

# NEWS from the CWC

## Annual Report highlights 2009 CWC accomplishments

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., April 9, 2010– Despite challenging economic conditions, the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) continued to make strides with its environmental protection, business assistance and education programs during 2009.

The year's accomplishments were itemized at the CWC's Annual Meeting April 6 in Margaretville. The report may be read online at [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org) (Publications), or by calling 845-586-1400 to request a copy.

“The CWC has been focused on supporting the people of the New York City Catskill-Delaware Watershed since we were established in 1997,” commented CWC Board President Georgianna Lepke. “Working with many partner agencies, we have never wavered in our commitment to keeping our waters clean, for our own families and for millions of downstate users.”

During 2009, the CWC

- funded the repair and replacement of 363 failed residential septic systems (up from 290 the year before), and paid half the cost of pumping and inspecting 84 newer systems
- completed eight stormwater control projects to reduce pollution caused by runoff and erosion
- completed five stream corridor protection projects designed to prevent or reduce future flooding damage to affected properties and to downstream populated areas
- completed Community Wastewater Management projects in the hamlets of Hamden and Bloomville, and made progress on five others. Three more are in the planning stages. These more effective wastewater treatment projects will result in the decommissioning of 549 on-site septic systems.
- closed on nine low-interest REDI-Loans worth \$2.6 million to help businesses in watershed towns expand or purchase facilities, diversify inventory or streamline their operations
- supported two important projects through the Catskill Studies Fund: a pilot project allowing recreational boating on the Cannonsville Reservoir and a six-site study of the use of pelletized grass as a sustainable heating source
- approved four \$250,000 grants to non-profit organizations in the Watershed whose large-scale community projects in Margaretville, Grahamsville, Tannersville and Olivebridge will demonstrate renewable energy initiatives while providing jobs and educational services
- continued to re-develop the historic Delaware Inn in Stamford as an anchor business in a pilot project to demonstrate the value of reclaiming deteriorated downtown structures
- awarded five community planning grants through the Local Technical Assistance Program

- awarded 28 Watershed Education Grants benefitting hundreds of students and teachers in the Catskill-Delaware Watershed and in New York City.

In addition, the CWC sponsored the Ninth Annual Local Government Day which drew 120 area officials and civic leaders to learn about climate change and its projected impact on the Catskills; co-sponsored the NYC Watershed Science and Technical Conference, the Ulster County Business Showcase, the Batavia Kill Stream Festival which attracted 1,000 people to Ashland, and several lectures and panel discussions on environmental topics.

The CWC also welcomed scientists, planners and policy makers from Brazil and Mexico anxious to learn about precedent-setting water protection and community preservation programs.

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