

Positively Greene

COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



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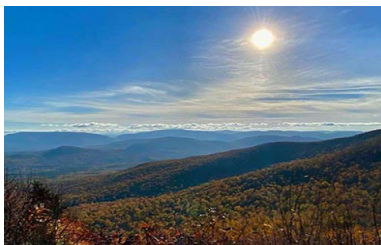
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Special Edition: 2022 A Year-In-Review

January 2023

2022 witnessed the beginning of the post-pandemic economic recovery. The unprecedented federal funding received by both Greene County and New York State has enabled some incredible projects to begin, and many community development programs to flourish. Your Greene County Legislature remains committed to delivering investments that improve the lives of our residents, keep property taxes low, and move our county forward with the infrastructure expansion required for sustainable growth.

Legislative Actions



Limiting NYC Watershed Land Acquisitions in Greene County

In their first full session of 2022, the Greene County Legislature unanimously

adopted a resolution designed to limit the ability of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to purchase more land in Greene County. Under Resolution 13-22, Greene joins Delaware County in support of a new plan that would replace NYC purchases with leases held by the local municipalities where the land is located.

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/scoop/limiting-watershed-acquisition>



Responding to NYS Gas Tax Holiday

As gas and diesel prices rose to record heights, NYS implemented a state-wide gas tax holiday effective from June through December. The Greene County Legislature chose not to exercise an optional county tax holiday, as it wholly believes that taxes derived from high gas prices can be most effectively applied to keeping property taxes low for Greene County residents.

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/scoop/new-york-state-implementing-gas-tax-holiday-greene-county-opts-out-of-local-option-in-favor-of-keeping-property-tax-levy-flat>

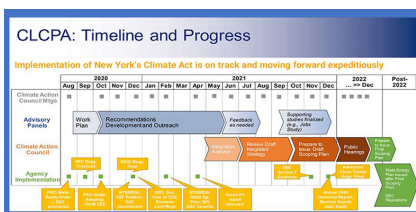


Holding the Line on Property Tax

For a fourth successful year, there will be no increase in the overall property tax levy, Greene County will hold the line and not exceed the NYS Property Tax Cap Legislation. Our

success at maintaining a consistent property tax levy level is based on both our sales tax collections and our judicious use of fund balances. As the growth in the sales tax has continued over the last three years, we have used that revenue to keep property taxes low.

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/scoop/no-property-tax-increase-2023>



Opposing NYS Mandates without Local Input

In April of 2022, The Greene County

Legislature unanimously adopted Resolution # 130-22 detailing the specific adverse effects on county residents and businesses as dictated by the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The board then directed County Planning to submit the comments contained in the resolution, and an accompanying climate report prepared for Greene, Delaware and Schoharie Counties to the NYS Climate Action Council.

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/scoop/opposition-clcpa-draft-plan>

Funding Last-Mile Broadband Connectivity



At its November 14th meeting, the Greene County Legislature authorized the execution of three contracts totaling \$2.2 million with ISPs Mid-Hudson Cable, Margaretville Telephone Company, and Charter Communications providing funding to assist with the installation of High-Speed Fiber Internet to unserved areas of Greene County. In this unique public/private partnership the County funding will enable the installation of High-Speed Fiber Internet to 1,400 addresses on 112 miles of unserved roadways. The County's contribution will fund the most difficult last-mile roads.

<https://www.greenegovernment.com/scoop/greene-county-to-provide-2-million-for-last-mile-high-speed-fiber-internet-to-unserved-roads-and-households>

Legislature Funds EMT Certifications



Greene County took action to attract candidates to take Emergency Medical Technician training to serve as first responders. The legislature unanimously authorized payment of the \$800 fee in exchange for a commitment to serve as an EMT for 18 months in Greene County upon completion of the training.

New Business Growth/Projects

Hunter Received \$1.97 Million NYS Grant



This award enables the Village of Hunter to relocate its fire station 0.15-miles west of its current site taking it outside of the regulatory floodway and the 100- year and 500-year flood hazard

areas of the Schoharie Creek. The existing fire station and back building will be demolished and replaced with a municipal park with streamside access. Currently, the existing fire station becomes inaccessible during even moderate flood events due to the undersized bridge. Relocation of the firehouse will allow for the expansion of the bridge and greatly alleviate flooding throughout the village.

