

Broome County

Annual Report

Department of Planning
and Economic Development

2013

60 Hawley Street – Binghamton, New York

**Broome County Department of Planning
and Economic Development**

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Broome County Countywide Comprehensive Plan

For the first time in 50 years, the County prepared a countywide comprehensive plan. The plan, dubbed 'Building Our Future', also updated the economic development plan that was adopted in 2002 known as the BCPlan. In 2012, we formed a steering committee consisting of representatives of higher education, workforce development, the Office for the Aging, Public Works, the agricultural community, rural villages and urban centers. Over 1,000 residents responded to the comprehensive plan survey, and Planning Staff met with two dozen stakeholder groups to gather input. E.M. Pemrick was hired to prepare the economic development chapters of the plan, but the Planning Department drafted the majority of the document. The plan outlines 9 vision items:



- Making Broome County an Inviting Place To Live, Work, and Play
- Engaging Our Students and Young Professionals
- Taking Pride in Our Urban and Village Centers
- Taking Pride in Our Scenic Beauty
- Investing In Our Legacy Sites
- Making a Commitment to High Standards in Services
- Making a Commitment to High Standards in Building Design and Renovation
- Becoming More Resilient
- Investing In Our Workforce, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation

The Broome County Legislature unanimously adopted the plan at their December 2013 meeting. The plan is online at: gobroomecounty.com/comprehensiveplan

Broome County Land Bank

In 2013 Broome County received designation by Empire State Development as a 'Land Bank'. This is a new economic development tool in New York, but it has been used successfully for redevelopment in many other parts of the country. The goals of the Broome County Land Bank are as follows:

- Stem Disinvestment in the Neighborhoods Surrounding Abandoned Properties
- Protect the Public Health and Safety by Securing and Remediating Abandoned Properties
- Return Vacant, Abandoned, and Tax-Delinquent Properties to Productive Use
- Turn Vacant Spaces into Vibrant Spaces

- Provide a Mechanism for Coordinating Reuse of Flood Impacted Properties, Primarily for Hazard Mitigation Efforts
- Promote Increased Levels of Home Ownership

Through a ‘Land Bank’, the County can take ownership of distressed properties, and promote their redevelopment through a market based approach. During 2013, the Broome County Land Bank was incorporated, established a board of directors, set goals and objectives and applied for funding from the New York State Community Revitalization Program. The Land Bank received \$150,000 in administrative funding for 2014.

Flood Mitigation and Recovery

Broome County Flood Task Force



BROOME COUNTY FLOOD TASK FORCE

The Broome County Flood Task Force continues to serve

as a clearinghouse for municipal officials on information related to flood mitigation, floodplain mapping, and flood insurance. For 2013, Planning Staff updated the Flood Task Force on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program, FEMA Levee Certification Process, the analysis of Broome County watersheds, the Moreland Commission on the response of utility companies to recent disasters, the status of stream gauge funding, and recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. In addition, the Flood Task Force assisted in the preparation of the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

One of the highlights of the year was a presentation by the designers of the new MacArthur School in Binghamton: The architectural firm Ashley-McGraw. The school was devastated by the 2011 flood. Ashley-McGraw designed the new building to be above the revised (but still preliminary) floodplain and to have many innovative energy and environmental features.

NY Rising

In 2013, Governor Cuomo announced Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery funding for Broome County communities that were impacted by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The program, known as NY-Rising,



will assist Endicott, Johnson City, Conklin, Vestal and the City of Binghamton with carrying out flood recovery and mitigation projects. During the year, Planning staff sat on the steering committee for the program as communities developed their priority projects for inclusion in the final plan. Final decision on project funding is expected in 2014.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

With the assistance of hired consultants, Tetra Tech Inc., the Department completed development of the update to the Broome County Multijurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved by FEMA in June of 2013 and adopted by the Broome County Legislature in July.

The hazard mitigation planning process is an opportunity to outline potential hazards that could affect some or all of our residents and also allows the County and participating municipalities to be eligible for future mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The goal of hazard mitigation planning is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural and non-natural hazards which include Severe Storms, Flooding, and Severe Winter Storms. The study focused on existing buildings and potential future development, infrastructure, and critical facilities that might be impacted and include a risk assessment and hazard mitigation strategy.

Update and adoption of the Plan is required every five years. Therefore, the next full update is scheduled for the year 2018. However, the Planning Department will continue to work with local municipalities on tracking and implementing mitigation actions included in the plan in an effort to work together on hazard mitigation issues and monitor progress.

