.m. For updates on our 2024 schedule, scan the QR code below or visit our website: [www.conesuslake.org/lake-community/wec](http://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 17	Macroplastics and Their Effects on our Lives and the Environment
February 21	Conservation Best Management Practices
March 6	Total Solar Eclipse with the RMSC
April 16	Livonia High School Student Projects
May 6	Rain Barrel Make and Take
May 23	Summer Lake-wide Blooms and Shoreline Harmful Algal Blooms on Conesus Lake
June 12	Conesus Lake Fishing, DEC projects, and the Rudd Invasion
July 10	Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Volunteer Programs and Their Community Outreach
August 14	Muller Field Station and Educational Outreach Program
September 18	Harmful Algal Blooms Mitigation and Nutrient Inactvants
October 17	Geology and Magnetism
November TBD	Environmental Careers Night
December 10	SUNY Brockport and SUNY Geneseo Student Projects

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/)

## 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 watershed partners and agencies, is responsible for plan implementation. The EMC receives updates on 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 will participate in the Update process in 2025.

### 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 facilitates countywide communication to connect municipalities with resources that assist them in increasing energy efficiency, reducing energy costs, and accessing low or no-cost funding sources.

The EMC provided letters of support for two local grants in 2024, to assist SUNY Brockport in the eradication of Mile-a-Minute in the Town of Geneseo and to assist the Genesee Valley Conservancy in the creation of their Invasive Species Strike Team for removal and restoration efforts in five nature preserves (Village of Geneseo, and Towns of Avon, Geneseo, North Dansville and Wayland).

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EMC supported	<b>2</b> Counties
<b>2</b> grants for	<b>4</b> Towns
	<b>1</b> Village
	<b>1</b> University

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## 2025 EMC Work Plan Priorities

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Forestry & Woodlands Health             | Membership Recruitment       |
| Invasive Species Education & Activities | Resiliency to Climate Change |
| Local & Regional Partnerships           | Emerging Contaminants        |

## EMC PROPOSED PROGRAM



### Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan

Participate in the Plan Update process



### Earth Day Award

Select Annual Award Recipient



### Environmental Education & Trail Work Days

Invasive Species Awareness Week Event, location TBD

Letchworth State Park Tour

Network with state & local organizations on IS awareness



### Membership Recruitment

Networking with other EMCs in NYS

Update Livingston County EMC guidance documents & bylaws



### Livingston County Community CleanUp

Promote and organize events for countywide initiative



### Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Initiate NRI Update process

Participate in Livingston County Ag & Farmland Protection Plan Update



### Statewide/Regional Environmental Activities

Review Genesee-Finger Lakes Region Climate Action Plan

Support NYSERDA Clean Energy & Climate Smart Communities Programs



### Website

Participate in updates of County EMC & Alternative Energy websites

## EMC SUPPORT ACTIVITIES



### Support Watershed Education Center Presentations



### Support Municipal, County & Regional projects and communication

# ACRONYMS

- CLA - Conesus Lake Association
- DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation
- DPW - Department of Public Works
- EMC - Environmental Management Council
- ENB - Environmental Notice Bulletin
- GFLRPC - Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
- 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
- Finger Lakes PRISM - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
- SLF - Spotted Lanternfly
- SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
- WEC - Watershed Education Center
- WQC - Water Quality Committee



**Swanson Bur Oak at Osage Farms**

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# RESOURCES

- Conesus Lake Association (CLA):  
<https://conesuslake.org/>
- Conesus Lake Watershed Council (CLWC)  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/217/Conesus-Lake>
- CLWC Invasive Species Prevention & Response Plan:  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/626/CLWC-Invasive-Species-Prevention-and-Response-Plan-Final?bidId=>
- Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP) Update- dedicated website  
<https://www.conesuslakewatershedplan.com>
- Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM)  
<https://fingerlakesinvasives.org/>
- Genesee-Finger Lakes Region Climate Action Plan  
<https://tinyurl.com/4se36b9t>
- Livingston County Agricultural Farmland Protection Plan  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/213/Agricultural-Farmland-Protection-Plan>
- Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC)  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov\EMC>
  - EMC Annual Reports  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18621/2024-EMC-ANNUAL-REPORT-FINAL>
  - Natural Resources Inventory  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/698/Livingston-County-Natural-Resources-Inventory?bidId=>
  - 30-Year History: Livingston County EMC  
<https://www.livingstoncountyny.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/155>
- NYS Climate Action Plan - Final Scoping Plan & Executive Summary  
<https://climate.ny.gov/resources/scoping-plan/>
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)  
<https://dec.ny.gov/>