

**Ulster County Planning Board  
Grant Announcements  
February 1, 2012 Meeting**

**Apply for:**

**Hurricane Irene-Tropical Storm Lee Flood Recovery Grant Program**

A \$30 million-grant program for communities and businesses in NY recovering from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee is now accepting grant applications. The program consists of two components: \$21 million through the Business Flood Recovery Grant Program to be directed to eligible entities that sustained direct, physical flood-related damage and \$9 million through the Flood Mitigation Grant Program to be used to support flood mitigation or flood control projects in waterways impacted by the record-breaking storms.

Empire State Development (ESD) will administer the \$21 million Business Flood Recovery Grant Program, which will provide grants of up to \$20,000 for eligible small businesses, farms, multiple dwellings, and not-for-profits that sustained flood-related damage in Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee. Funding is geared to help offset the costs of storm-related repairs and restoration of structures not covered by other federal, state or local recovery programs. Preference will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest need.

More info at <http://www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/FloodRecovery.html>, or by calling 518-292-5340 or emailing [floodrecovery@esd.ny.gov](mailto:floodrecovery@esd.ny.gov). The deadline for the application is March 16, 2012.

The \$9 million Flood Mitigation Grant Program will be made available to counties through DEC and ESD. Eligible counties can apply for a grant for projects within their boundaries to reduce potential threats to public and private infrastructure. This funding can also be used as non-federal match to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Through this program, NRCS has allocated \$31.5 million for NY localities.

<sup>55</sup> Grants will range from a minimum of \$300,000 to a maximum of \$500,000 per county. Preference will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest need and to those projects that can start work expeditiously and leverage other federal, state and local funding resources.

The funds can be used for the planning, design and implementation of eligible projects and cannot be used for work that is already complete. Planning costs will only be eligible for inclusion for projects that receive funds for implementation. Eligible projects include stream debris removal, gravel removal in or directly around bridges and culverts, stream bank stabilization and restoration, and culvert replacement. Local or regional flood planning initiatives are not eligible under this program. This funding is also not eligible to be used as non-federal match for projects reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting January 24, 2012 and must be submitted by April 11, 2012. DEC and ESD will review grant applications. Counties should submit their proposed projects in priority order.

Application and guidelines at [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79243.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79243.html). Applications can be completed online but an original, signed application must be printed and mailed, along with any supporting documentation and attachments to the address below. The applicant should also email one electronic copy of the signed application, including attachments and photos in Adobe PDF format to [wqipuser@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:wqipuser@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

Attn: Flood Mitigation Grant Program  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water  
625 Broadway, 4th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233- 3507

Additional information on other federal and state storm relief programs can be found on DEC's website at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/floodrecovfund.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/floodrecovfund.pdf) .

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**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – 2012 Program Sign Up**  
Now is the time for landowners, farmers, and forestland owners to apply for 2012 conservation program funding. The programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers funding assistance in the form of engineered structures, such as manure handling facilities, and conservation practices such as grassed waterways. EQIP also includes several special initiatives such as organic production and High Tunnels. Private forestland owners have opportunities to improve forest health and productivity under the woodland program focus area.

The Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) focuses on improving irrigation efficiency.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) focuses on improving habitat for at-risk shrub-dwelling birds. Another focus within the program is establishing and enhancing grassland habitat for declining bird species, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Applications for EQIP, AMA, and WHIP are competitive and ranked based on national, state, and locally identified resource priorities, and their overall benefit to the environment. If you are interested in signing up for any of the above programs or would like additional information, please contact Joseph Heller or Robert Merrill, Soil Conservationist at the **Middletown Field Office at (845) 343-1872 Extension 110**.

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## **Hazard Mitigation Grants - Office of Homeland Security**

The NYS Office of Emergency Mgmt. (State OEM) announces the availability of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds associated with the following Presidential disaster declarations:

DR-1957: Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm  
DR-1993: Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes and Straight-line Winds  
DR-4020: Hurricane Irene  
DR-4031: Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee

Eligible sub-applicants are State-level agencies, Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, local governments (to include State-recognized Indian Tribes and authorized Indian Tribal organizations), and certain Private Non-Profits (PNPs) that perform a government-like function. Private individuals, businesses and institutions may not apply for HMGP assistance, but eligible local governments or PNPs may apply on their behalf.

HMGP funding will be available Statewide. However, given the recent widespread severe flooding related to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the State will give preference to projects that are in the following declared counties INCLUDES ULSTER.

### **Hazard Mitigation Planning Grants**

The State will give preference to requests that will create or update county-wide plans, or will bring communities currently without a plan (or with a single-jurisdiction plan) under the umbrella of a larger regional or county-wide effort.

The State has established the following funding caps (75% Federal share) for mitigation planning grants based on the number of residents to be covered by the final mitigation plan:

- \$112,500 up to 100,000 residents
- \$225,000 up to 500,000 residents
- \$375,000 up to 1,000,000 residents
- \$750,000 more than 1,000,000 residents.

### **Hazard Mitigation Project Grants**

The State will use the remaining funds for projects in three major categories:

Acquisition projects that demolish (or relocate) substantially damaged or repetitive-damage properties from a 100-year floodplain;

Elevation projects that raise/lift properties in the 100-year floodplain, or other projects that provide benefits similar to acquisition and elevation projects. Please note: The State will not fund the elevation of structures in a designated floodway;

All Other Project Types, if funds remain after eligible acquisition and elevation requests (above) are addressed.