Broome County Watershed Based Mitigation Strategy

The Broome County Watershed Based Flood Mitigation Strategy is being developed by the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development with funding, in part, by a grant from the NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Occurrences of river flooding and flash flooding events and their associated damage have taken a financial toll on local municipalities, including capital costs for infrastructure repairs and upgrades and indirect impacts to local economic and community development. Considering local financial constraints, the prioritization of projects that improve stormwater and flood management, while minimizing impacts to the local economy is essential for maximizing the benefits received from infrastructure investments.

By taking a more comprehensive view of the watershed and including all the municipalities working together, it is easier to prioritize and identify strategies that may have broader impacts for managing flood water flow, and also to incorporate more proactive, innovative strategies. The intent of this project is to provide a broad

comprehensive view of our County's stormwater infrastructure in frequently flooded areas, and to provide local municipalities and agencies with a tool for making prudent individual and collective decisions about stormwater and flood management. The project will focus on incorporating a variety of tools and strategies including natural resource protection and restoration, as well as maintenance or expansion of existing flood control structures, along with the use of better site design, green infrastructure, reclamations of paved areas, and standard stormwater management practices.

At the end of 2013, the Department is going through the procurement process to hire a consultant for the technical analysis needed for the project. We expect that a firm will be hired in early 2014 and the project will commence by the end of the first quarter of 2014.

Broome County Stream Recovery Project

In cooperation with the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District, Broome County accepted a grant from Empire State Development's Hurricane Irene-Tropical Storm Lee Flood Mitigation Grant Program for a series of projects to stabilize and restore streams at high priority locations throughout the County and prevent future flooding damages. Planning staff is administering the grant funds, totaling \$653,032, which will be used to reimburse local municipalities and Broome Soil and Water for projects that they will be managing under this program. Several of the projects were initiated, and some completed, in 2013. It is anticipated that all projects will be completed by the end of 2014 and all funds reimbursed.

Constitution Pipeline Wetlands Mitigation

In 2013, the Planning Department assisted the consultants for the Constitution Pipeline in identifying potential wetlands mitigation projects and served as a liaison between Constitution and local municipal representatives to communicate their project ideas. In order to receive the necessary permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers for wetlands disturbance during pipeline construction, Constitution is required to mitigate any of these impacts by providing for wetlands projects in the watershed. Constitution is currently assessing suggested projects and is expected to share their results in 2014.

Emergency Preparedness Fair

The Planning Department again participated in the Broome County Emergency Preparedness Fair. The 2013 fair was held at the Binghamton University Event Center and featured several live demonstrations: BCFA Fire Safety Trailer, Sheriff K-9 Unit, Safe Child Fingerprint ID Program, NYSEG Live Line, 9-1-1 Demo Calls, CPR Demonstrations, and Dig Safely, New York. The Planning booth had live and static flood maps and flood insurance information.



No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management Presentation

Utilizing a template from the National Association of Floodplain Managers, Planning staff developed a presentation regarding the details of “No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management”. This refers to a management strategy where activities that may adversely impact flood damage to another property or community will be allowed only when mitigated or accounted for within an adopted community-based plan. The presentation was the basis for a municipal training directed at planning and zoning board members.

Bar Association Presentation

In June of 2013, Planning staff made a presentation to the Broome County Bar Association regarding changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. The National Flood Insurance Program was overhauled by the Biggert-Waters act of 2012, and the result was substantial changes to flood insurance. The biggest change was is the dramatic increases to flood insurance premiums to make the program self-sufficient.

Stormwater

Broome County MS4

In early 2013, Broome County’s Stormwater Management Program was audited by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to assess compliance with state stormwater regulations for designated Municipally Separate Storm Sewer Systems. While there were many aspects of the program that received a positive review, such public education and participation, there were other aspects that showed room for improvement, such as the implementation of good housekeeping practices for municipal facilities and operations. As a result, the Division of Engineering and Planning staff began to undertake several new initiatives.

Broome County Planning staff developed a presentation to inform County employees about the stormwater program requirements that Broome County must adhere to as a designated MS4 community. The presentation gave an overview of the stormwater regulations, the role of various County agencies and personnel, and intermunicipal cooperation between Broome and Tioga County MS4 communities through the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition. The presentation was given before the County Executive and her Deputy’s.

