



Balancing Development with Sound Environmental Policy



2009 New York State Conference on the Environment • November 13—15, 2009
Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel • 16 North Franklin Street • Watkins Glen, NY 14891

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Must economic development always come at the price of the natural environment?
The 2009 New York State Conference on the Environment – “Balancing Development with Sound Environmental Policy” – seeks to explore the possibility that one goal need not be sacrificed for the other.

And what better location to explore this idea than in the Finger Lakes Region (www.visitfingerlakes.com) of Central New York, an area that, until relatively recently, has remained largely overlooked in the development boom experienced in many other locales, but that is rich in natural resources, scenic beauty and habitat diversity. Schuyler County (www.watkinsglenchamber.com), located in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, is home to numerous world-class wineries (www.fingerlakeswinecountry.com), the world-renowned Watkins Glen State Park (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks>), the Finger Lakes National Forest (www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/greenmountain/htm/fingerlakes/f_home.htm), and, for the sports car enthusiasts, Watkins Glen International Race Track (www.theglen.com), which is now making strides to move in a greener, more sustainable direction in its operation. The conference itself will be located at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel (www.watkinsglenharborhotel.com), the new four-star hotel and conference center on the southern shore of Seneca Lake in historic Watkins Glen.

The **2009 Conference on the Environment** is organized into three tracks and covers a breadth of issues the organizers hope may appeal to members of Environmental Management Councils and Conservation Advisory Commissions, representatives of local governments, county planners, and interested citizens.

Track 1, “Alternative Energy and Design,” will include workshops on natural building techniques and alternative energy design for individual residences by representatives from PeaceWeavers in Bath, New York (<http://peaceweavers.com>), as well as a session on LEED certification.

Track 2, “Natural Gas Resources in New York State,” will feature a brief geologic overview of natural gas resource formation in the state followed by a moderated Round Table Discussion concerning the Marcellus Shale with representatives from Chesapeake Energy (www.chk.com), the Sullivan County Planning Department (www.co.sullivan.ny.us), the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club (<http://newyork.sierraclub.org>), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (www.srbc.net), the Tioga County Landowners Group (www.tiogagaslease.org), and others.

Track 3, “Sustainable Land Use and Agriculture,” will be truly exciting, beginning with a session on Purchase of Development Rights and Conservation Easements given by Schuyler County Senior Planner Danielle Hautaniemi (www.sc-landuse.org/planning) and representatives from the Finger Lakes Land Trust (www.flit.org). Also in this track is a session on Transitional Communities (<http://transitionculture.org>) and a presentation by urban planner and author Todd Fabozzi (<http://toddfabozzi.com>).

In addition to conference sessions and workshops, several optional workshops are available on Friday to Ecovillage (www.ecovillage.ithaca.ny.us) and the Cornell Biofuels Research Laboratory (www.fs.cornell.edu/projects/pages/riley_robb.cfm), both in Ithaca, New York, as well as a Saturday excursion to Red Tail Ridge Winery (www.redtailridgewinery.com) to tour its LEED certified pressing facility. And, finally, for Saturday night’s dinner and reception conference attendees will be transported up the east side of Seneca Lake to Red Newt Cellars (<http://rednewt.com/web>) for fine Finger Lakes music, wine and cuisine.



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COUNCILS
www.nysaemc.org

The organizers hope you will join them for what promises to be an informative, enjoyable and exciting conference experience!



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS
www.nysaccny.org