

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 3, 2022 – 6:00 PM (or immediately following the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee meeting)
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Chelsea Villalba, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Deputy Chair Gina Hansut, Legislators Eric Stewart, Phil Erner, and Joe Maloney
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Laura Petit (left at 6:46PM); Senior Legislative Employee Fawn Tantillo; Director Nick Hvozda – Department of Environment; Director Dennis Doyle – Department of Planning; David Gordon, Esq. – Legislative Counsel; Dave Haldeman – Environmental Management Council, Executive Director Greg Ollivier – Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Committee was presented with a budget overview and department updates by Director Nick Hvozda of the Department of the Environment, indicating six program areas: administration, climate mitigation, green economy, materials management, natural resources, and resilience.

Legislator Erner asked for clarification on the budget diagrams.

Chair Greene inquired whether the department was supporting any capital projects. Director Hvozda stated that four supported projects are the Reuse Innovation Center, a lighting retrofit at the Social Services Building and office complex, a rooftop solar project at the UCAT garage, and electric vehicle charging stations to support fleet vehicles. Chair Greene stated that the capital program should include funding for the building of the Reuse Innovation Center.

Legislator Maloney asked about the department's involvement in turbidity, one of the biggest environmental issues facing the county. Director Hvozda shared that the department is involved in the Ashokan Releases Working Group, and submitted comment to the State's Draft Scoping Plan. Legislator Maloney stated his concern about runoff going into the Esopus Creek. Legislator Stewart stated that the Ashokan Releases Working Group has discussed naming a Legislative Representative, and that he would be interested in taking that responsibility or sharing it with other legislators.

Director Hvozda also mentioned a stream management planning process that the Planning Department is leading. Director Doyle shared more information on the releases, explaining that municipalities along the Lower Esopus may now request releases, as New York City will no longer do it. Counsel Gordon shared his knowledge regarding this concern.

Legislator Erner asked Director Hvozda if everything he requested was included in the budget, to which Director Hvozda confirmed. Legislator Erner also inquired about an environmental advocate or ombudsman, to which Director Hvozda stated that the department frequently fields public concerns.

Discussion on the jurisdiction of release requests, Reuse Innovation Center updates, and public workshops for the natural resources inventory mapping project continued.

The Committee was presented with department updates by Executive Director Greg Ollivier of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. He shared information on the composting program, America Recycles Day, a temporary funding source available through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to partner with transfer stations and increase residential food scrap drop-off locations in the county as a pilot program. Discussion ensued regarding possibilities for county-wide residential composting expansion and repercussions of raising the tipping fee.

Legislator Stewart requested coordinating a tour of the Resource Recovery Agency for the Committee.

Chair Greene requested Mr. Haldeman share updates on the Environmental Management Council.

Chair Greene introduced Greg Ollivier, the new Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to the Committee.

Mr. Ollivier shared his background, including 30 years of experience in the California waste industry and a pre-law education.

Resolutions for the November 15, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 538 — Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$90,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Citizens For Local Power Inc. – Department Of Finance - ARPA

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a contract for \$90,000.00 with Citizens for Local Power. This is an American Rescue Plan Act subaward agreement to develop and grow the “Green Jobs Training Program” to place trainees with local employers for job training in green job careers such as, but not limited to, high performance building construction, electrical training, heat pump installation, indoor air quality, energy auditing, and/or geothermal energy systems. 100% Federal. Term 11/15/22 – 12/31/25.

Motion No. 1: **Moved Resolution No. 538 for DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Legislator Erner requested clarification on how this resolution is connected to Resolution No. 497 that was passed last month. Chair Greene replied that the training will be done Citizens for Local Power, in partnership with RUPCO, to repair low-income housing, and that some low-income homeowners would be eligible for funding from Resolution No. 497 to reduce their energy costs and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. She also stated that this resolution is for an administrator for Citizens for Local Power for three years. Legislator Erner asked how could a tenant apply for this program. Director Doyle stated that this was not possible, but that other funding is available for landlord improvements. Director Doyle stated that in the future, there may be a landlord repair program that has