Planning staff also took the lead on the formation and initial meeting of the Broome County Stormwater Working Group. This is a group consisting of department heads and

supervisory personnel that have a roll in implementation of the County's Stormwater Management Program Plan. Utilizing the above mentioned presentation, planning staff, with the assistance of the Division of Engineering, brought involved County employees up to date on their role in implementation of the program.

The meeting also marked the kick-off to the Division Engineering's project, utilizing contracted consultants, to develop municipal good housekeeping plans for County facilities. Planning staff has been assisting by reviewing documents as available. These plans are expected to be completed in early 2014, prior to the end of the NYSDEC's stormwater reporting year in March.

Broome County Planning also hosted a summer intern with the goal of developing educational fact sheets for local businesses whose operations may have impacts on stormwater. These include those dealing with animal care, the auto industry, lawn care and the food industry. These fact sheets will help meet public education requirements which list local businesses as one of the target audiences.

Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition

Broome County is a member of the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC), a group of regulated municipalities that collaborate to address local stormwater issues and meet federal and state Stormwater mandates. Planning staff worked with other BTSC members on implementation and compliance by providing public education, opportunities for public participation, and training and outreach services. The BTSC's Public Education and Participation Committee continues to develop stormwater awareness messages and brochures, among other items as required by State stormwater regulations.



Planning staff provide administrative support for the Coalition's programs and initiatives. The major task was the completion of the Stormwater Management Plan Program annual report for the full BTSC, along with the organization of the annual public meeting giving the public an opportunity to see and comment on the report. The Annual Report is a compilation of the activities of all regulated municipalities under the state regulations, as well as Coalition wide activities for submittal to the NYSDEC. Administrative activities also included updating the BTSC website, www.broometiogastormwater.com, housed on the County server, distributing notices related to BTSC meetings and events, as well as news and information from the NYSDEC and EPA regarding stormwater regulations and guidance.

Planning staff also coordinated BTSC meetings throughout the year. This included meetings of the full BTSC and the smaller Public Education and Participation Committee.

Planning staff also organized training opportunities for BTSC members, along with Broome and Tioga's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These included an overview of changes to EPA stormwater regulations, municipal stormwater construction inspection training, and emergency stream intervention training. A significant training was a jointly sponsored effort between Broome County Planning and the BTSC. Ellen Hahn, stormwater specialist for the DEC attended a municipal training to educate planning and zoning boards regarding their role in stormwater management implementation and compliance.

Approximately 9 of the 15 BTSC member municipalities (including Broome County) were audited by the NYSDEC in 2013 to assess their respective Stormwater Management Programs. As administrative support to the BTSC, planning staff assisted by providing relevant materials related to BTSC projects and programs, including the public education and participation aspects of the program and records of training opportunities.

While the NYSDEC is happy with educational programming overall, they expressed a desire to see more work done to measure the effectiveness of these programs. Planning staff developed a "Stormwater Awareness Survey" that was distributed to the general public, municipal employees and others, to gauge the level of awareness on stormwater matters throughout the community. The survey results can be used to help guide additional education efforts and to monitor progress. The survey will be distributed again in two to three years as a comparative tool for assessing whether education and awareness efforts are being effective.

As part of meeting these requirements staff coordinated the annual Riverbank Clean-up. The event was held on October 20th. Over 75 volunteers participated to collect almost a ton of trash from the County's riverbanks.

In 2013, the BTSC initiated the education campaign. The intent is to create a memorable campaign, logo and event that would tie together all of the stormwater education including best management practice for residents awareness and implementation of green infrastructure practices and flooding issues as they relates to stormwater management. The initial phase of the program has been focused on the best management practice for residents and homeowners, but will expand the campaign to additional areas.

The campaign has been named the "Water From Rain" program and has resulted in the establishment of a new logo, website (www.waterfromrain.org), TV ad, radio ad, and brochure. Full development and launch of the campaign is anticipated in early 2014.



Green Infrastructure

In 2013, Planning staff began exploring options for the implementation of green infrastructure stormwater control practices into planned municipal projects. The Department recognized the potential for grant funding that would not only help to achieve projects that are greatly needed by the County, but would also help to make greener County facilities, that contribute to more resilient communities.

As part of this effort Planning staff enlisted the assistance of contract consultants and initiated feasibility studies for the integration of green infrastructure practices at two facilities, the Broome County Public Safety Facility and Government Plaza, home of the Broome County Office Building. The former provided the basis for a successful grant application that is being administered by Broome County's Office of Energy Development. As further grant opportunities become available, discussions for implementation of green infrastructure at Government Plaza will be considered.

