

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

Support for NYS rural communities is imperative for the future of rural areas. Syracuse EFC provides direct technical assistance to rural leaders to help address these issues through better operation and management practices. However, the ever-changing needs and priorities of New York's rural communities means that technical assistance programs must be agile in order to continue providing relevant and appropriate resources. The results of this survey will guide the direction of various local and statewide initiatives for rural communities.

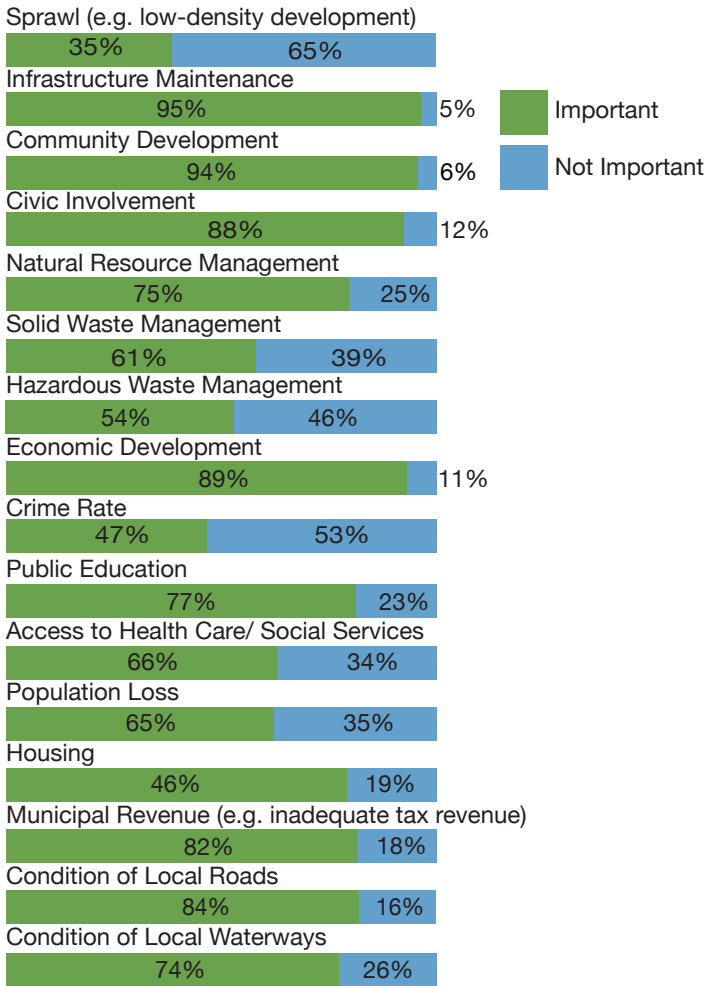


Syracuse University

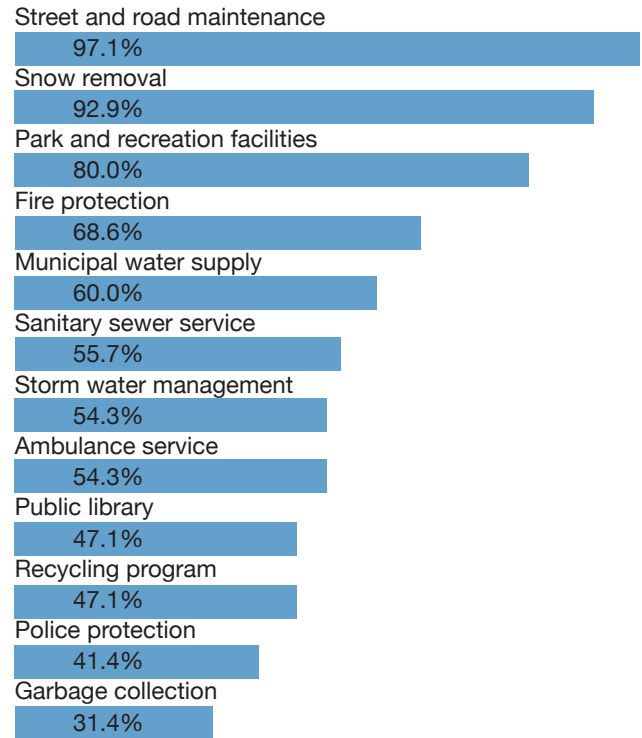


STATEWIDE RESULTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (POPULATIONS < 10,000)