been done in the past, where landlords are funded to make improvements, and they must keep rent at an affordable level for five to seven years.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Erner Hansut, Stewart, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 544 — Establishing Capital Project No. 648 – Ulster & Delaware Corridor Rail Trail – Shandaken (PIN 8762.89) – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Agreements For Federal Aid With The New York State Department Of Transportation – Amending The 2022 Capital Program - Declaring Intent To Act As Lead Agency (SEQRA) – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes Capital Project No. 648, in the amount of \$664,000.00 for the preliminary design, environmental review, and right of way incidentals of the Ulster & Delaware Corridor Rail Trail.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 544 for DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Chair Greene requested that Counsel Gordon share information regarding the SEQRA process involved with this resolution. Counsel Gordon recommended that Environmental Assessment Forms (EAFs) be included as backup for every resolution involving SEQRA. Further discussion regarding this matter ensued with Counsel Gordon and Director Doyle. Legislator Erner inquired about the overall cost of this project. Director Doyle replied that the estimated engineering cost is \$4.9 million. Legislator Erner asked if there will be interest reimbursement on the bond for this portion of the project, to which Director Doyle replied there will not be. Legislator Maloney asked if the County will bond on the whole project, and Director Doyle stated that the County will only bond on the portion it is responsible for, if needed. Further discussion ensued.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Erner Hansut, Stewart
Voting Against: Legislator Maloney
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 546 — Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (The “Hudson 7”) To Include Ulster County As A Member And To Provide Financial Assistance For The Hiring Of A Full Time “Protection Coordinator” – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Ulster County Legislature to sign an agreement, the “Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #1” with the

Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council to include Ulster County as a member and to provide financial assistance for the hiring of a full time “Protection Coordinator.”

Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 546 for DISCUSSION

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: Chair Greene requested Director Hvozda to provide further information on this resolution. He shared background on the Hudson 7 and stated that this resolution allows the County to make a commitment to support the Hudson 7 to hire a Hudson River Source Water Protection Coordinator to support the work of the Municipal Council, in the amount of \$25,000.00 per year over three years. Discussion ensued regarding the voting status of Ulster County under this agreement and having the Chair of the Legislature appoint the representative.

Motion No. 4: Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 546

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Erner Hansut, Stewart, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 547 — Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – PlugIn Stations Online, LLC – Department Of The Environment

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract anticipated to exceed \$50,000.00 with PlugIn Stations Online, LLC to install, activate and configure, and/or provide power or commercial cloud plan network subscriptions for electric vehicle charging stations at various locations within the County. 100% federal. Term 1/1/23 – 12/31/24.

Motion No. 5: Moved Resolution No. 547 for DISCUSSION

Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: Legislator Erner inquired if users must sign up with the company and pay for electricity to charge their vehicles. Director Hvozda stated that the networking subscription is one of two parts of this contract, that has to do with service to understand usage metrics, charge fees for public use, and diagnose maintenance issues. The second part is installing stations under the Capital Project established for County charging stations. Legislator Erner asked if the electricity for these charging stations is owned by the County, to which Director Hvozda replied no, all electricity except for the New Paltz substation is purchased from the grid, mentioning that a power purchase agreement is used for environmental attributes

Motion No. 6: Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 547

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Erner, Hansut and Maloney
Voting Against:	Legislators Greene and Stewart
No. of Votes in Favor:	3
No. of Votes Against:	2
Disposition:	Resolution POSTPONED

The Committee also discussed changing the Committee meeting time for 2023.

Motion Made By:	Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Hansut
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0

Respectfully submitted: Clerk Villalba
Approved: December 8, 2022



Ulster County Department of the Environment 2023 Budget Overview

Nick Hvozda, Director
Ulster County Department of the Environment
November 4, 2022

Department of the Environment 2023 Operating Budget Summary

Revenues Summary

The Revenues Summary provides a comparison between the 2023 Operating Budget and the 2022 Adopted Budget.

\$269,309 **\$41,781**
(18.36% vs. prior year)

Expenditures Summary

The Expenditures Summary provides a comparison between the 2023 Operating Budget and the 2022 Adopted Budget.

\$937,351 **\$8,459**
(0.91% vs. prior year)

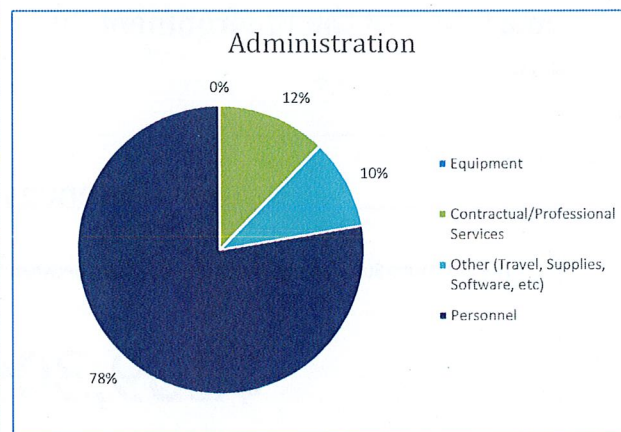
Department of the Environment Program Areas