At the end of 2013, in cooperation with other Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition members, the Department completed and submitted an application to the NYSDEC's Water Quality Improvement Grant Program (WQIP) for the construction of demonstration projects that would integrate green infrastructure into three municipal projects. These are the Southern Tier Regional Farmers Market, the Washington Avenue Commons, and the reconstruction of the amphitheater at Ross Park Zoo. Grant awards are expected in early to mid-2014. This grant request totaled \$700,000 for all three projects and would cover 75% of the total project cost.

In late 2013, staff also began preparation of a grant application, due in January of 2014 that would complement the projects submitted under the WQIP. This application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will include the costs associated with the remaining 25% cost of the demonstration projects. The application also includes an educational programming component that would include, educational materials, signage, workshops and training opportunities, a tracking database for green infrastructure projects to monitor progress and as an informational tool, the integration of public art for water education, and other aspects.

Regional Farmers Market

The long planned regional Farmer's Market in Otsiningo Park advanced in 2013. The preferred market site was assessed by the Public Archaeology Facility of Binghamton University. Also, drawings and construction documents were finalized by Keystone Associates. Planning staff worked closely with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to address issues raised by the archaeological studies of the preferred site.



Brownfields

312 Maple Street Remediation and Redevelopment

In 2010, The Planning Department was awarded over \$131,000 in funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the remediation of 312 Maple Street in Endicott. The project was one of only 5 cleanup grant awards allocated in New York State in that round of federal funding. Broome County took possession of the property when it foreclosed on LMS of North America, the previous owner.

During the second quarter of 2012, GZA GeoEnvironmental completed their remedial design for the site and implemented an enhanced anaerobic bioremediation. Through this process, a food grade material is pumped through a network of injection wells and this attracts microbes which feed on the contamination breaking it down into harmless constituent components. This resulted in all but removal of hexavalent chromium and a significant reduction in most TCE compounds with an expected rise in daughter compounds. This confirms that the injection wells are working as planned. One more round of groundwater testing is planned during the Clean-Up Cooperative Agreement period, and Broome County will complete the monitoring program after the EPA Clean Up Cooperative Agreement terminates in 2014.

When the cleanup is complete, the property will once again be on the tax rolls.

Susquehanna Heritage Area Management

The Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development in partnership with the Tioga County Department of Economic Development and Planning, provides administrative and technical support for the Susquehanna Heritage Area. The Planning Department is tasked with implementing the goals (preservation, education, recreation,



and revitalization, marketing and partnerships) and recommendations of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment, completed in 2010, which builds upon previous Plans that have been developed since the Susquehanna Heritage Area was recognized by the New York State legislature in 1982.

The goal of the plan is to identify, promote, and develop the historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of an expanded Susquehanna Heritage Area, encompassing Broome County and Tioga County in their entirety. The plan guides the implementation of programs and projects to foster economic revitalization and enhance

quality of life throughout the region. In 2013 the Planning Department facilitated the signing of the Amended Agreement Establishing the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission by the Broome County Executive, Tioga County Legislative Chair and Mayors of the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott and Village of Johnson City. The Commission Amended Agreement reflects the expanded boundary and new composition of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission to allow the two counties and 39 municipalities to participate in the Commission.

In addition to the three original municipalities, an additional 36 municipalities (and non-profits within those municipalities) are now eligible to apply for funding through the Heritage Area Program of the Environment Protection Fund. In 2013 the Planning Department coordinated the Commission review of Broome County and Tioga County municipal and non-profit projects applying for CFA/EPF (Consolidated Funding Application/Environmental Protection Fund) funding under the Heritage Area, Parks and Historic Preservation categories. Under the direction of the Planning Department, the Commission provided the requisite endorsement for seven (7) Heritage Area projects that was necessary for the projects to advance through the grant application process in 2013. Tasked with education, marketing and promoting partnerships, the Planning Department coordinated and facilitated the participation of the Susquehanna Heritage Area in the 2013 NYS Path Through History Weekends – a statewide event designed to promote the historical and cultural resources of New York State. The Planning Department continued to update the Susquehanna Heritage Area website which was launched in 2011 with funding from the New York State Heritage Area Program. The Planning Department continued to represent the Susquehanna Heritage Area at the NYS Path Through History meetings for the Southern Tier Region and at the NYS Heritage Areas Advisory Council meetings.

