

# POWER



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The North Country Homegrown Sustainability Plan

## **NYSERDA Cleaner, Greener Communities Grant Program**

### **Consortium Progress Report, Report 1**

**Time Period: May 1 to July 31, 2012**

The North Country Homegrown Sustainability Planning Project is now completing its third month of activity and E & E (Ecology and Environment) and ANCA (Adirondack North Country Association) wanted to provide all Consortium members and program supporters with a status report on the highlights of the progress that has been made to date. As always, Chris Rohner (E & E) (646) 438 -5756, [crohner@ene.com](mailto:crohner@ene.com) and Kate Fish (ANCA) (518) 891-6200, [kfish@adirondack.org](mailto:kfish@adirondack.org) are available anytime to provide additional information or discuss any aspect of the program.

#### **Overall Program Actions**

- E & E and ANCA have completed all contracting with Essex County. Insurance and other required documentation has been provided.
- E & E and ANCA have both submitted a first progress report and invoice.
- A SharePoint website has been developed by E & E to provide access to program documents, calendars, discussion areas and the program library to all Working Group Members.

#### **Task 1: Project Management and Project Execution Plan**

- E & E and ANCA have completed the first two NYSERDA deliverables: Project Execution Plan and Draft Indicator Memo. The Project Execution Plan provides a breakdown of the process that will be used to complete the program and was provided to the Consortium for their review. The Draft Indicator Memo was a short list of indicators that will be reviewed for use in the plan. These were also provided to the Consortium for their review and will be further modified by the Working Groups.

#### **Task 2: Regional Sustainability Data Collection and Analysis**

- E & E staff member Laurie Kutina is working on the Statewide GHG Inventory Working Group and is working with a group of other staff on the development of the Tier II Inventory. Various E & E staff are developing data tables for the North Country and they will be populated with data collected by the statewide working group. If additional data is needed E & E will work with ANCA to collect needed information.
- The group is also developing a protocol document which will provide detailed understanding of the process being used to develop the inventory, and that can be shared as soon as it is developed.
- It is expected that most of the data needed for the emissions portion of the inventory will be done via the Statewide Working Group, but that the sustainability indicators data will be collected by E & E planning staff and ANCA staff once the goals and indicators are developed.

### **Task 3: Development of Sustainability Indicators and Targets**

- ANCA developed a comprehensive list of Working Group members by reaching out to Consortium members from each of the seven North Country Counties.
- Once the Working Groups were developed, a first round of conference calls were held with Working Groups to provide initial information on working group members. Information for Meeting 1 was provided to all members.
- A complete series (one meeting per Working Group) of Initial Meetings 1, with all Working Groups. The Energy Working Group took place the opening day of the Clean Energy Conference. All other meetings took place the weeks of July 9 and 16, at the Wild Center, Tupper Lake.
  - A series of documents were used to guide the meetings, great discussions, information sharing and data collection was accomplished during the meetings.
  - All information collected from E & E and ANCA will be used to develop Working Group Reports. These reports will guide development of the plan and preliminary selection of actions and projects for the NYSERDA deliverables.
- In addition to the data collection, a draft set of Indicators were discussed and feedback from the Working Group members will be used to develop a final list of indicators in August. These Indicators will be developed to assure that established goals are met in the Plan. From that list of indicators, a Baseline Assessment will be completed. From the completed Baseline Assessment, metrics and targets for improvements will be established. These will help guide the writing of the Sustainability Plan.
- The Draft Sustainability Indicator Inventory, which is our next required NYSERDA deliverable, will be developed as soon as the final list of indicators have been approved by NYSERDA.

### **Task 4: Regional Sustainability Plan Development**

- ANCA has collected information from Working Group members on current projects in the North Country region that will potentially serve as representative case studies that successfully embody the main tenets of the Sustainability Plan. These will be collected and used to create a project library on the SharePoint site.
- A structure for the Sustainability Plan and the Implementation Strategy is currently being developed.

### **Task 5: Community Involvement**

- The State press release was released and ANCA conducted a media program to get information about the program out to the region.
- Adirondack Research Consortium Conference, May 17, Lake Placid, NY – ANCA and E & E developed and presented a panel on the program. The panel included Sue Montgomery Cory from Essex County, John Culpepper from the North Country School, and Kate Fish from ANCA. Chris Rohner moderated.

- Clean Energy Conference, June 22, Lake Placid, NY – ANCA supported the program by including it in the conference, Kate Fish provided information on the program in her remarks and the President of NYSERDA discussed the program in his keynote address. Chris Rohner from E & E presented the program and answered questions during one of the Special Subject, breakout sessions.
- Common Ground Alliance Meeting, July 18, Long Lake, NY – A survey was presented to over 200 attendees which included information on the goals developed by the Working Groups. The survey was used to gather feedback and rank the goals according to their level of importance. This survey will be used for further analysis.
- The SharePoint site is up and running and ANCA is currently setting up web presence with the public.
- Plans are underway for the next large Working Group meeting which will take place in September. This meeting will bring all the groups together to discuss their work and to find interconnections between the areas to develop stronger more comprehensive Plan and Strategy.