

From: [Mercurio, Christian \(ESD\)](#)
To: [Tompkins, Kenneth \(ESD\)](#)
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MVREDC 4.0
MOHAWK VALLEY
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MVREDC Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 12
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HUD PARTNERS WITH MOHAWK VALLEY CITIES

Community Needs Assessment engages, empowers Mohawk Valley stakeholders

The City of Utica was recently selected – and was one of only three Upstate cities in New York chosen – to participate in a HUD Community Needs Assessment this year. Focusing on critical issues like infrastructure, housing, education, diversity, and healthcare, members of the MVREDC participated in focus groups this fall to help Utica formulate a vision for the future that maximizes opportunity across the economic and cultural spectrum. Recently, the Genesis Group invited Mohawk Valley stakeholders to a Capstone event to reveal the findings.



Recognizing remarkable growth opportunities in the region – largely a result of the recent REDC investments in cyber, nanotech, agribusiness, craft brewing, main streets, and tourism – HUD selected Utica in order to assist the community in preparation for imminent developments, and to manage the growth in an equitable and sustainable way. As Utica further refines their new plan into a subset of short-and-long-term initiatives, the MVREDC will continue to work with community on current and future CFA projects that align with the region’s vision for economic opportunity.

Next in the pipeline? [Amsterdam](#) Mayor Ann Thane, who also serves as President of the New York

Conference of Mayors, sees value in this process for her Montgomery County community. Following a similar formula, Mayor Thane is working with HUD to structure a needs assessment to help guide development and maximize economic opportunity for the citizens of Amsterdam – a community also rich in history, infrastructure, and cultural diversity – over the next decade. As [Amsterdam](#) begins the engagement process, the MVREDC will again endeavor to play a critical role in outreach, strategic planning, and building the relationships necessary to strengthening the regional economy.



CORBIN HILL FOOD PROJECT



2013 Priority Project Grows Agribusiness in the Mohawk Valley

The Corbin Hill Food Project continues to grow, connecting upstate farms to more downstate families through a creative, wholesome, and sustainable distribution network. Recently featured in the Corbin Hill newsletter, showcased here are a few Mohawk Valley entrepreneurs who are bring the farm to the table.



Carrie Edsall & Sons, Black Willow Pond Farm (photo courtesy of Corbin Hill newsletter)

Black Willow Pond Farm, in Cobleskill, is where this season's Thanksgiving turkeys started their life. Farmer Carrie Edsall raises a wide variety of animals there, including not only turkeys, but also sheep, chickens, rabbits and hogs. (She also raises her young sons, 9-year-old Luke and 5-year-old Jacob.) Carrie's philosophy is to allow animals to "be the animals they were created to be" -- meaning the poultry is cage-free, and each animal receives the type of feed they were "designed to eat." The feed at Black Willow Pond is grass-based, and for animals that cannot survive on grass alone, Carrie supplements with locally-grown, locally-milled feed that is free of antibiotics, hormones and steroids. Turkeys are available in two weight ranges and will be delivered frozen and ready for your holiday oven. Visit the Black Willow Pond Farm [WEB STORE LINK](#).

Middlefield Orchard, located in Cooperstown, got its start in 2002 after Willy Bruneau retired from a 35-year career in the tech industry and took up farming with his wife, Joan. Planting 1,000 apple trees in the farm's first year, the couple is now up to more than 10,000 trees and 32 varieties on their 128 acres. Located in one of the coldest parts of New York State, which helps to keep pests away, the orchard incorporates progressive growing practices such as IPM (integrated pest management) and a low-spray program. Out of Jam? Visit Middlefield Orchard at <http://middlefieldorchard.com/>.

Learn more about the Corbin Hill Food Project at: <http://corbinhillfoodproject.org/>

CLEAN ENERGY: MADE IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

Incentives for Wood Heating Systems work for the regional economy

For homeowners and businesses alike, the advent of winter prompts us to think more critically about our energy use. If you are even considering investing in a new heating system for your home or business, it could be worth your while to check out the latest incentives offered by NYSERDA.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's [Renewable Heat NY](#) initiative provides incentives toward the installed costs of high-efficiency, low-emission wood heating systems. These new systems are automated, cleaner burning, and use less fuel than older models. Right now, there are incentives available in the Mohawk Valley to offset the cost of replacing, supplementing, and installing new systems.

In the Mohawk Valley, wood pellets are a sustainable choice – from both an environmental and economic perspective. Wood pellets are a 100% domestic fuel source, and are generally considered [carbon-neutral](#). In fact, most of the pellets sold in the Mohawk Valley are made right here in Herkimer County, at New England Wood Pellet's Schuyler plant - sourced entirely from within 100 miles of the plant.



New England Wood Pellet plant in Schuyler, NY (Herkimer County)

Wood pellets provide a market for low-value and waste-wood products (saw dust, wood chips) from the North Country, Southern Tier, and Mohawk Valley regions. The ability to market pellets directly enables the creation and retention of jobs in our local wood products industry. Finally, the savings to businesses and homeowners are staggering – up to a 40% savings over fuel oil in some cases – especially in rural households and for families on tight budgets.

Thinking about a biomass boiler, pellet stove, or another energy efficiency project at your home or business? Contact Mark Kaucher, Regional Outreach Coordinator for NYSERDA, to learn the [latest](#)

[incentives](#) and technology available to homeowners and businesses in the Mohawk Valley.

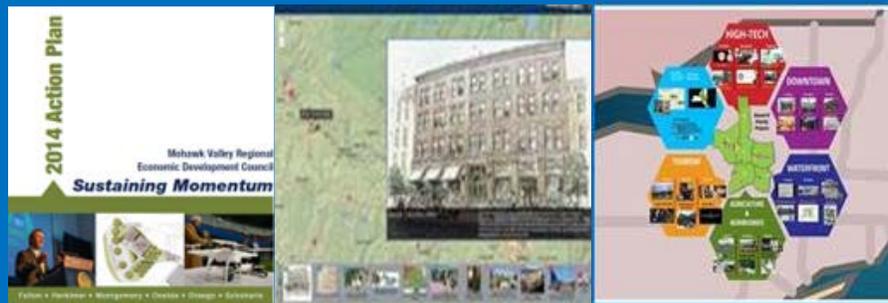
Mark Kaucher mkaucher@mvedge.org
Vice-President, Economic Development, Mohawk Valley EDGE
584 Phoenix Drive, Rome, NY 13441
Tel: (315) 338-0393 / Cell: (315) 271-7276



Action Plan

Mobile App

SIAT Presentation



[www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley.](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley)

SUSTAINING MOMENTUM: GET THE APP!

Take the MVREDC 2014 Action Plan on the road. Our mobile app is a virtual tour of the region's top [Priority Projects](#) as proposed Round IV of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).



For more on Mobile Apps for economic development,
Contact the team at [Vertex Geospatial](#).



SAVE THESE DATES

Career Opportunities in Rural Education (CORE) Student Manufacturing Forum

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Monday, December 1st | SUNY Oneonta Hunt Union Ballroom
108 Ravine Parkway, Oneonta NY 13820 | [Register Here](#) or call 607.286.7721 x8421

IN THE NEWS

[Fulton-Montgomery Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Gains Momentum](#)

[Northville, Northampton Create Economic Development Plan](#)

[State Providing Flood Money](#)

[New York Loves Craft Brews](#)

The *Mohawk Valley* is

FULTON, HERKIMER, MONTGOMERY, ONEIDA, OTSEGO, & SCHOHARIE



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