Windham Adopts Comprehensive Plan



Upon receiving funding for an update through the Catskill Park Community Smart Growth Grant Program, the town produced a Comprehensive plan to provide a balance between accommodating future growth and preserving the quality of life and natural resources that makes Windham a special place. Challenges will included local housing needs, the need for regulation of short-term rentals and the need for additional/updated land use controls including the consideration of zoning.



Restoration and Clean Energy Funding for Athens

The Historic Athens Lighthouse received a \$500,000 restoration grant from NYS to refurbish the roof and gutter system

of the 147 year-old building. The Village of Athens became a Clean Energy Community last year under the NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Initiative. This qualified the municipality to receive \$20,000 in funding through the state's point-based award system. The village completed a series of climate-friendly tasks including securing the commitment of 10 residents to enroll in a community solar program. The village can use the awarded funding to upgrade its energy infrastructure as it sees fit.

Infrastructure Improvements to Attract New Development

Three partner projects between Greene County and the Greene IDA will be providing infrastructure necessary to attract and retain businesses that provide products, services and contribute to economic growth. Extension of natural gas



lines will service the Exit 21 West property. Stewarts Shops will expand to a new location at the Exit 21 East property along with a new hotel. Construction of a water/sewer extension will create shovel-ready properties for development at a site on

NYS 23 in Cairo. <https://www.greenegovernment.com/news-press/the-greene-county-industrial-development-agency-announces-major-progress-on-two-business-parks-located-off-exit-in-catskill-ny>

County Funds Improvements to Cairo Town Park



Extensive improvements were made at Angelo Canna Town Park in Cairo as the county and the town invested in the future of the public space. Completed just in time for last year's Memorial Day parade, the main access road, playground and 90 new parking spaces were

paved and painted. This investment in the park supports wonderful recreational opportunities including baseball, football, basketball, walking paths, and picnic areas. It is also essentially the county fairgrounds which hosts the annual Greene County Youth Fair among other events. https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/greencounty/county-funds-canna-park-improvements/article_2ffb7ead-9d09-58d1-bdf6-0aac86ca22f4.html

Wylder Windham Opened Last Summer



Formerly known as the Thompson House owned by the Goettsche family for over 6 generations, the hotel underwent a 20 million dollar renovation and offers 110 rooms, oversized outdoor heated pool, sauna, pickle ball, Babblers' Restaurant

& Bakery, and 4,000 square feet of special event and wedding space. Visit this newly designed property at: <https://wylderhotels.com/windham/>

Major Progress in Exit 21 Project



In October, the Greene County Industrial Development Agency issued a status update on two business parks on the east and west of the NYS Thruway

in Catskill. The Greene IDA began work on a 60-acre business park on Route 23B in 2017, acquiring eight parcels, completing an environmental impact statement, and mitigated sensitive archaeological areas in order to attract new businesses. The IDA was pleased to announce that Bell Jar Holdings Co., Windsor Hospitality Management and Stewarts Shops will be developing these shovel-ready sites. <https://www.greeneida.com/sites-projects>



Hotel Lilien Opened in Tannersville

Formerly known as the Washington Irving Inn, the fully renovated hotel will be open year-round. Featuring 18 curated

boutique hotel rooms, complimentary breakfast, and a cocktail bar, it is only a stone's throw from Hunter Mountain. It's a place where locals and visitors can gather around the same wood-burning stove to clink craft beers, share stories, and take in the views of Hunter Mountain. Find out more about Hotel Lilien at <https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/resorts-lodging/hotel-lilien>

Ground Broken for Thomas Cole Visitor Center



State and local representatives joined the leadership team of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site last month to break ground for the \$1.3 million Cole Center. Empire State Development awarded the project some \$360,000 with the remainder funded

through private donations. The new visitor center is projected to triple the amount of visitors welcomed to the site each year, and celebrate the impact that the Hudson River School of Art continues to have on our local economy.



Village of Tannersville Received DRI Funding

Eleven transformational projects were funded by a \$10 million NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative award in the areas of: Increasing Housing Opportunities, Enhancing the Village's Culture and Arts Scene, and

Improving Streetscape Walkability and Connectivity. The strategic goal of the DRI is to enrich upstate communities to enhance local economies.



Investment and Upgrades at the Cohotate Preserve

During a special Community Resources Committee meeting in April, the Greene County Legislature unanimously approved a resolution to submit an application to NYS that will provide \$100,000 toward improvements to the preserve in Athens. The county is committing an additional \$250,000 and the GC Soil and Water Conservation District will contribute \$400,000. The site that hosts C-GCC environmental studies classes will see improvements in its heating and cooling, electrical systems, bathrooms and water supply.