Municipal Training

Planning staff has coordinated and conducted training for local government staff and officials for many years. Changes in State law requiring ongoing training for planning commission and zoning board members, along with a reduction in state provided training opportunities due to budget cuts, have made these training programs increasingly important. Topics covered in 2013 were:

- Overview on Agriculture in Broome County
- Right to Farm Law and Neighbor Relations in New York State
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Basics
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA):New Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF)
- Stormwater Management for Municipal Boards
- No Adverse Impact (NAI) Floodplain Management

Land Use Reviews (239)

The Department has a legal obligation to conduct reviews and render advisory opinions on land-use proposals covered under NYS General Municipal Law 239 (l) and (m). The Department reviewed more than 180 cases in 2013. The most significant projects reviewed by the Department in 2013 were as follows:

- Site Plan, Special Use Permit and Parking Area Variance for proposed new construction of two 5-story additions to accommodate additional 40 residential units (180 bedrooms) and site modifications to existing mixed-use development in the City of Binghamton.
- Site Plan and Special Use Permit for proposed conversion of 2nd through 12th floors of an existing structure to multi-unit dwellings (68 units, 231 bedrooms) and 1st floor to commercial use in the City of Binghamton. The building is a contributing building to the National Register Court Street Historic District.
- Site Plan Review and Rezoning to Planned Development District for new student housing complex for approximately 775 students in the Town of Vestal.
- Site Plan Review and Planned Development for new multi-phased casino development at existing Traditions Resort (hotel, restaurant and golf course) in the Town of Union. The Planning Department commented on the preliminary development plan in 2013.
- Site Plan, Planned Unit Development, Rezoning and Area Variances for construction of 62-unit Microtel and demolition of three (3) existing buildings in the Town of Dickinson.
- Site Plan Reviews for installation of two (2) new compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling facilities to support CNG powered vehicles in the Town of Kirkwood. Preliminary Site Plan Review provided for proposed CNG fueling facility in the Town of Kirkwood.

Broome County Construction Data Reports

As part of the annual reporting process, the Department prepared the 2012 Construction Data Report. This report, available on the County's website, provides an indicator of countywide growth and development patterns and trends, residential and nonresidential building data from municipalities, and tables and charts documenting annual building permit activity within the municipalities. The construction data is online here: gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs

Geographic Information System (GIS) Division

Online Presence

The GIS Unit continues to provide a robust GIS website with both static and interactive maps. In 2013, the site received nearly 160,000 visits. Throughout the year, some of the following enhancements were made to the site:

- *Unified Parcel Information System (UPIS):* The UPIS saw the addition of 911 address points and online GIS parcel data went from a monthly to a weekly update schedule.
- *Basic Parcel Viewer:* A new Basic Parcel Viewer application was developed using ArcGIS Online technology. This application will be enhanced over time and eventually replace the existing Parcel System, as the software it runs on is no longer supported by ESRI.
- *Online Map Collection:* A large collection of online maps continues to be maintained, with maps added or updated every month.

County Departments

The GIS Unit continues to support nearly all county departments in some capacity with mapping, data, and analysis. Some highlights include:

- *Emergency Services:* continued to assign all 911 addresses within the county; started a major project to verify addresses, street names, and zip codes throughout the county and created several new polygon layers depicting emergency response subunits for use in new dispatch software being implemented in 2014; continued to provide support for NY-Alert addressing requirements; further developed river response/rescue tile and overview maps; produced Spiedie Fest and Dick's Open vendor layout maps; created several versions of a reuse plan for the Hillcrest Depot.
- *Sheriff's Office:* begun providing weekly, monthly, and year-to-date maps and data for long term, strategic/administration planning; enabled access to online web maps using ArcGIS Online; developed an Access database of cases for weekly report generation and to allow better search ability from user-selected criteria, based on weekly data extracts from the AS400.
- *Real Property:* continued to support tax mapping functions in GIS format; continued to provide PDF tax maps and access to RPS data online through Image Mate at our website.

- *Planning*: provided various maps and data for several different projects and grants including the downtown incubator, airport road sewer extension, debris management plan, farmers market, land bank, and individual property maps for the IDA.
- *Health*: provided various maps for projects and grants including the Community Health Assessment and a Healthy Neighborhoods grant.
- *Elections/Legislature*: fulfilled many various map and data requests for Elections; produce maps of annual additions to agricultural districts for the Legislature.

