

2021 Economic Services Report

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, State and local economic development organizations, and the region's business community. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of assistance for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local, regional, and cross-regional development initiatives by attending over 103 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, industry assistance, and community development meetings. The use of digital communication has enabled cross-regional collaboration on topics including business and resident recruitment, financing, and regional infrastructure development. Among significant initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, workforce housing, Local Waterfront Revitalization planning, access to early-stage capital, and economic development planning. Organizations staff worked with include:

Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages
Adirondack Common Ground Alliance
Adirondack Economic Development Corporation
Adirondack North Country Association
Adirondack Foundation
ADK Action
Center for Businesses in Transition
Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century
Clarkson University
Cornell University
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Development Authority of the North Country
Economic Development Corporation of Warren County
Empire State Forest Products Association
Essex County IDA
Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization
Franklin County Economic Development
Franklin County IDA
Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce
Hamilton County IDA
Hudson Valley Startup Fund
Indian Lake Local Development Corporation
Jefferson County IDA
Jefferson Community College

Johnsburg Local Development Corporation
Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board
Lake George Chamber of Commerce
Lewis County Economic Development
Lewis County IDA
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of State
New York State Empire State Development
North Country Chamber of Commerce
North Country Community College
North Country Regional Economic Development Council
North Country Regional Economic Development Council Innovation Workgroup
North Country Regional Economic Development Council Writing Team
Northern Border Regional Commission
Point Positive, Inc.
Red Bear Angels
Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
SUNY Canton
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
SUNY Potsdam
St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce
St. Lawrence County IDA
Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce
Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance
The Wild Center

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff assisted in the review of permits that were approved in 2021 including three solar energy projects, five housing projects, one hospitality project, and one office project.

Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process including solar projects in Essex, Fulton, St. Lawrence, and Warren Counties, commercial projects in Essex and Franklin Counties, and housing projects in Essex County.

Regional Council Support

In 2021, the Regional Economic Development Councils were tasked with providing an update on strategic plan implementation, including evaluating the region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and modifying plan elements. Staff served on the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's (NCREDC) Writing Team and was

the Writing Captain of the Council's Innovation Workgroup in support of the 2021 strategic plan update. Staff also led the development of the NCREDC's Innovation Workplan and facilitated the implementation of key projects.

Regional Economic Development Initiatives

Throughout 2021, staff served on a regional advisory workgroup to develop a Regional Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan for Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. Led by the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP), the project was funded through a \$400,000 CARES Act grant from the federal Economic Development Administration to address economic distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff also participated on a workgroup, branded as the Adirondack Advanced Wood Innovation Group (AAWIG), to explore nanocellulose research and commercialization opportunities, as well as additional initiatives to advance wood products and localize manufacturing supply chains. Members of the group included representatives from the Economic Development Corporation of Warren County, the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP), and Clarkson University.

Entrepreneurship Support

In 2021, staff worked with a conglomerate of over twelve regional economic development organizations-- the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition (CBIT)-- to assist aspiring entrepreneurs in the purchase and management of existing businesses. In 2021, CBIT hosted a digital symposium to connect potential entrepreneurs to businesses seeking to transition ownership; over 160 people from across the northeastern United States attended. Research performed by the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) indicates that between 10,000 and 15,000 businesses in the North Country have owners who hope to retire and sell their businesses in the next five years.

Throughout 2021, staff was able to meet prospective business founders interested in potentially relocating to the Adirondacks through attendance at virtual industry conferences including the Cornell University Entrepreneurship Day symposium and meetings of the Red Bear Angels investment group. The digital pathways opened during the pandemic, and enabled by New York's investments in broadband deployment, have increased the potential for Adirondack business locations and the viability of telecommuting from the Park.

Community Planning Support

In 2021, Agency staff assisted communities on economic development and community planning initiatives. Staff assisted the Town of Tupper Lake in the development of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and worked with the Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid to update their Joint Community Land Use Plan.