

Department Name	Economic Development, Conservation and Planning
Account(s)	8020

Department Function
The mission of the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning is to create economic opportunity for residents of Albany County through policies, practices and projects that focus on creating private sector employment and related infrastructure. In doing so, the Department will promote a balance between economic growth, natural resource conservation, and sound land use planning throughout the County. The Department provides support to the Advance Albany County Alliance LDC to promote private sector businesses and employment. The Department serves residents, businesses, local governments and other County agencies by providing advice and assistance with economic development projects, environmental regulatory compliance, land use planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping support, and other technical assistance. Staff also provide direct and indirect benefits to the public through our work on open space conservation, natural resource conservation and agricultural and farmland protection programs.

Current Year Highlights
• Supported the County Executive's efforts to secure \$13 million to demolish the Central Warehouse. • Assisted in the formation of the Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority (ACPHLA), to transition the future use of facilities of the College of Saint Rose in a way that upholds quality of life, while promoting and stimulating economic development in Albany County and the City of Albany. • Continued implementation of the Sustainable Technology and Green Energy (STAGE) Grant Program. The Program has provided \$3.65 million in grant support for clean technology-focused manufacturing expansion projects to date. • Through the Advance Albany County Alliance, supported several expansion and attraction projects in the County including Regeneron's development in Menands, Altas Copco's \$40 million expansion in Voorheesville, and Bilinski Sausage Co.'s growth in the Town of Colonie. • The Al-Tech loan fund approved seven loans totaling \$843,800 to support the growth of small and medium-sized businesses in Albany County. • Expanded partnerships with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board including a \$1 million On-the-job training program for Albany County businesses. • Assisted in efforts to expand reliable and affordable broadband access to all corners of Albany County. • The Office of Natural Resources Conservation worked on projects in partnership with Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management to control and provide education on invasive species in County parks and preserves.

Next Year Projects
• Support the Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority's (ACPHLA) efforts to transition the future use of facilities of the College of Saint Rose in a way that promotes quality of life and stimulates economic development in Albany County and the City of Albany. • Continue to develop shovel ready sites for economic development, particularly the County-controlled Al Tech Steel Site and former Ann Lee Home Site in Colonie. • Partner with Empire State Development, the Center for Economic Growth, and the Ports of Albany and Coeymans to attract major offshore wind manufacturing projects to Albany County. • Complete the demolition of the Central Warehouse. • Continue to expand workforce development programs that provide training opportunities to our residents and meet the needs of local employers.

Link to Website	https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/economic-development-conservation-and-planning
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