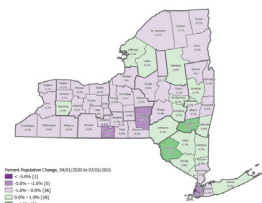
https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/greencounty/cohotate-preserve-targeted-for-investment-upgrade/article_49832b1e-49a9-5cf2-ab00-87cb97e9a5eb.html

Indicators/Statistics



Taxable Sales in Greene County Surpass \$1 Billion in 2021

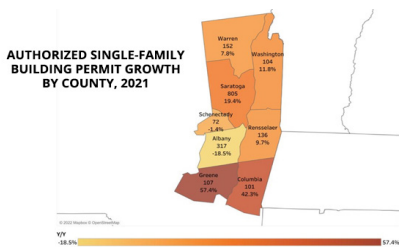
Beginning In 2019, taxes on internet purchases are paid to the state the goods are shipped to (not where they came from). This, combined with changes to shopping habits during the pandemic set a new record for 2021 - a strong indicator of our economic growth. NYS Payments to the County in 2021 surpassed 2020 by over \$6.5 million (2021 figures are not reported until 2022). This is the 12th year in a row that sales tax revenue has risen over the previous year. Commitment to fiscal responsibility by the Greene County Legislature continues to keep property taxes among the lowest in the state.



Greene County Sees Gain in Population in March 2022 Report

The county's population increase is based on domestic migration; more people moving in than moving out. The largest relative increases in population due to net migration in the State were found in Greene County (1.84%). Of the 30 counties that gained population due to domestic migration, Greene (1.84%) and Hamilton (1.70%) Counties experienced the largest gains. Greene County experienced a natural decrease of 272 residents; that is there were 637 deaths and 365 births estimated during this same time period.

Greene County Leads in Building Permits



In a May 2022 report, the number of single-family building permits authorized in the Capital Region climbed to a 14-year high in 2021. Already seeing some of New York's strongest growth in

domestic movers, Greene County experienced some of the state's fastest growth in single-family permitting activity, leading the region with a 57.4% year over year increase.

The Economic Impact of the Great Outdoors

	Economic Activity (Millions)	National Rank
Boating/Fishing	\$1,486.4	4
Festivals/Concerts/Sporting Events	\$955.1	2
RVing	\$559.3	8
Camping/Hiking	\$206.7	3
Amusement Parks	\$202.4	4
Snow Activities	\$135.5	9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

The office of the NYS Comptroller released an analysis in June stating that outdoor recreation in New York provided \$21.1 billion in economic activity in 2020 and supported over 241,000 jobs with \$13.1 billion in compensation. While New York ranks fourth in the nation on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) generated by outdoor recreation, outdoor recreation represents a more significant part of the economy in nearly every other state.

Increased Net Migration from NYC



A new report from the Center for Economic Growth last summer detailed the population migration from New York City to Greene County since 2020. The number of federal tax returns filed from people moving from Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens to Columbia and Greene Counties increased by 159.3% from 2019 to 2020. New Greene County residents moving from these three boroughs totaled over 600, according to this report. <https://www.ceg.org/articles/movers-from-nycs-biggest-boroughs-brought-91-more-income-to-the-capital-region/>

Key Economic Indicators for Greene County

The August 2022 Capital Region Labor Analysis indicated a surge in the regional labor market with rising job figures and declining unemployment rates. Greene County outpaced the region's unemployment rate change from 4.8% in August 2021 to 3.8%, adding 300 jobs to the county's employment base. Greene County netted a positive contribution to workforce figures when comparing to total unemployment claims in August of last year. Greene County continues to trend positive sales tax growth. A year-over-year analysis showed a 15% increase in sales tax receipts, indicating heavier summer spending by seasonal consumers in 2022. If end of year projections meet expectations, Greene County will benefit from another year of positive sales tax growth, continuing the 13+ year long trend.