## How to Apply

There are 4 Letters of Intent (LOIs) for this grant cycle: Planning, Acquisition, Elevation, and All Other Project Types. Choose the LOI appropriate to your request(s), provide all requested information, and submit to either:

518-322-4983 by facsimile, or NYSOEMHazmit@dhses.ny.gov by e-mail.

Please read each LOI carefully as deadlines vary depending on activity type:

January 31, 2012: Planning Grants & All Other Project Types

February 29, 2012: Acquisition Projects & Elevation Projects (Phase 1)

April 30, 2012: Acquisition Projects & Elevation Projects (Phase 2)

June 30, 2012: Acquisition Projects & Elevation Projects (Phase 3)

For more info: <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oem/programs/hmgp.cfm>

If you have questions :Richard Lord, State OEM at (518) 292-2304.

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### NYS DEC – Trees for Tribs

The Hudson River Estuary Program's Trees for Tribs initiative offers free native trees and shrubs for streamside buffer planting/restoration projects in the Hudson River Estuary watershed. Since 2007 the program has been responsible for planting more than 24,000 native trees and shrubs along 60,000 feet of stream with the help of thousands of local volunteers.

**We are now accepting applications Spring 2012 planting sites.** Applications received by March 1, 2012 will be given preference. For more information including applications and fact sheets, [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html) or contact the Stream Buffer Coordinator, Beth Roessler at [\(845\)-256-2253](tel:845-256-2253) or [baroessl@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:baroessl@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

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### USDA - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

The USDA is seeking applications to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to complete a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is available from USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill).

USDA is accepting the following applications:

- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30, 2012;

- renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012;
- renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30, 2012; and
- energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through February 21, 2012.

More information on how to apply for funding is available in the January 20, 2012 [Federal Register](#), pages 2948 through 2954.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Dev.’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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## NYS Ag & Markets – Regional “Buy Local” Campaigns

Ag & Markets has announced the availability of \$200,000 in funds to support new and existing regional “buy local” food and agricultural campaigns throughout NYS. The goal of the Regional “Buy Local” Campaign Development Program is to increase consumer awareness, increase recognition in the marketplace, and increase sales of locally produced foods and agricultural products in eleven defined agricultural regions. Eligible proposals must reflect each region’s geography, agricultural production, local cultural identity and other unique attributes or specialties. They must help promote a broad-range of USDA-defined specialty crops, and they must also work synergistically with other regional “buy local” campaigns in the State, as well as the Pride of NY Program.

With \$200,000 in federal Specialty Crop Block Grant funds, each region is eligible to receive \$18,550, of which \$2,800 is allocated to create a regional brand, and up to \$2,750 for the development of a marketing/media plan. The remaining \$13,000 can be used for implementing the marketing/media plan, which can include advertisements, the creation of promotional materials, website design, public outreach and more. As part of the grant award, Ag & Markets will provide professional and creative services for each region to help develop their regional brands, create individual websites and develop a multi-year marketing/media plan. Government entities, not-for-profits, tourism boards and Industrial Dev. Authorities are all eligible to apply. Applications are available online at [www.agriculture.ny.gov](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov) or by calling 518-457-7229. Applications are due February 23, 2012. The State has eleven agricultural regions. Ulster County is divided between the Catskill Region and the Hudson Valley Region. See map in the RFP.

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### **Coming Soon:**

**A Second Round of Regional Economic Development Awards:** Building on the success of the Regional Economic Development Councils, NY will keep the momentum going with a \$200 million second competitive round of regional economic development awards in 2012. The second round of awards will allow each region to continue creating its own economic destiny.

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## **Awarded:**

### **Ulster Businesses Receive More than \$1 Million in Loans, Grants**

Three Ulster County businesses were awarded more than \$1 million in loans and grants from the Catskill Watershed Corporation this week. An \$873,733 loan will go toward improvements at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Campground in Greenfield Park. The funds will be used in part to purchase five new campground lodging units. Elm Rock, Ltd, received a \$150,000 loan to acquire SparrowHawk Bed and Breakfast in Stone Ridge. The new owners plan to add an onsite restaurant and catering facility and renovate a carriage house for additional rentals. And the Copperhood Inn and Spa in Shandaken received a \$12,105 grant to repair riprap and a culvert damaged by Hurricane Irene.

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### **National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**

Today the National Park Service announced that it will help local communities implement more than 200 natural resource conservation and recreation projects under the agency's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). Under RTCA, the National Park Service helps communities and neighborhoods to preserve valuable open spaces, revitalize rivers, and develop trails.

In Ulster County: Kingston Rail Trail Connections, Project Partner: Kingston Land Trust, RTCA Contact: Karl Beard, Location: Kingston, NY Project Goal is a network of up to 6 miles of urban rail trails and complete streets linking neighborhoods to community gardens, public parks, waterways, and schools. RTCA Role: Help expand public engagement through a community planning workshop and trail improvement projects; help engage youth groups and other partners to undertake ongoing trail maintenance.

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### **Pattern for Progress to Explore Regional Food Hub**

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress will study the feasibility of a food hub in the region to improve and increase the distribution of locally produced food in the market. Pattern will also work with local institutions to identify barriers and solutions to procuring more local food for their meal programs. The studies will be funded by a \$191,400 grant from the Local Economies Project of The New World Foundation and will be led by Sarah Brannen, who recently joined Pattern. The projects will seek to strengthen the regional food system and increase market opportunities for Hudson Valley farmers and food products. Pattern said there is great untapped demand and opportunity to provide more local food to the region and New York City metropolitan area. Also envisioned is the formation of several advisory teams to support their economic, agricultural business and planning aspects.