

Ulster County Government Sustainability Initiatives: Environmental Executive Orders, Laws, Resolutions, Plans & Procedures

(Updated October 2022)

This Compilation

This collection of sustainability initiatives was compiled to serve as a reference, where applicable, to Ulster County's municipal governments while reviewing operations and considering ways to improve sustainability. The Executive Orders, laws, resolutions, and procedures in this guide can be used as templates, "first drafts", or as starting points for discussions among local law makers.

Additional Resources

There are many other resources available to help municipalities with their sustainability initiatives. For example, Ulster County engages in a comprehensive bidding process for many products, including "green" products, used by the County. Local municipalities can purchase off of the County's awarded bids. This can save time and money for municipalities while ensuring that the products meet specified environmental and health standards.

In addition, Ulster County's many environmental initiatives and programs are documented online at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/>.

For additional information on any of the Executive Orders, laws, resolutions and procedures included in this guide, please contact the Ulster County Department of the Environment at (845) 340-4298 or environment@co.ulster.ny.us.

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Organizational Structure

This section includes: the local law that created the Department of the Environment and the planning document that initiated its role and work plan within County government operations.

Creation of the Department of the Environment

[Local Law No. 17 of 2007](#): To Create the Department of the Environment and The Office of Coordinator of The Department of the Environment for The County of Ulster. More information about the Department of the Environment [here](#).

Ulster County Environmental Management Council

[Article XXXV](#) of the Ulster County Charter to establish the Ulster County Environmental Management Council. To learn more about the Ulster County Environment visit the EMC's webpage [here](#).

Ulster County Environmental Plan

[December 2008](#): The Environmental Plan defines the main functions and program areas of The Department of the Environment and initiates an implementation plan

Ulster County Green New Deal Plan

A framework to set standards and mobilize resources to transform Ulster County across three areas; 1) Accelerating the transition to clean energy 2) Building the equitable green economy 3) Conserving our natural resources and building our resilience. Learn more about the Ulster County Green New Deal [here](#) .

Green Purchasing

This section contains: resolutions and a local law adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive as well as procedures from Ulster County's "Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual" relating to the sustainable procurement of a variety of goods, materials, and supplies.

Green Procurement Procedure

[Excerpt from Ulster County SOP Manual](#): Environmentally Preferable "Green" Procurement

Green Cleaning

[Resolution No. 282, November 16, 2010](#): Requiring the Purchase and Use of Green Cleaning Products in All County Facilities

Low/No VOC Paints

[Resolution No 283, November 16, 2010](#): Requiring the Purchase and Use of Low or No Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Paints and Coatings in All County Facilities

Recycled Paper

[Resolution No. 159, June 21, 2011](#): Requiring That Certain Publications Shall be Printed on At Least 30% Recycled Content Paper

Environmental Considerations Checklist

[Resolution No. 558, December 21, 2021](#): Requiring That an Environmental Considerations Checklist ("ECC") Be Completed Prior to the Commencement of Capital Projects ([Checklist here](#))

Energy Conservation

This section includes: resolutions and local laws adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive that set policies for County energy use and climate protection; procedures for conserving energy in County government operations; and Ulster County's Energy Policy and Implementation Guidebook.

Energy Smart Community Resolution

[Resolution No. 218, June 10, 2004](#): Resolution Designating Ulster County as an Energy Smart Community

Green Building Standards

[Resolution No. 383, November 8, 2006](#): Establishing High Performance Green Building Standards for County of Ulster New Construction Projects

Energy Efficient Office Procedures

[SOP B.7.: "Energy Smart" Office Procedures](#) from County of Ulster Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual

Ulster County Government Energy Policy & Implementation Guidebook

[Resolution No. 387, December 10, 2008](#): Adopting County of Ulster Energy Policy

Benchmarking Policy

[Resolution No. 447, October 18, 2016](#): Establishing a Policy to Require Annual Public Reporting of Building Energy Consumption and Benchmarking Information for County Owned Buildings.

