



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2025**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
Dave Mergendahl		X
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns		X
Lora Schilling	X	
Kate Susman	X	
Jefferson Akins	X	
Elizabeth Kucinich	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Lisa Kaul, County Legislator	X	
Lalita Malik – Mothers Out Front	X	
Johanna Fallert – Mothers Out Front	X	
Sandi Stratton-Gonzalez Mothers Out Front	X	
Martin Fowler	X	
Joseph Lowerbraun	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of the October 2025 was made by Pete Berasi, second by Kate Susman, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Website update: Vicky informed the group that the 2025 State of the Environment report is on the website if you click on the Projects & Reports.

Funds Update: Devin reported that the last of the 2025 county funds have been spent on registration for the NYSACC meeting the November CAC/EMC Roundtable. The funds will be reset to \$1000 for FY26.

2026 Meeting Dates: (1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26, 9/23, 10/28, 12/2)

Draft Enabling Legislation: no new updates

Legislature's Environment Committee Chair & Other Connections: no new updates.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Devin reported that the task force will reconvene in January 2026

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Pete reported that the sampling continues, with no new breakthroughs.

Solid Waste Management: A call was made after the last EMC meeting for members to form a subcommittee to provide input on priorities for the Solid Waste Management study currently underway for the county. A subcommittee was formed and included Jim Frederickson, Nancy Severns, Kate Susman, Jeff Akins and Vicky Kelly. The group met twice and reviewed the proposal submitted by the contractor and options discussed by members of the County Planning Department. The subcommittee drafted a document with proposed priorities, which was circulated to the EMC members and is attached. Vicky reviewed for the council the contents of the document. A motion to accept the proposed priorities was made by Pete Berasi, seconded by Kate Susman, all were in favor and the motion carried.

State of Environment Report: Vicky reported that the report is on the website.

Road Salt: Vicky reported that she presented a talk along with Dan Shapley of Riverkeeper at the CAC/EMC Roundtable on November 19, 2025. The talks were well-received and many good questions came from the audience. Vicky's talk includes a table with per lane mile salt use by towns and the county, which vary widely. The table includes data from Washington County (Lake George), which is the gold standard for salt savings and has achieved the very low per lane mile use, illustrating that it is possible to implement salt savings strategies.

Green Infrastructure Projects: Lora reported that she has talked with folks from Vassar, Marist and DCC and they are developing proposals and are looking for grant opportunities. Vicky offered to connect Lora with Dan Shapley and Devin will connect Lora with CCEDC staff.

Legislature's Agenda Items of Interest:

Other Business:

Elizabeth offered to develop a toolkit regarding road salt with letters of advocacy and/or communication. Vicky will connect with Elizabeth about this.

Kate discussed her reviews of draft Rules and Regulation Policy for the new County Aquifer Law and had some questions but found answers to her initial questions in the details of the draft. Elizabeth submitted comments directly to the County.

Community Member Comments: Sandi Stratton-Gonzales raised 2 concerns about the RRS Solid Waste Study: the need for better opportunities for robust community engagement and the need for direct consideration of human health impacts. Johanna Fallert asked about funding for additional work. Elizabeth asked about outside funding possibilities for students at local colleges. Kate described a student project that investigated air pollution in Poughkeepsie. Johanna Fallert asked if CAC's could gather information that the RRS study isn't able to do. Lalita Malik discussed composting. Devin discussed appropriate inclusion of the CAC's. Devin reported that the study should be complete at the end of the third quarter of 2026. Vicky discussed the EMC's recommendation that the study provide guidance for local municipality pay as you throw programs. The group discussed reducing single use plastic use. Lalita Malik discussed the town of Union Vale's take it / leave it spot at its transfer station.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is January 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary

Dutchess County Waste Reduction and Diversion Study 2025-2026

In 2025, Dutchess County engaged Resource Recycling Systems, Inc., (RRS) to provide recommendations for reduction and diversion of waste generated within the county and options for managing non-divertible waste.

The Environmental Management Council was asked to identify particular areas of concern within the scope of the title study awarded to RRS.

As background, the EMC provides its 2020 Household Hazardous Waste study and 2025 State of the Environment report to the RRS team.

Within the RRS contract deliverables, we recommend these key concepts be prioritized.

Key Concepts/Priorities:

Reduce waste volume through composting, better recycling and reduction of the use of single use plastics

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) options and guidelines for local municipalities

Increase Household Hazardous Waste reuse and recycling

Remaining lifespan of Waste to Energy plant and transition alternatives or technology upgrades

Cite Best Practices