Campaigns



Destination Round Top Video Launch

Last April 12th, Greene County Tourism, in tandem with Josiah Brown, the New York Sherpa, hosted a launch party at Riedlbauer's Resort. The event was to showcase the Round Top and Purling destination video produced in 2021. The video has been used in the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County destination marketing campaigns. See the video in its entirety: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9I9u5oJpqM>

Helping Greene Grow Green



Greene County Solid Waste Management invested in sustainable management of food waste and a systematic approach seeking to reduce food waste and the impact it has on our environment. This FREE program helps eliminate non-wasteful food products from our landfill. Greene County Solid

Waste Management purchased the EcoRich machine to turn food waste into finished compost. Once each cycle of material is broken down compost is made available to the public. <https://www.greene-governent.com/greene-government/waste-transfer-stations/help-greene-grow-green>



Group Travel Returns to Greene County in 2022

Group travel has returned and remains one of the key opportunities to bring economic growth to Greene County. Last summer Greene County Tourism launched a new section of their website to reach group travel operators not only in the Northeast but throughout the United States and internationally. In addition to the website, a new brochure was printed and distributed to key marketing partners.

See the increasing number of group offerings in Greene County at <https://www.greatnortherncatskills.com/groups>

C-Pace Financing for Energy Improvements

The Greene County Legislature is crafted a Local Law titled "Energize NY Open C-PACE Financing Program" that authorizes property assessed clean energy financing to Qualified Property Owners for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures. It can be found at https://www.greene-governent.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Local-Law-2-of-2022_WH-05172022.pdf

Buy In Greene Annual Holiday Campaign for Local Businesses



For the 5th year in a row, the Buy In Greene team partnered with Jon Meredith's Music Technology students at Greenville High School to produce its annual holiday jingle. Set to the tune of a memorable holiday song, the students provided the orchestration, backing vocals, and digital production of this 60-second radio spot, which also serves as the soundtrack for a digital video ad! Advertising promoted buying local from November 1st through the end of December on local radio stations and digital platforms in addition to print ads and social media posts. Watch the sing-along at <https://www.buyinggreene.com/holiday#video>

Recognition/Celebrating Successes

New Resorts Showcased in Times Union



In December 2021, Lauren Breedlove, a writer for the Times Union, connected with the Tourism Department to showcase resorts opening in 2022. The James Newbury Hotel/Wire Events Center and Wylder Windham were recommended. Lauren worked with the tourism department, Justin D. Smith, President, and Ann Cloutier, VP Sales & Marketing, representatives for James Newbury Hotel, and John Flannigan, Founder & CEO of Wylder Windham. Check out the article at <https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/travel/article/6-new-Catskills-resorts-to-open-in-2022-16758006.php>



Round Top, Catskill & Windham Named Best Small Towns

As part of their scope of work as agency of record for the Tourism Department, Workshop coordinates with publications to present Greene County as a travel destination of choice. Last year they worked with Perri Ormont Blumberg, of Travel & Leisure, on a story showcasing the Best Small Towns of the Catskills. It is no surprise that Round Top, Catskill and Windham were included.



Piaule Catskill Featured in Canadian Magazine

SHARP, a Canadian publication, featured a story on Piaule Catskill designed to attract visitors in the 2022 season. The publication is full of the latest in fashion, luxury travel, technology, automobiles, food, entertainment and celebrities, as well as feature-length investigative journalism on topics of international importance. SHARP's consistently premium environment speaks directly to the discerning tastes of Canada's largest audience of affluent, intelligent and influential men. Read the full article: <https://sharpmagazine.com/2021/12/21/piaule-catskill-new-york-review/>

Infrastructure, Workforce & Natural Resources

Cannabis Opt-Out Portal Created



As towns and villages considered passage of local laws and regulations governing the time, place and manner of adult-use retail dispensaries and onsite consumption licenses, the New York State Office of Cannabis

Management (OCM) opened a web-based portal (<https://cannabis.ny.gov/local-government>) with municipal opt-out and opt-out repeal information as well as a fact sheet. Based on the information filed with OCM, about 11% of cities and 37% of all municipalities have opted out of all cannabis sales.

NY Naval Militia Boat Christened



On April 30, New York's naval force officials welcomed its newest addition, LC-351, a 39-foot landing craftstyle boat, at the Historic Catskill Point. The boat can carry supplies, people, and a

small vehicle, and has the ability to go ashore. Read the article at https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/artsandlife/localannouncements/newyork-naval-militia-boat-christened-in-catskill-ceremony/article_d2c56f25-2cdc-53a5-9a45-317e621e45d1.html

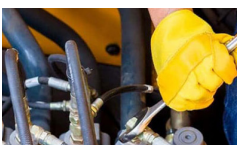
Emergency Services Online Survey



The Greene County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) defines the county's overall emergency management program, including preparedness, mitigation, response, and

recovery. The team updating this plan included relevant county departments & agencies, as well as representatives of the 19 towns and villages of Greene County. Residents and business owners were encouraged to complete a survey on how well they are prepared for an emergency event. Responses were compiled and addressed as part of CEMP update process.