Sustainable Energy Loan Program

[Local Law No. 6 of 2014](#): To Establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program In The County of Ulster

[Local Law No. 2 of 2018](#): Amending Local Law 6 of 2014, To Improve and Strengthen the Sustainable Energy Loan Program

[Local Law No. 6 of 2019](#): Amending Energy Loan Program

Renewable Energy Use and Climate Action

This section includes: a resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature that sets policy for County energy use and greenhouse gas reduction goals; and executive orders that mandate use of renewable energy and climate goals for County Government Operations.

Renewable Wind Energy

[Resolution No. 177, May 12, 2005](#): Purchase and Use of Renewable Wind Energy for Ulster County

Global Warming Advisory Committee

[Resolution No. 139, April 11, 2007](#): Authorizing the Creation of an Ulster County Global Warming Advisory Committee

Climate Smart Community Pledge

[Resolution No. 184, August 16, 2011](#): Climate Smart Community Pledge for the County of Ulster

[Resolution No. 185, August 16, 2011](#): Dissolving the Global Warming Committee and Creating a Climate Smart Committee

Renewable Energy Purchases and Climate Action Goals

[Executive Order No. 1-2014](#): Regarding the County's Use of Renewable Energy

[Executive Order No. 1-2016](#): Regarding the County's Use of Renewable Energy for the Years 2016 and 2017

[Executive Order No. 2-2018](#): Regarding the County's Use of Renewable Energy for the Years 2018 and 2019

[Executive Order No. 1-2019](#): Regarding the County's Use of Renewable Energy for the Years 2019 and 2020.

[Resolution No. 315.1, September 17, 2019](#): Establishing A Policy Regarding Ulster County's Use of Renewable Energy

Declaring a Climate Emergency

[Resolution No. 409, October 15, 2019](#): Declaring A Climate Emergency

Consideration Of Solar Arrays on All New or Renovated/Replaced Roofs on Ulster County Buildings

[Resolution No. 416.2, October 29, 2019](#): Establishing A Policy for Consideration of Solar Arrays on All New or Renovated/Replaced Roofs on Ulster County Buildings

Government Operations Climate Action Plan

The Ulster County Government Operations Climate Action Plan of 2019 measures GHG emissions from Ulster County Government Operations and identifies reduction targets in energy usage and GHG emissions. The Ulster County Government Operations Climate Action Plan can be viewed [here](#).

Transportation and Fleet Initiatives

This section contains: resolutions and policies adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive that provide for sustainable government fleet operations and guidelines for public use of EV charging stations.

Energy Efficiency Vehicle Procurement Guidance

[Memorandum, August 7, 2008](#): Guidance for Fuel Efficient Vehicle Purchase

Complete Streets

[Resolution No. 229, July 8, 2009](#): Establishing a Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy

Sustainable Green Fleet Policy

[Local Law No. 9 of 2015](#): Establishing a Sustainable [Green Fleet Policy](#), amended in August of 2022 as [Local Law No. 3 of 2022](#): To ensure a minimum of 20% of the fleet are green vehicles by 2025.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Policy

[Resolution No. 332, September 15, 2015](#): Establishing a Policy for Use of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Ulster County Property and amendment [Resolution No. 446 of 2015](#) amending the electric vehicle charging station policy to require a fee for use. [Exhibit A: Ulster County Electric Vehicle Charging Station Policy](#)

Natural Resources

This section contains resolutions and local laws adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive that protect natural resources in Ulster County.

Water Quality Management Agency

[Resolution No. 445, December 19, 2017](#): Designating the Ulster County Department of the Environment as the County's Water Quality Management Agency pursuant to New York State County Law, Article 5 § 220-A.

Pollinator Friendly Municipality

[Resolution No. 375.1, September 17, 2019](#): Declaring Ulster County a Pollinator Friendly Municipality and Promoting Landscape Maintenance and Practices to Attract and Sustain Pollinator Species.