Programmatic Areas/Functions	Program Description	Mandated/Non-Mandated
Administration	Administrative support for all department activities, personnel and functions. Budgeting, procurement, contracts, payroll, accounts payable, SOP compliance, etc.	N/A
Climate Mitigation	Energy efficiency, Green Fleet, Climate action plan implementation, Community Climate Action planning, Clean Energy projects	Mandated by EO & Resolution, Green New Deal
Green Economy	Green Economy Network Support and Green Business Champions	Green New Deal
Materials Management	Costs associated with meeting requirements of local laws and policy, program and project support for materials management. Food waste prevention and recovery act administration.	Straw Law, Compost Law, Zero Waste Resolution
Natural Resources	Natural Resources protection work: NRI, Water Quality, MS4 stormwater	Green New Deal, MS4 state required compliance. WQ committee resolution.
Resilience	Road stream crossing assessments, climate adaptation work, Flood hazard mitigation via contract with CCE.	Green New Deal

Administration

Description:

Administrative support for all department activities, personnel and functions. Budgeting, procurement, contracts, payroll, accounts payable, SOP compliance, etc.



2023 Revenues
\$0.00

2023 Expenses*
\$69,235.37

Activities:

- Environmental Management Council (EMC) support
- Procurement/contracting
- Billing and payments
- Grant writing
- Website maintenance
- Professional development
- Internships

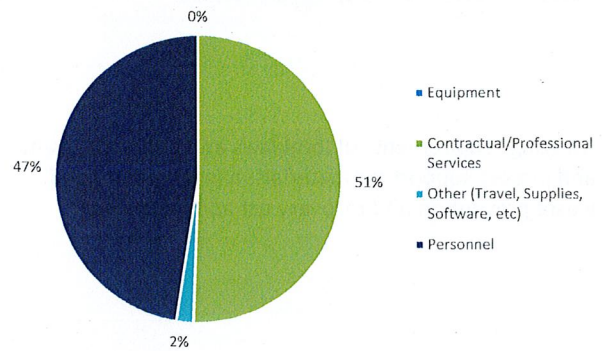
*Programmatic totals exclude employee benefit costs

Climate Mitigation

Description:

Energy efficiency, Green Fleet, Climate action plan implementation, Community Climate Action planning, Clean Energy projects

Climate Mitigation



2023 Revenues
\$10,500.00

2023 Expenses
\$192,339.77

Activities:

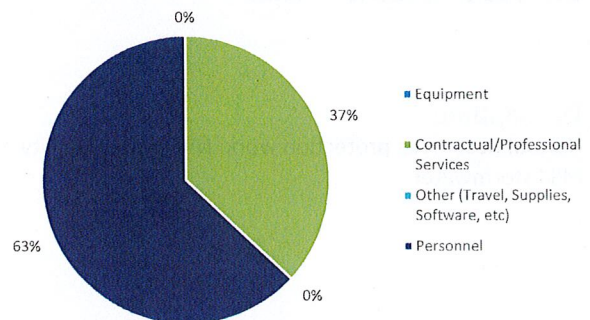
- Building energy benchmarking
- Community Climate Action plan
- Energy efficiency capital projects
- EV charging capital project & network support
- Transit electrification support
- Climate Smart Communities program
- Clean Energy Communities program

Green Economy

Description:

Green Economy Network Support and Green Business Champions

Green Economy



2023 Revenues
\$0.00

2023 Expenses
\$89,287.99

Activities:

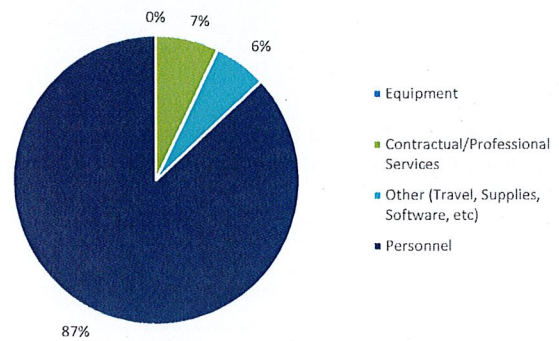
- Green Careers Academy
- Green Business Champions program
- Business outreach/education

Materials Management

Description:

Meeting requirements of local laws and policy, program and project support for materials management. Food waste prevention and recovery act administration.