SUBJECT IMPORTANCE TO RESPONDING COMMUNITIES



PERCENTAGE OF MUNICIPALITIES THAT PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES



AGRICULTURE

49% of respondents believe productive agriculture land is needed for agricultural use
87% of respondents believe productive agriculture land is NOT needed for residential use and
86% of respondents believe productive agriculture land is NOT needed for commercial use

COMMUNITY/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

55% of respondents believe their community works and coordinates efforts to actively recruit new businesses and industry
78% of respondents believe their community needs the means to provide at least some land with infrastructure (water, sewer, access, etc.) for industrial and commercial uses either owned publicly or privately
82% of respondents believe that tourism and recreation activities are important for revenue in their community

HOUSING

73% of respondents believe greater focus is needed for improving existing housing
66% of respondents believe more elderly housing is needed
64% of respondents believe more starter (first time buyer) homes are needed

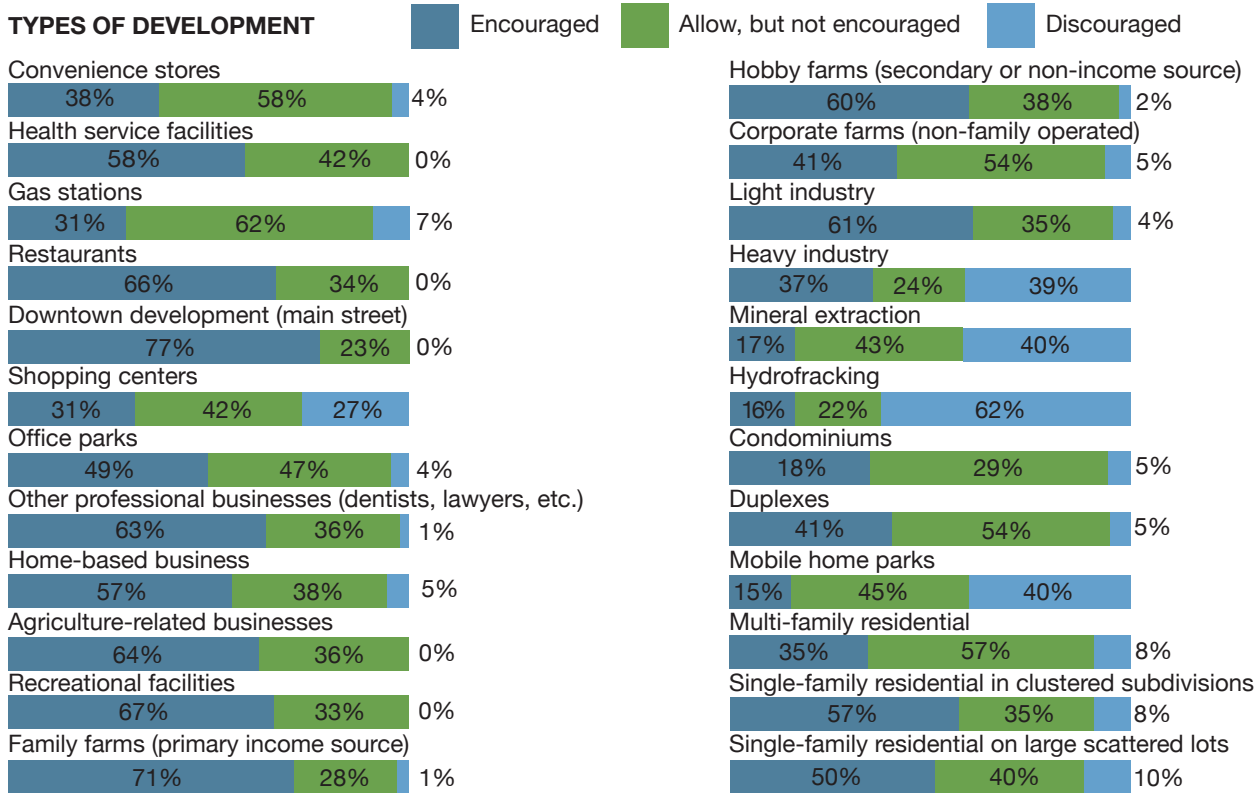
TRANSPORTATION

68% of respondents believe the condition of local roads and streets in their community is adequate for intended uses
71% of respondents believe biking and walking are important modes of transportation in their community
60% of respondents believe the bus service/shared ride van services are important modes of transportation in their community
67% of respondents believe there is a need for more biking lanes along public roadways
80% of respondents believe there is a need for more sidewalks along public roadways
75% of respondents believe access to local airports is sufficient
52% of respondents believe access to railroad service is sufficient

