



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (EMC)  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT  
Approved April 01, 2013**

**EMC Membership:**

The Dutchess County (DC) Environmental Management Council (EMC) enabling legislation provides for a total of eleven at-large seats. The current at-large appointed members of the EMC and their term expirations are listed below:

- |                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Bob Cohen, Chair  | 6/30/13 |
| 2. Pete Berasi       | 6/30/14 |
| 3. Lalita Malik      | 6/30/14 |
| 4. John DeGilio      | 6/30/13 |
| 5. Victoria Kelly    | 6/30/13 |
| 6. Maribel Pregnall  | 6/30/13 |
| 7. Constance Kustas  | 6/30/13 |
| 8. Marsha Leed       | 6/30/13 |
| 9. Stephen MacAvery  | 6/30/13 |
| 10. Paul Quinn       | 6/30/13 |
| 11. Christon Robbins | 6/30/14 |

**EMC At-Large Members – Value of Volunteer Hours:**

EMC at large members donated more than 700 hours of work on EMC projects that benefited Dutchess County. At a NYS rate for volunteer hours of \$26/hour, this totals an amount of more than \$18,200 donated by EMC members for their time and expertise to the county in 2012.

**Ex Officio Members:**

In addition to the eleven at-large seats, the DC EMC membership consists of six Ex-Officio members, and twenty-one Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) members, for a total of thirty-eight members. Ex-officio members include:

1. Legislative Liaison (Joel Tyner)
2. Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (Allison Chatrchyan)
3. Soil and Water Conservation District Executive Director (Edwin Hoxsie) – not actively participating with EMC

4. Dutchess County Planning Board Members (Joel Diamond, Chair) – not actively participating with EMC
5. Dutchess County Commissioner of Public Works, (position vacant as of April 1, 2013) – not actively participating with EMC
6. Dutchess County Attorney (James Fedorchak, Esq) – not actively participating with EMC

#### **EMC Meetings:**

In 2012, the EMC held its meetings predominately on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. In 2012, the EMC took, prepared and approved minutes for all its regular meetings, which are posted on its website (<http://dutchessemc.org/>).

#### **Partnership with the CCEDC Environment and Energy Program:**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) is an Ex-Officio member of the EMC and actively participates with and advises the Council. The CCEDC Environment and Energy Program staff (under contract with the DC Department of Planning and Development) EMC meetings and provided support to the EMC chair, maintenance of the EMC membership lists, and payment for the EMC website hosting service. CCEDC organized the CAC and EMC Roundtable Forum in February 2012 for EMC and CAC members, collaborated to organize the Road Salt Forum with Cornell Local Roads Program, provided GIS mapping and other training, and research-based information and resources for EMC members. CCEDC staff collaborated with the EMC to research and write several chapters of the EMC State of the Environment Report, edit and format the document, and write summary articles published in the Poughkeepsie Journal. Due to significant cuts in the county funding to the CCEDC Environmental and Energy Program, CCEDC is not able to offer more significant support to the Council.

#### **EMC 2012 Projects & Accomplishments:**

State of the Environment Report – In 2012, the EMC completed a comprehensive report on the Dutchess County State of the Environment, which has not been updated since 1982. The report was presented to the Dutchess County Legislature, to a CCEDC Forum for Conservation Advisory Council members in the fall of 2012, as well as several other community groups throughout the County. Each section of the report was presented in newspaper articles can be found on the EMC website [www.dutchessemc.org](http://www.dutchessemc.org) and on the Dutchess County website in the Department of Planning section at <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Legisture/dcoereport2012/pdf>.

Dutchess County Recycling – The EMC continued to study the issue of recycling, and ways to improve recycling rates in the county. Several EMC members took a tour of the Recycle Depot facility, and the Single Stream recycling facility in Beacon, NY with CCEDC.

Road Salt Education – The EMC and CCEDC organized a training workshop, in cooperation with the Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies and Cornell Local Roads Program, for town highway department superintendents and personnel regarding the proper methods of winter road maintenance. The workshop was conducted on September 26, 2012 and was well attended by 37 individuals from the various townships of Dutchess County and representatives of state and county government and local colleges. Cost of the workshop with the Cornell Local Roads

Program was subsidized by CCEDC and the Dutchess Watershed Awareness Month committee. The attendees received the benefit of instruction from Dewey Aimsler, a Cornell educator with hands-on knowledge of working with local road crews to use best management practices for snow and ice removal. The EMC Road Salt Committee nominated the Town of East Fishkill for which they received the CCEDC Environmental Steward Award for their leadership in implementing road salt controls that substantially reduced road salt use, thus reducing the environmental stress of winter salt application.

EMC Website – In 2012, the EMC expanded its website at <http://www.duthcessemc.org>. It allows not only for community feedback through a community forum as well as EMC project updates and documents, but it links users with other environmental activities in our county and adjacent regions as well as with the Dutchess County Legislature’s website. Since the last annual report the use of the website has grown exponentially. There were over 2,000 more hits than last year and over 11,785 visitors or “hits” with nine of them from France, two from Benin (West Africa) and one hit from Singapore. Since the “links” on the site are tested and expanded when Meeting Minutes and Agendas are posted, the website has kept up with a fast changing environmental development in our region. The EMC requests that the County Legislature link to the EMC’s website. CCEDC has continued to pay for the EMC website hosting service, although this cost really should be covered by Dutchess County.

Natural Resource Inventory Educational Materials – Several EMC members have been working to develop classroom curriculum utilizing various information found in the Natural Resource Inventory, and these learning activities have been added to the EMC website. Each activity extends and explores some part of the graphic information in the Natural Resource Inventory to allow students to make inferences and construct experiments related to environmental study. In each quarter, new activities have been added. There is great potential to develop additional learning materials in the future.

Dutchess Watershed Awareness Month (WAM) – As in previous years, EMC members led hikes in various parts of watersheds around the county to educate the public about the value of watersheds.

Energy Alternatives & Renewables – EMC Ex-Officio member CCEDC offered several “Save Energy, Save Dollars” workshops around Dutchess County under a small Empower Program contract from NYSERDA, via Cornell University. CCEDC plans to offer eight more workshops in 2013. Several EMC members, and Dutchess County Legislator Marge Horton, attended a Renewable Energy Tour of several Dutchess County sites organized by CCEDC in 2012.

Low Impact Development – EMC members have started a draft of a new Greenway Guide on Low Impact Development. The Greenway Guide is being developed in conjunction with and based on discussions with the DC Planning Department. The intention of the Greenway Guide is to help towns in Dutchess County with implementing Low Impact Development best management practices. EMC members have reached out to the local Conservation Advisory Councils in an effort promote code ordinance review. A review of local codes and ordinances will allow Towns to identify where their codes and ordinances can be revised to promote Low Impact Development best management practices.

Newspaper Articles – The EMC published thirteen articles in the Poughkeepsie Journal in 2012. They include articles from the Dutchess County State of the Environment Report as well as the introduction to a series about Dutchess County Conservation Advisory Councils. The articles can be found on the EMC website at <http://dutchessemc.org/projects/community-communications/>.

**EMC Expenses:**

The EMC is an all-volunteer council, and there is currently no budget line item for the EMC in the Dutchess County Budget. In order to maintain the council, it would be helpful if the Legislature would provide a small budget for administrative support, travel expenses for appointees to attend training conferences and website hosting.

**Enabling Legislation and By-Laws:**

The enabling legislation for the EMC was adopted by the DC Legislature in 1972 and amended in 1989. The enabling legislation can be found on the EMC's website at <http://dutchessemc.org/about/>, and could be updated.