



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (EMC)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
Approved April 23, 2014**

**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  | 6/30/15 |
| 2. Pete Berasi       | 6/30/14 |
| 3. Lalita Malik      | 6/30/14 |
| 4. John DeGilio      | 6/30/14 |
| 5. Victoria Kelly    | 6/30/15 |
| 6. Barbara Barosa    | 6/30/15 |
| 7. Constance Kustas  | 6/30/15 |
| 8. Marsha Leed       | 6/30/15 |
| 9. Stephen MacAvery  | 6/30/15 |
| 10. Paul Quinn       | 6/30/15 |
| 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 2013.

**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 included:

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

4. Dutchess County Planning Board Members (Joel Diemond, Chair) – not actively participating with EMC
5. Dutchess County Commissioner of Public Works, (Noel Knille) – not actively participating with EMC
6. Dutchess County Attorney (James Fedorchak, Esq) – not actively participating with EMC

#### **EMC Meetings:**

In 2013, the EMC held eight regular meetings predominately on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. In 2013, the EMC took, prepared and approved minutes for its eight regular meetings, which are posted on its website (<http://dutchessemc.org/>). In addition to its regular meetings, the EMC participated in a CAC/EMC forum in February 2013.

#### **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) attended EMC meetings. CCEDC organized the CAC and EMC Roundtable Forum in February 2013 for EMC and CAC members. Due to significant cuts in the county funding to the CCEDC Environmental and Energy Program, CCEDC is no longer able to offer more significant support to the Council.

#### **2013 EMC Subcommittees and Members:**

Road Salt – V. Kelly, P. Berasi

Recycling – B. Cohen, L. Malik, P. Berasi, V. Kelly

Energy Alternatives & Renewables –L. Malik, M. Leed

Low Impact Development – S. MacAvery, M. Leed, P. Berasi

Climate Change – C. Robbins, V. Kelly

Natural Resource Inventory Educational Materials – J. DeGilio, M. Pregnall (work was completed in 2013 and this subcommittee was disbanded)

#### **EMC 2013 Projects & Accomplishments:**

Dutchess County Recycling – In 2013, the EMC continued to study the issue of recycling, and ways to improve recycling rates in the county. The EMC provided input to the County Solid Waste Management Plan and met with Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Management Lindsay Carrile during the year to develop direction for the future.

Road Salt Education – The overarching goal of the EMC's Road Salt committee is to reduce the rate of incursion of salt into the environment to preserve the quality of water supplies over the long-term without jeopardizing winter road safety. The approach is to foster public understanding of the underlying principles using scientific-based knowledge. During 2013, the Road Salt committee completed a survey of the attendees to its 2102 snow and ice control workshop, receiving favorable responses supporting repeat of the workshop at a future date. A presentation was made to municipal officials in Dutchess and Columbia counties of methods available to reduce road salt usage while maintaining effective snow and ice control on roadways. Our 2014 goals include a study of road salt dynamics in groundwater. Newly

developed methods, such as use of brine solutions for anti-icing as a roadway treatment in advance of storms, will be reviewed and integrated into public outreach if results are promising. Planning will also proceed regarding additional training sessions for municipal officials on effective winter snow and ice control.

EMC Website – The website created by the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council continues to be visited by a core of interested users. In the current year the number of visitors that visited exceeded 50 people and that brings our total to over 13,959 viewers to date.

Among the pages that have been most visited include the “What’s New” Page and the “Resources” pages. Much of the recent activity on line has been to incorporate the articles in the local newspaper published by members of the EMC. History has shown that the time that the Poughkeepsie Journal keeps digital versions of articles published as part of the “My Valley” section is not always a long time. To keep sequential articles together the EMC website makes the access to each segment easy.

The record of this year’s agendas and meetings minutes on the website is complete. It has been added to those for each of the six previous years. One of the significant values of this website is that it keeps the dialog and connection between the environmental efforts in the county’s townships (CAC’s) united as a website coordinates the sharing of efforts and projects. It is notable that the maintenance and development of this digital effort is completed entirely by volunteers with no expenditure of county funds.

Energy Conservation and Renewables – EMC focused on educating the public about energy conservation enhancements that everyone can make to their homes and the use of solar energy as a step towards energy independence. This was done via a series of newspaper articles in the My Valley Section of the Poughkeepsie Journal over a period of 8 weeks. The articles reported a case study at the home of an EMC member, who had done an energy audit, implemented recommended changes, and reduced the home's energy consumption by 60%.

The articles also discussed what is involved in getting Solar Panels, Their performance and subsequent savings. The articles were supplemented by a public presentation of what is involved in an energy audit and solar power benefits at her home. The presentation was done with the support of CCEDC. In parallel, CCEDC held a series of presentations on Save Energy Save Dollars, funded by New York State Energy Resource Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Low Impact Development – During 2013, the Low Impact Development Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Department of Planning, co-authored the “Green Infrastructure” Greenway Guide, which provides guidance for onsite stormwater management. The goals for 2014 are: 1. to develop recommendations for municipal building and zoning codes for incorporation of Green Infrastructure practices, 2. to collaborate with Cornell Co-Operative Extension staff to plan a Green Infrastructure Forum – “Green Infrastructure Basics: Managing Stormwater On site” for March 26 implementation, and 3. to expand upon the Green Infrastructure Guide to provide additional details on specific aspects of the subject.

Climate Change – Several members of the EMC participated in a CCEDC climate change conference held September 13, 2013 at Vassar College. The EMC subsequently developed a document listing available resources for individuals and municipal agencies on climate change

readiness and resiliency. This document is an evolving work and will be made available via the EMC web site (<http://dutchessemc.org/>).

Newspaper Articles – The EMC published numerous articles in the Poughkeepsie Journal in 2013. They include articles about energy efficiency, solar power, recycling and low impact development.

The articles can be found on the EMC website at <http://dutchessemc.org/projects/community-communications/>.

Tick Task Force – In 2013, one member of the EMC served as a liaison to the County’s Tick Task Force.

**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. While the council has received reimbursement for website hosting, it would be helpful if the Legislature would provide a small budget for administrative support, travel expenses for appointees to attend training conferences and continued 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. In 2013 the EMC drafted revisions to this legislation and will be pursuing these updates with the Legislature in 2014. The current enabling legislation can be found on the EMC’s website at <http://dutchessemc.org/about/>, and could be updated.