



2013 ECONOMIC SERVICES ANNUAL 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 help for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

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 advised the Agency on the economic impacts of a variety of projects ranging from the Adirondack Natural History Museum's Wild Walk project in the Town of Tupper Lake (Franklin County) to the Barber Homestead Park campground project in the Town of Westport (Essex County). Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a diversity of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process. The below table provides the number of successful applications, total number of pre-applications, and the number of variances Economic Services staff were involved with in 2013:

| Regulatory Programs Support | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
| Project Type | 2013 | 2012 |
| Pre-Application Meetings | 8 | 8 |
| Permits | 11 | 11 |
| Variances | 0 | 4 |

Community and Economic Development

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending over 60 public outreach and community development meetings in 2013. Initiatives in which staff provided expertise

included the second phase of the Hamlets 3: Planning for Smart Growth and Expansion of Hamlets in the Adirondack Park project, which developed hamlet expansion plans for five communities in three counties in the Park, the Adirondack Partnership's Adirondack Park Recreation Plan, and the Indian Lake Local Development Corporation's main street revitalization project.

Agency staff provided economic information and advice to over fourteen communities in six counties through initiatives such as the 5 Towns Finch Pruyn Economic Revitalization project (Towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake, Hamilton County and Towns of Minerva, Newcomb, and North Hudson, Essex County) and the Hamlets 3 project (Town of Caroga, Fulton County; Town of Jay, Essex County; and Towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake, Hamilton County), as well as through individual guidance to communities in Franklin County, Hamilton County, St. Lawrence County and Warren County.

Finch Pruyn Land Classification

Economic Services Staff supported the State Land Planning team during the classification of the former Finch Pruyn lands in Hamilton and Essex Counties. As a member of the Finch Pruyn classification team, staff developed an economic impact section related to potential classification options, provided the Agency Board with two presentations on economic impacts, answered public comment issues, and assisted with general content development and document editing.

Regional Council Support

In 2013, all three of the Regional Economic Development Councils representing the Adirondack Park (Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country) were recognized as "Top Performers" in the Governor's Statewide economic development competition; this resulted in over \$245 million in grant and loan funding to the three Councils' to pursue key economic development projects. Economic Services Unit staff assists in the process as a member of State Agency Resource Teams for each Council. Staff is also supports the Governor's related Path Through History and Cleaner Greener Communities initiatives by providing community development expertise.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight business development and critical infrastructure expansion in the Park. In 2013, the Committee learned from a diversity of local businesses, including from Sootbusters, LLC from Tupper Lake, NY and Essex Pallet and Pellet of Chesterfield, NY, examined the benefits of wood pellet heating through a presentation from ACT Bioenergy and representatives from Saranac

Lake Central Schools, was updated on the ongoing remediation of the Jones and Laughlin Steel site in the Town of Clifton, and was informed of the economic and fiscal benefits related to conservation subdivisions in both the western and eastern United States (presented by the Wildlife Conservation Society). This array of topics articulated the broad issues and opportunities for sustainable economic expansion in the Adirondack Park.