Workforce Career Connector



More and more employers in Greene County (and throughout the Capital Region of New York State) are continuously seeking qualified workers to fill open positions. The majority of

these well-paying jobs do not require a 4-year college degree, so the county created an online resource that helps residents identify the employment sectors critical to the Greene County economy, and the courses and certifications available to obtain jobs in those areas. The Greene County EDC works closely with Columbia-Greene Community College to promote these opportunities to potential students of all ages. Visit the Career Connector at <https://greencountyedc.com/workforce-career-connector/>

Course Offerings Expand at C-GCC



Columbia-Greene Community College was awarded \$1 million NYS Grant for expansion of its Construction Technology Center. With this grant, the college can become the go-to for building trades training, specifically in

historic restoration and preservation. The college has also developed a program of cannabis-related courses to keep up with changes brought about by the legalization of cannabis in New York State and tremendous projections for new jobs and industry growth. Last fall, it began offering two programs that specialize in distinct areas of training, one in business and the other in science. NYS has provided \$5 million to support the courses offered at 4 SUNY Community Colleges. Schenectady County CC is serving as lead campus in the cannabis course program for three regional colleges: C-GCC, Adirondack CC and Fulton-Montgomery CC.

<https://www.sunycgcc.edu/academics/programs-of-study/construction-technology/>

Skilling The Gap



In October of last year, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Columbia-Greene Community College, Columbia Economic Development Corporation, and Greene County

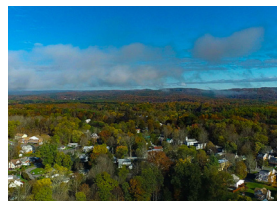
Economic Development Corporation partnered to host Skilling the Gap, a half-day forum for employers, schools, community-based organizations, and funders to generate new ideas and partnerships for a thriving economy. The free event was held Friday, Oct. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at C-GCC.

Architects & Construction Management Firms Hired



Greene County has issued contracts for design an construction services for the new Justice Center adjacent to the Greene County Court House, The firm of Lacey, Thaler Reilly Wilson (LTRW) of Albany has been retained for this project.

ARPA Funds Applied to Cairo Water & Sewer



The Greene County Legislature voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with Greene IDA to contribute \$875,000 of federal rescue plan funding to the Cairo Infrastructure Project that will provide municipal water and sewer services.



Social Media Following Quarterly Update

WINTER 2023 (Following as of January 3, 2023)

FOLLOWERS

Buy In Greene | Invest In Greene

	Facebook	12,213	@BuyInGreene
	Instagram	1,773	www.instagram.com/buyinggreencounty/

Great Northern Catskills

	Facebook	27,000	@GreatNorthernCatskills
	Instagram	26,900	www.instagram.com/CatskillTourism/
	Twitter	2,127	@CatskillTourism

Greene County Economic Development Corp.

	Facebook	914	@GreeneCountyEDC
	Instagram	1,047	www.instagram.com/greeneedc

Public Health

	Facebook	6,300	@GreeneNYHealth
	Instagram	264	www.instagram.com/greenenyhealth
	Twitter	404	@GreeneNYHealth

Emergency Services

	Facebook	3,700	@Greene-County-Emergency-Services
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Family Planning

	Facebook	273	@MYGCFP
	Instagram	202	www.instagram.com/greencountyfamilyplanning

Veterans Services

	Facebook	733	@greencountyvets
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Civil Service

	Facebook	1,100	@Greene-County-NY-Civil-Service
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Human Services

	Facebook	676	@GCNYHumanService
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Catskills Association for Tourism Services

	Facebook	67,000 (inactive since June 2020)	@VisitTheCatskills
	Instagram	42,400	www.instagram.com/visitcatskills

Hudson Valley Tourism

	Facebook	16,000	@HudsonValleyTourism
	Twitter	11,000	@HudValleyTravel

Sheriff's Office

	Facebook	7,800	@GreeneCountySheriffNY
	Instagram	72	www.instagram.com/greencountysheriffsoffice
	Twitter	89	@GreeneSheriffNY

Greene County, NY Government

	Facebook	1,934 (launched 10/10/2020)	@GreeneCountyNewYork
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