

•
•
•
•

NEWS from the CWC

For immediate release

Contact: Diane Galusha, 845-586-1400 ext. 29

Local Government Day Presentations Online

MARGARETVILLE, November 12, 2009 – Fourteen presentations that were delivered at the Ninth Annual Catskills Local Government Day October 15 are now available for viewing on the Catskill Watershed Corporation's (CWC) website, www.cwconline.org.

The presentations, in slide show format, were on the theme "Climate Change Made Local." Writer and performance artist Mimi Katzenbach gave the keynote address about "Transitioning to a New Economy," and a 17-minute video from that talk is also posted on the website. From the home page, click on Special Projects, and Local Government Day.

More than 100 elected and appointed government officials and employees, economic and environmental planners, and interested community members attended the event at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center.

Among the topics covered by agency representatives, municipal officials and other speakers were the potential impacts of climate change on municipal infrastructure and on the economy of New York and the Catskills; hazard mitigation planning; the Community Rating System for reducing flood insurance premiums; grass and woody biomass projects; new approaches to flood remediation in Delaware County; and the Town of Hunter's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

Three presentations from "Promoting Climate Protection Through Land Use Tools," a training session for planning and zoning board members, can be viewed on the CWC website, as can one for highway department heads and other municipal officials that focused on examining the vulnerability of community infrastructure – from buildings and parks to sewer plants, water systems and street lights.

In "Green Means Business," Evadne Giannini of HospitalityGreen looked at how businesses can save money using sustainable practices. In "Jobs from the Sun," Vincent Cozzolino of The Solar Energy Consortium discussed the potential for jobs in the renewable energy field.

Katzenbach, the featured lunchtime speaker, explained the "audaciously optimistic" Transition Movement by which communities work towards locally-based energy, economic and social systems – not unlike the Catskills of the pre-World War II era -- as a strategy for meeting a future of weather extremes, fossil fuel depletion and other challenges.

The CWC is a non-profit Local Development Corporation based in Margaretville. It is committed to protecting water resources, encouraging environmentally friendly economic development and supporting watershed education in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River, a region encompassing parts of five counties – Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster.

For more information on public benefit programs offered by the CWC, go to www.cwconline.org, or call toll-free, 877-WAT-SHED, or 8450586-1400.

end