Materials Management



2023 Revenues
\$0.00

2023 Expenses
\$33,702.04

Activities:

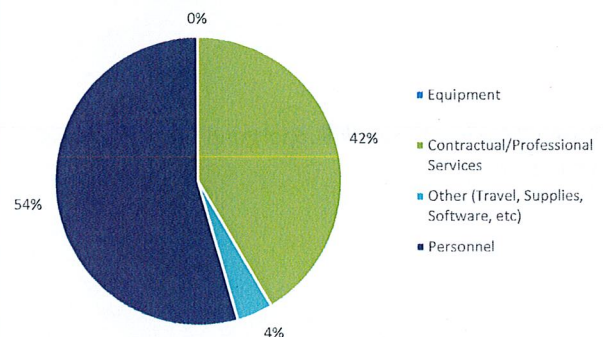
- Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act
- Skip the Straw Law outreach
- Reuse Innovation Center feasibility study
- Climate Smart Communities actions

Natural Resources

Description:

Natural Resources protection work: NRI, Water Quality, MS4 stormwater

Natural Resources



2023 Revenues
\$125,464.00

2023 Expenses
\$210,378.07

Activities:

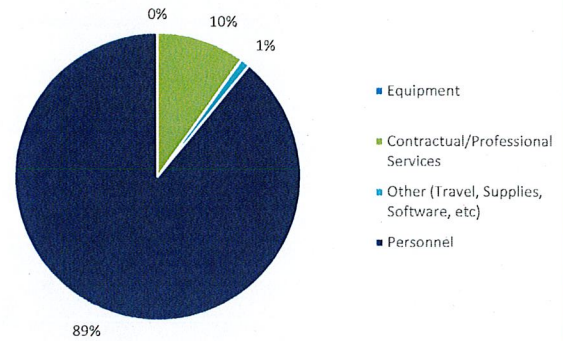
- Road-Stream crossing assessment & mapping
- Natural resources inventory
- Arbor Day planting program
- MS4 program administration
- Hudson 7 support
- Water Quality Management Agency administration
- Tax foreclosure support

Climate Resilience

Description:

Road stream crossing assessments, climate adaptation work, Flood hazard mitigation via contract with CCE.

Climate Resilience



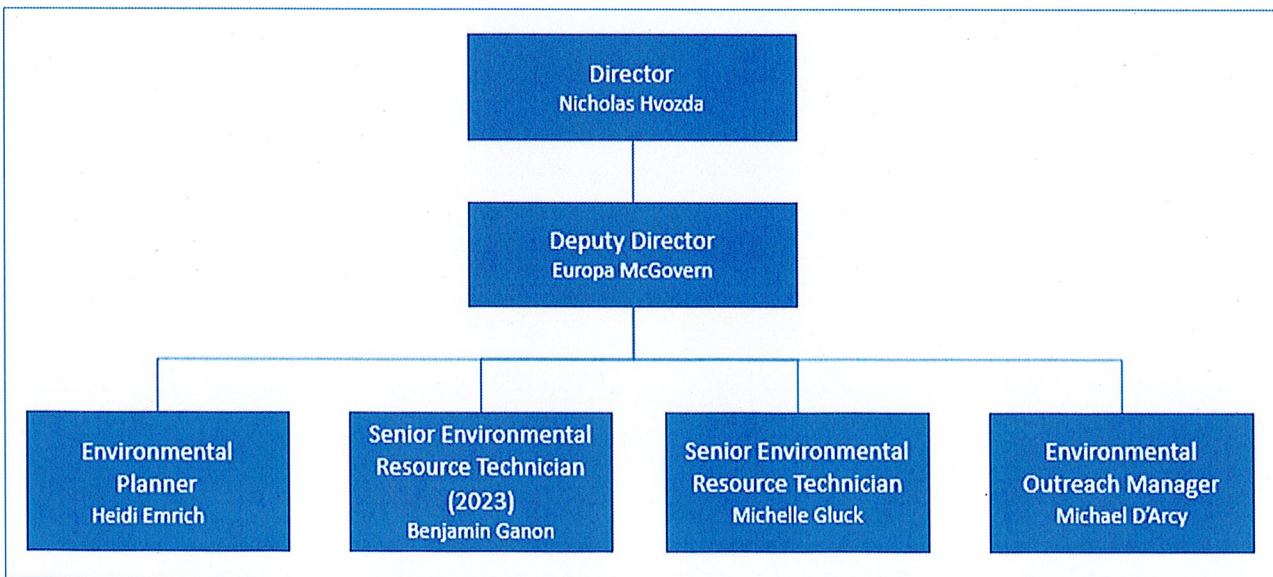
2023 Revenues
\$133,345.00

2023 Expenses
\$135,481.02

Activities:

- Climate Adaptation planning
- Flood hazard mitigation
- Hazard mitigation plan update support
- Climate Smart Communities actions

Organizational Chart



Questions