City of Binghamton Departments

The GIS Unit continues to provide GIS and mapping services to City of Binghamton Departments per an inter-municipal agreement. In 2012, an average of nearly 42 hours of service per week was provided in addition to nearly 400 map projects being created. Some highlights include:

- *Police*: developed an Access database of Part I crimes for report generation and better search ability based on user-selected criteria; continued to provide weekly, monthly, and year-to-date map, charts, and graphs for long term, strategic/administration planning; supported Operation Impact activities; provided support for the establishment of a City Crime Intelligence Center; utilize ArcGIS Online to create web maps for police use; participated in various meetings.
- *Planning*: provided mapping for various projects and grants including CDBG maps.
- *Building and Code*: various building permit, code violation, and vacant property maps provided.

Natural Gas

The GIS Unit continues to be involved with natural gas-related activities. The natural gas database continues to be maintained with lease and other gas-related information, updated on a monthly basis. PDF maps of leased properties in the county are also created on a monthly basis and placed online.

Environmental Management Council

The Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC), established in 1971 by the County Legislature, serves as a citizen advisory board to county government on environmental matters. The EMC conducts environmental research and planning, reviews environmental plans, reports and impact



statements, and helps raise awareness through public participation and education programs. A Senior Planner provided technical, bookkeeping and other support services.

Speakers

The EMC hosted a variety of speakers and offered informative presentations. Topics included the following:

- Daniel Schofield, Commissioner of Public Works, gave an overview of the ever changing recycling and electronics waste industries, operating a sustainable landfill, and other developments and initiatives in the County's Solid Waste and Recycling programs.
- Cathy Aingworth, Superintendent of the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant, gave an overview of some of the recent developments in the Plant's operations and projects, including updates on the flow management study and Chesapeake Bay TMDL, along with others.
- Mike Lovegreen, District Manager for the Bradford County Conservation District gave a talk entitled "Landscape and Community Impacts of Natural Gas Development". He discussed how the emergence of natural gas development in Pennsylvania has affected the community and measures they have taken locally to address them.
- Margaret Scarinzi, Director of the Broome County Office of Energy Development gave an overview of the newly created Office of Energy Development and went over some of the programs and initiatives that she planned to undertake in the coming year and beyond.
- EMC members Andre LaClair and Marley Urdanick gave a summary of their research regarding home renewable energy incentives and their assessment of how they can better reflect the estimated savings associated with emissions reduction to encourage implementation of the practices by homeowners.
- Jerry Michael from the NYS Forest Owners Association, and an EMC member, gave a presentation entitled "New York Forests – An Endangered Species?" He discussed issues associated with the natural regeneration of New York's forests related to the deer population and other issues, as well as potential solutions.

Tours

The EMC also hosted a tour of Southern Tier Recyclers, a new recycling facility located in Apalachin. The facility includes both mechanized and hand sorting for maximized material recovery from the waste stream. While the facility is not in Broome County, they accept a portion of our waste stream. The tour of facility illuminated issues surrounding recycling

such as how the equipment and markets in part determine what can be accepted, and the realities of what happens to the waste after it is picked up from the curb.

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee, a standing committee of the EMC, continued to be a forum for air, land and water issues. Focus areas included open space conservation, energy issues, and air quality issues, among others topics. Members continued work on open space planning including updates to the inventory of the County's open space resources important for natural resource protection.

Special Events

Once again, the EMC coordinated and participated in the following Special Events:

- 28th Broome County Riverbank Clean Up – Over 200 volunteers collected almost two tons of debris and trash at locations along the banks of area's rivers and tributaries.
- EMC members and staff also participated in Earth Day Southern Tier's annual Earth Fest. This event raises awareness about local environmental issues, promotes membership opportunities and recruits volunteers.

Boards and Memberships

Planning staff continued to serve on the following boards and committees in 2013:

- Ag and Farmland Protection Board
- Aging Futures Partnership
- Binghamton Commission on Architecture and Urban Planning
- Binghamton Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Binghamton Housing Authority
- BMTS Planning Committee
- Broome County Catholic Charities
- Broome Tioga Storm Water Coalition
- Environmental Management Council
- Greater Binghamton Council of Governments
- Greenway Steering Committee
- Headwaters River Trail
- Livable Communities Alliance Steering Committee
- NYS DEC Region 7 Open Space Committee
- REDC Health Care Work Group
- REDC Infrastructure Work Group
- REDC Regional Sustainability Work Group
- Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board
- Southern Tier Economic Partnership (STEP)
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board