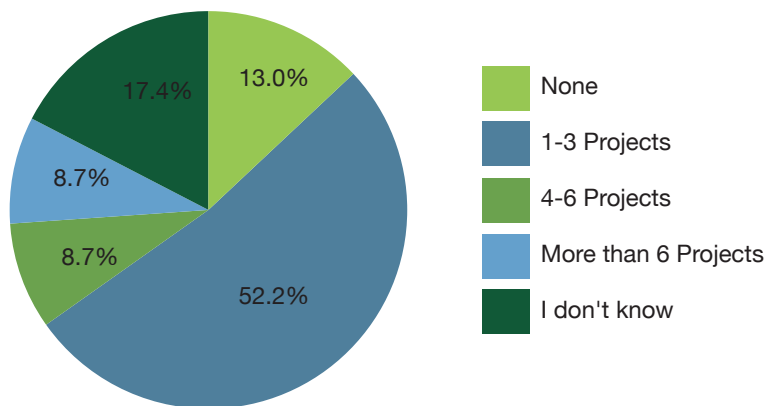
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS TO PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES THROUGH FINANCING, TRAINING, AND/OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Topic	Assistance Type			
	Financing	Training	Technical Assistance	No Assistance Needed
Air quality	0% (0)	14% (6)	17% (7)	69% (29)
Farmland	14% (7)	20% (10)	18% (9)	48% (24)
Forested lands	8% (3)	20% (9)	22% (10)	51% (23)
Groundwater	16% (12)	35% (26)	31% (22)	18% (13)
Historic and cultural sites	19% (12)	24% (15)	25% (16)	32% (20)
Open space	9% (5)	30% (17)	18% (10)	43% (24)
Rivers and streams	17% (11)	29% (20)	32% (22)	22% (15)
Rural community character	13% (8)	33% (20)	23% (14)	31% (19)

Number in parenthesis (X) equals the actual number of respondents to each question/topic.



PERCENT OF COMMUNITIES THAT INITIATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS REQUIRING CAPITAL FINANCING IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS



METHODS USED BY MUNICIPALITIES TO FINANCE CAPITAL PROJECTS

Municipal Bonds	56.9%
General Fund Revenues	43.1%
Grants	56.9%
Loans	27.7%

RESPONDENT AWARENESS AND USE OF THE FOLLOWING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Aware and have used their services:

Professional Engineering Firms (72% Aware)
Regional Planning Boards/ Councils (55% Aware)
Soil & Water Conservation District (53% Aware)
Financial Consulting Firms (45% Aware)

Unaware:

Water Resources Institute (63% Unaware)
Environmental Finance Center at SU (55% Unaware)
NYS Rural Community Assistance Program (54% Unaware)
New York Water Environment Association (53% Unaware)
NYS Rural Water Association (39% Unaware)

CONDITION OF MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Drinking Water System

Relatively new/Excellent condition



Moderate annual maintenance/Very good condition



Functioning, but in need of specific repairs/ Good condition



In need of substantial repair/Poor condition



Wastewater (Sewer) System

Relatively new/Excellent condition



Moderate annual maintenance/Very good condition



Functioning, but in need of specific repairs/ Good condition



In need of substantial repair/Poor condition



Number in parenthesis (X) equals the actual number of respondents to each question/topic.

MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT AND RATE SETTING

62% of respondents said their municipality has conducted an asset management inventory

61% of respondents said their municipality has conducted energy audits

56% of respondents said their municipality has conducted water loss training/evaluations

Only **23%** of respondents said their municipality has conducted ratesetting training

RESPONDENT AWARENESS AND USE OF THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Aware and have used their services:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (84% Aware)
NYS Department of Health (77% Aware)
NYS Department of State - Division on Local Government (57% Aware)
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (45% Aware)
NYS Housing and Community Renewal (40% Aware)

Aware, but have not used their services

NYS Empire State Development Corporation (55% Aware)
NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (45% Aware)

Unaware:

NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources (52% Unaware)
USDA Rural Utility Services (49% Unaware)
NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (35% Unaware)

HOW MUNICIPALITIES FIND INFORMATION REGARDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

Trade publications



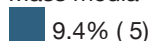
State government agencies



Electronic media



Mass media



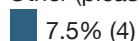
Word of mouth



Professional associations



Other (please specify)



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STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ADOPTED BY RESPONDING COMMUNITIES (NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS)

