



Our Mission Is to Advance Sustainable Communities through:

- Rural Leadership Development
- Infrastructure Education and Outreach Tools
- University-Community Collaborations

Recent EFC Events

Village of Corfu and City of Oswego

More than 50 people attended these programs which were made possible through a USDA Rural Development grant.

Topics covered were:

- Lake Ontario water and wastewater issues
- project financing
- project development
- community engagement

New State and Federal Initiatives: How to Take Advantage of Them

February 25th, Syracuse University
This event attracted more than 70 representatives from the DEC, NYS EFC, USDA, community leaders and technical assistance providers from all over New York State.

Upcoming EFC Events*

Smarter Management for Small Communities

April 14-16, 2009
Minnbrook Conference Center,
Blue Mountain Lake, NY

May-Technical Assistance Partnership Forum Syracuse University

Rate-Setting Workshops for Setting Community Water Rates

A series of workshops will be held in three New York State cities the week of June 8th. Please check our website for updates on locations and dates.

*For all event information, please call (315) 443-4445, or check our website, efc.syracusecoe.org



The 2008 PMFP training event at the Minnowbrook Conference center.

Program Updates

To launch this issue, here is a brief overview of a few of our programs:



A community meeting in the Village of Fairhaven focused on Lake Ontario Water Quality Concerns.

The Public Management and Finance Program (PMFP)

Intent: To build the managerial, financial, and technical capacities of community leaders and to strengthen the network of technical assistance providers and municipalities.

Example of Training: Long Term Financial Planning, Group Facilitation, Municipal Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Infrastructure Planning.

Technical Assistant Partnership Forum (TAPF)

Intent: To bring together technical assistance providers from the public and private sectors for networking and discussion focused on water and wastewater issues.

Events serve to:

- Share information on current projects;
- Provide news on infrastructure funding;
- Learn about new technology, guidelines and project requirements;
- TAPF events are held four times a year. Please check the events link on our website, efc.syracusecoe.org, for upcoming dates.

Sustainable Stormwater Program

Intent: To educate communities and technical assistance providers about green infrastructure techniques and provide assistance with "how to pay" questions.

Example of Outreach Material: Guide to Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Stormwater Management Funding Guide.

www.NYFoodTrader.org

Intent: To promote the sustainability of NY's rural economies through supporting the preservation of foodsheds and watersheds.

Service: Provide NY buyers and sellers with a free and easy-to-use online resource to communicate about local fresh food items.



Did you know...The EFC at Syracuse University serves New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Green Tips!

Ways to Green Your Legislative and District Offices



Monitoring Lighting Usage:

According to a 1995 US Department of Energy (DOE) end-use study, lighting accounts for about 29 percent of the energy use in a typical office.

- Replace old fluorescent T-12 lamps with T-8 fluorescent lamps for better color, less flickering and 20 percent less energy use.
- Use occupancy sensors for areas that aren't used as much, such as the break or conference room.



Encourage Recycling:

"Promote the change you want to see in your office: make recycling simple!"

- **Recycle all paper:** place individual recycling bins, or simple paper bags, at every desk to encourage each employee to separate all paper from regular disposal bins. Make sure this is cleared with the janitorial services so that recycling efforts don't go—literally—to waste!
- Provide appropriate bins to recycle "to-go" materials (plastic containers) and for commonly-thrown out soda cans and other aluminum products.
- Discuss ways to collectively reduce individual waste with staff and encourage best practices to be used at home as well.
- See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43706.html> for helpful recycling tips.

Legislation of Note

Local Food Purchasing Policy

On February 9, 2009, Albany County approved a local food purchasing policy that mandates at least 10% of the annual costs of the county's food purchases for local nursing home and correctional facilities be derived from locally produced food. Albany County Legislator Tim Nichols (D-Latham), introducer of the legislation, hopes it will serve as a model for future local food initiatives statewide.

Stimulus Watch:

What does the ARRA mean for YOUR district?

- 3.431 Billion to New York State for Infrastructure
- \$435 Million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- \$85 Million for the Drinking Water SRF

For BOTH Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs

- No less than 50% permitted for additional subsidization including Forgiveness of Principal, Negative Interest Loans, Grants to Municipalities
- Construction must begin within 12 months
- 20% for green infrastructure, energy efficiency, innovative design, etc.
- = \$104,000,000

*For this inaugural issue we are sending along samples of our outreach materials. We encourage you to pass them on to your constituents. For additional copies please go to our website to download, or contact our office.

Define What You Mean By...

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are action(s) or combination of actions implemented to reduce the environmental impacts of municipal, industry and business operations and development. Responsible and low-impact site planning, environmental impact statements, wildlife surveys, long- and short-term assessments of likely impacts of development, and reclamation of land all fall under best management practices.

Low Impact Development (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated. (www.epa.gov)

Smart Growth A range of development and conservation strategies intended to protect our natural environment while simultaneously making our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse. Smart Growth communities conserve resources by reinvesting in existing infrastructure, reclaiming historic buildings, and by designing neighborhoods that have shops, offices, schools, churches, parks, and other amenities within walking or biking-distance of residential areas. (www.epa.gov)

Green Washing describes the disingenuous spin on certain "environmentally safe" practices that in fact have little or even negative impacts on the environment. Green washing occurs when "significantly more money or time has been spent advertising being green (that is, operating with consideration for the environment), rather than spending resources on environmentally sound practices." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwash>)

The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University provides educational, financial, and innovative services to elected officials and citizens seeking to implement or support environmental activities in their districts and communities. Our environmentally conscious staff is constantly working to provide the most innovative, up-to-date, and cost-effective 'greening' tools to make spaces more livable and eco-friendly for all New Yorkers.

Contact:

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