



## Sustainability Planning

### Sustainability Planning and Water Quality Efforts

- **Water Quality**
- WQIP Grants with Village of Portville: Collaborating on Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grants based on the Village of Portville's implementation actions from their Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) Plan.
- Village of Cattaraugus: Finalizing a DWSP2 Plan.
- Village of Westfield: Drafting a DWSP2 Plan.
- Genesee River Watershed Implementation Plan: Organizing an outline in collaboration with:
  - Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
  - Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts
  - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development
  - Upcoming Local Meetings: Details to be announced soon!

### Climate Smart Communities

- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CCARP): Seeking another community to plan for extreme weather events.
- Portville's Sustainability Committee: Coordinating efforts with students, residents, and local government towards sustainable actions.
- CSC Program and Grants: Meeting with municipalities to discuss the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program and related grants.

## Appalachian Regional Commission Funding

### ARC Area Development Solicitations:

- Nine organizations submitted Letters of Intent by April 15.
- Eight organizations proceeded after one withdrew.
- Project and Budget narratives due for review by June 3.
- Presentations tentatively scheduled for July 11, 2024.

### ARISE Special Funding:

- ARISE funding available until FY 2026.

### Concept Papers for 4th Round:

- Due by June 30th.

### Initiative to Address Healthcare Shortage:

- Dr. Palmer is working with partners to address the shortage of nurses and healthcare.
- Partners include ASC, SBU, JCC, Pitt-Brad, Upper Allegany Health, Seneca Nation Health Department, and UPMC.

### Southern Tier West CEDS

#### Program Enhancement:

- STW submitted a proposal for CEDS Program Enhancement.
- Currently under review for potential funding.

#### County Projects:

- Projects in progress for Allegany and Chautauqua Counties.
- Utilizing full IJA funds.

#### Seneca Nation Applications:

- Seneca Nation submitted applications for IJA funds, currently under review.

### Remaining Funds and Projects for FY2024:

- Any remaining funds from FY2024 will roll over to FY2025.
- Projects include initiatives in Allegany and Chautauqua Counties, as well as planned projects for the Seneca Nation.

These updates highlight ongoing initiatives and funding opportunities aimed at supporting economic development and addressing community needs in the region.

## NYSERDA

**NYSERDA** and Southern Tier West are teaming up to support local communities in adopting cleaner energy practices. They offer grants, support, and guidance through the **Clean Energy Communities Program**.

The Town of Randolph completed its fleet inventory, making them eligible for a \$10,000 grant. Cattaraugus County and the City of Dunkirk have joined the program, positioning them for future grants.

Recently, Southern Tier West hosted a training session on energy code enforcement, benefitting 10 municipalities. These efforts promote cleaner energy and economic growth while preserving the environment.

## Economic Development

Southern Tier West's **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** is driving some innovative approaches to addressing critical workforce shortages in agriculture and business, particularly in the realm of butchery. The collaboration between stakeholders across various sectors is essential in finding sustainable solutions to such challenges.

The shortage of artisanal, modern trained butchers seems to have significant ramifications for both farmers and processing businesses, with long appointment backlogs impacting local meat production and processing. The planned roundtable discussions and data gathering efforts are crucial steps in understanding the depth of the issue and devising effective solutions.

Seeking funding from sources like the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) funds and USDA programs demonstrates a proactive approach to financing the proposed training and apprentice programs. Engaging with stakeholders like the Appalachian Regional Commission further enhances the prospects of securing support for the initiative.

If anyone wants to contribute to this project or learn more about it, reach out to Kimberly LaMendola at STW. It's inspiring to see such collaborative efforts aimed at addressing pressing workforce challenges while also supporting local agriculture and businesses.

## Community GIS

**STW's drone program** offers an impressive array of capabilities, from high-definition basemap creation to thermal and multi-spectral imaging. It's exciting to see the potential for these technologies in various projects across different seasons.

For those interested in leveraging these capabilities for their projects, contact Johnathon Mayr at STW. Whether it's for site inspections, data collection, or other applications, their team seems well-equipped to handle a wide range of needs.

Additionally, the **Community GIS Program** has been successful in helping municipalities gather valuable data on their assets for management and planning purposes. With enrollment spots still available, it's an excellent opportunity for more communities to benefit from this program.

Those interested in learning more about the CGIS program or enrolling their municipality should also reach out to Johnathon Mayr. STW is committed to supporting communities through innovative GIS solutions.



## Cattaraugus County Career Academy

Exciting news about the upcoming Workforce Development Extravaganza and Strive to Thrive event at Cattaraugus-Little Valley High School! With a diverse range of participants confirmed, including notable entities like the League of Women Voters and local businesses such as Casey, Halwig, & Hartle Funeral Home, the event promises valuable insights for students. Still seeking more local businesses, the organizers encourage outreach to Dr. Fileve Palmer. This initiative exemplifies proactive community engagement, fostering career exploration and community connections for students.