Eliminating or Reducing Toxins and Pollutants

This section contains: an Executive Order, resolutions and local laws adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive that provide for reducing the exposure of residents, visitors, employees, and the environment to potential toxins and pollutants.

Lawn Pesticide Notification Requirements

[Local Law No. 3 of 2006](#): To Adopt Countywide Notification Requirements for Commercial and Residential Lawn Pesticide Applications

Ban on Pesticides on County Property

[Local Law No. 4 of 2009](#): Requiring Non-Toxic Landscape Maintenance on Land Owned or Leased by The County of Ulster, with Exceptions and Waivers in Appropriate Circumstances

Ban on Hydraulic Fracturing on County Property

[Resolution No. 74, March 15, 2011](#): Prohibiting the Leasing of any County-Owned Lands, including but not limited to County Parks for High-Volume Chemical Slick-Water Hydraulic-Fracturing to Extract Natural Gas

Ban on Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Procurement

[Executive Order No. 1-2012](#): Banning the Purchase and/or Use of Liquid Waste Product from Hydraulic Fracturing Operations

Ban on Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Application on County Roads

[Local Law No. 6 of 2012](#): Known as the "Hydraulic Fracturing Brine Prohibition Act"

Web Resources for Municipalities on Hydraulic Fracturing

[Resolution No. 245, October 16, 2012](#): Establishing a County Policy Requiring the Posting of Information on the County Website to Assist Ulster Municipalities to Enact Local Ordinances Prohibiting Hydraulic. Also included are the available web resources as of January 2013.

Establishing an Environmental Remediation Fund

[Resolution No. 42, April 21, 2015](#): Establishing an Environmental Remediation Fund

Policy for Use of Environmental Remediation Fund

[Resolution No. 43A, April 21, 2015](#): Establishing Policy for Use of the Environmental Remediation Fund

Hudson River PCB Removal

[Resolution No. 10, January 7, 2015](#): Calling for a More Thorough Removal of PCBs From The Hudson River

Sustainable Materials Management

This section contains: resolutions and local laws adopted by the Ulster County Legislature and approved by the County Executive that provide for mandatory source separation and recycling as well as continuous improvement of the County's solid waste management regulations. The section also contains local laws regulating the use of certain single-use plastic items within Ulster County.

Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Law

[Local Law No. 4 of 2010](#): Amending Local Law Number 8 of 1991 as Amended by Local Law Number 8 of 2007 Ulster County Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Law

Amendments to Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law

[Local Law No. 10 of 2012](#): Amending Local Law Number 9 of 1991, Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law

Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission and Plan

[Resolution No. 394, November 18, 2014](#): Establishing the Ulster County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission

[Resolution No 242, February 16, 2021](#): Approval of Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan ([Here](#))

Food Service Waste Reduction Act

[Local Law No. 4 of 2015](#): Regulating the Use of Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Ware by Food Service Establishments in Ulster County.

Bring Your Own Bag (BYOBag) Act

[Local Law No. 5 of 2018](#): Promoting the Use of Reusable Bags and Regulating the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags and Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags

[Local Law No. 1 of 2019](#): Amending Local Law No. 5 of 2018, A Local Law Promoting the Use of Reusable Bags and Regulating the Use of Plastic Carryout Bags and Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags

Skip The Straw Act

[Local Law No. 2 of 2019](#): Requiring Restaurants and Fast-Food Service Establishments Provide Plastic Beverage Straws Solely Upon Request, and amendment [Local Law No. 7 of 2019](#). Learn more about the Skip the Straw Act [here](#).

Zero Waste Community

[Resolution 451, November 19, 2019](#): Establishing a Policy That Ulster County Shall Be a Zero Waste Community

Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act

Local Law No. 1 of 2020: requiring large food waste generators to separate organic waste from the general waste stream for reuse or composting. Amended as Local Law 4 of 2021 and [Local Law 8 of 2021](#). More on the Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act [here](#) and on the Ulster County website [here](#).