Stormwater wetlands



Bioretention



Wet detention basin



Dry detention basin



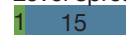
Grass swale



Filter strip



Level spreaders



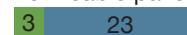
Infiltration devices



Manufactured or proprietary BMP systems



Permeable pavement



Rooftop runoff management (a.k.a. green roofs)



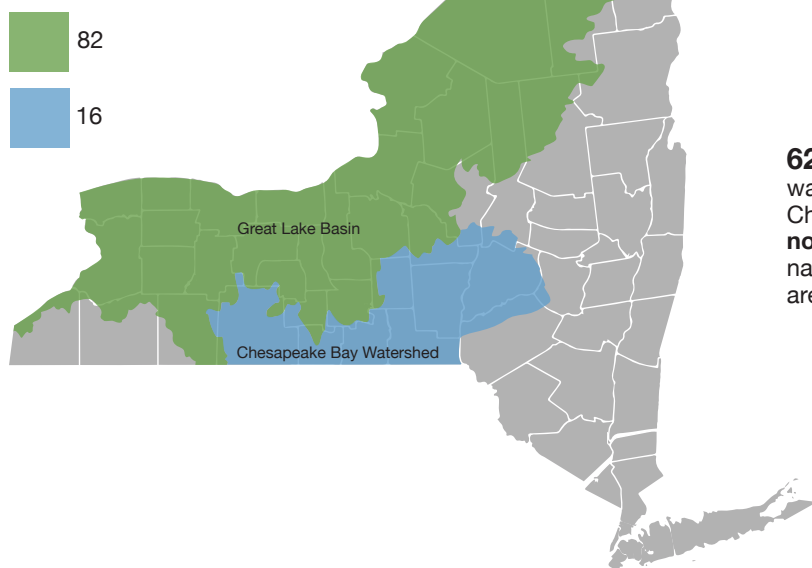
Sand filter



Practice Installed
Not Adopted

RESULTS BY WATERSHED FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (POPULATIONS < 10,000)

RESPONDENTS PER WATERSHED



62.9% of respondents in the Great Lake Basin watershed and **66.7%** of respondents in the Chesapeake Bay watershed said their municipality does **not** utilize property tax dollars for the preservation of natural resources or landscape features (e.g. wooded areas, stream banks, drainage ways, farmland).

LANDOWNER COMPENSATION FOR LAND CONSERVATION

Great Lake Basin

80.0% of respondents believe their municipality does **not** have a need to compensate landowners who agree not to develop their undeveloped land.

Chesapeake Bay

71.4% of respondents believe their municipality does **not** have a need to compensate landowners who agree not to develop their undeveloped land.

SEVERE FLOODING/DRAINAGE ISSUES IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

Great Lake Basin

39.4% of respondents have experienced severe flooding/drainage issues in the past 10 years.

Chesapeake Bay

50.0% of respondents have experienced severe flooding/drainage issues in the past 10 years.

MINIMUM LOT SIZE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Great Lake Basin	
Less than 1 acre	50.0%
One to 5 acres	37.5%
5 to 10 acres	0.0%
11 to 40 acres	0.0%
No limitation	12.5%

Chesapeake Bay	
Less than 1 acre	50.0%
One to 5 acres	25%
5 to 10 acres	12.5%
11 to 40 acres	0.0%
No limitation	12.5%

MS4 VS CSO COMMUNITIES

Great Lake Basin	
MS4	26.7%
CSO	13.3%
Not applicable	50.0%
Other	10.0%

Chesapeake Bay	
MS4	0.0%
CSO	14.3%
Not applicable	85.7%
Other	0.0%

MS4: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
CSO: Combined Sewer Overflow

LAST CHANGE IN COMMUNITY WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES

Great Lake Basin	
Within the past 1 - 3 years	68.0%
Within the past 4 - 6 years	4.0%
Unknown	28.0%

Chesapeake Bay	
Within the past 1 - 3 years	75.0%
Unknown	25.7%

Percents (%) relate to the number of respondents for each community from each question.

About the EFC

The Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (Syracuse EFC) facilitates the development of sustainable and resilient communities throughout US EPA Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and eight tribal nations), across the US, and internationally.

Located at the Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions, Syracuse EFC enhances the administrative and financial capacities of state and local government officials, nonprofit organizations, and private sectors to make change toward improved environmental infrastructure and quality of life.



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To reach us via the NYS Relay Service, please dial 7-1-1.