

2018 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 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 development initiatives by attending 75 public outreach, local and regional workgroups, and community development meetings spread throughout the Park. This represents an 8.7% increase over 2017 and is the most public meetings attended by Economic Services staff in the past seven years. Among significant initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, comprehensive planning, economic development planning, aesthetics, signage, and broadband expansion. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County, Town of Crown Point, Essex County, Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, and Town of Lake George, Warren County.

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 nine projects that were approved in 2018 including a ropes course in the Town of Lake Luzerne, Saratoga County, a hospitality facility in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County, a hospitality facility in the Town of Lake George, Warren County, and a recreational event in the Town of Minerva, Essex County. 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 such as a brewery in Franklin County, a biotechnology facility in Franklin County, a hospitality project in Saratoga County, and a large-scale subdivision in Fulton County.

Regional Council Support

In 2018, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park, the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received a combined \$217.20 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. The Mohawk Valley region was identified as a Top Performer and the North Country and Capital Region councils were awarded \$64.8 million and \$67 million respectively. Since 2011, Governor Cuomo's REDC competition has delivered over \$1.81 billion for projects in the three regions representing the Adirondack Park.

Some key projects in the Park that were awarded funding include the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan for the Village of Northville, Fulton County, a new hotel in Tupper Lake, Franklin County, a new senior center in Keeseville, Essex County, an inn in North Creek, Warren County, and park improvements in the Town of Bolton, Warren County. A total of 41 projects located inside the Park received funding.

In 2018, Economic Services Unit staff assisted the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee in drafting the Council's 2018 Progress Report. Staff also served on the Council's Opportunity Agenda Workgroup. Additionally, economic staff serves on the State Agency Resource Teams for the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight economic initiatives in the Park. In 2018, the Committee received presentations from Tom Williams on the Adirondack Watershed Institute's invasive species Business Community Outreach Program and from Jay Ward on his forest products business, Ward Lumber.

Envision Adirondacks Initiative

In 2018, the Adirondack Park Agency piloted its Envision Adirondacks initiative. The initiative worked with local community stakeholder groups to envision new development in the Towns of Johnsburg and North Elba, as well as in the Village of Lake Placid. The initiative seeks to improve community dialog by providing visual simulations of development under diverse planning and zoning scenarios.

Community Planning Support

In 2018, Agency staff assisted communities on economic development and community planning initiatives. Staff assisted the Town of Crown Point in the development of its Comprehensive Plan, worked with the Town of Schroon Lake on their Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy, and helped facilitate community outreach and economic development planning in the Town of Chester. Overall, staff was involved in planning and economic development efforts in thirteen Adirondack municipalities in 2018.

State Land Planning Support

Economic Services staff supported the Planning Division in the finalization of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Classification Package for amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). The project involved the classification and reclassification of more than 50,000 acres of State Lands in the Adirondack Park which include the Boreas Ponds Tract, 32 additional classification proposals, 11 reclassification proposals, and 56 classifications involving map corrections.

Staff also assisted in the finalization of the FSEIS for amendments to the APSLMP involving clarification of the Travel Corridors classification category definition and the associated Guidelines for Management and Use.