

LOCAL LAW PERM 1 OF 2025
Local Law Intro. No. 1 of 2025

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE III OF THE BROOME COUNTY CHARTER AND CODE

BE IT ENACTED, by the County Legislature of the County of Broome as follows:

ARTICLE III Environmental Management Council

§ 17-4. Establishment.

The County Legislature hereby authorizes, creates and approves the establishment of a Broome County Environmental Management Council, pursuant to the provisions of Article 19 of the Conservation Law of the State of New York and other laws pertaining thereto, to be known and designated as the "Broome County Environmental Management Council," for the purpose of reviewing and reporting upon the state of the County's environment and for all the other purposes and with all the powers and duties set forth in Article 19 of the Conservation Law of the State of New York. The County Executive is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint the members of said Broome County Environmental Management Council.

§ 17-5. Membership; terms; Chairman.

The membership of the Broome County Environmental Management Council shall be comprised of one member of each conservation commission within the County of Broome, 9 at-large members who are residents of Broome County, one representative each from designated agencies as established in the EMC bylaws (e.g., the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome, the Soil and Water Conservation District located within Broome County) and, as ex officio members, the Commissioners or designees of the Broome County Departments of Health, of Parks and Recreation, of Planning and Economic Development and of Public Works, and two Broome County Legislators, all of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the County Executive for terms not to exceed two years, and any such appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the County Legislature. The County Executive shall appoint a Chairman of the Council from among the members of the Council.

§ 17-6. Name.

The name of this organization is the "Broome County Environmental Management Council" (hereinafter called the "Council"), as established by the Broome County Legislature (hereinafter called the "Legislature"), in accordance with Broome County Resolution Permanent No. 277 of 1971, No. 64 of 1973, No. 366 of 1976, No. 341 of 1980, No. 525 of 1987 and Article 47 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. All references to the "County" refer hereinafter to Broome County.

§ 17-7. Purpose; goals.

- A. The purpose of the Council shall be as set forth in Article 47 of the Environmental Conservation Law, together with such other powers as shall be given it by the Legislature to enhance and preserve the natural and developed environment of the County.
- B. Major goals of the Council shall include:
 - (1) Providing support services and advice to the County Executive, Legislature, municipal governmental bodies and citizens;

- (2) Conducting and coordinating environmental research activities;
- (3) Preparing an annual report on the status of the County's environment;
- (4) Raising public awareness of environmental issues through educational programs;
- (5) repairing long-term work plans for the protection and management of the County's natural resources;
- (6) Cooperating and assisting other organizations in preparing environmental plans and reports;
- (7) Investigating and recommending sound methods of ecological planning for the use of the County's resources;
- (8) Reviewing environmental impact statements, plans, applications and reports when requested to do so; and
- (9) Responding to County environmental problems.

§ 17-8. Composition.

- A. The composition of voting membership in the Council shall be as follows:
 - (1) Nine members-at-large who are County residents.
 - (2) Three student representatives living within the County and who are at least 16 years of age. At-large and student member nominees shall be considered for approval by a majority of Council members at a regular meeting. Recommendations are submitted to the County Executive for appointment subject to confirmation by the Legislature.
 - (3) One representative from each conservation advisory commission (CAC).
 - (4) One representative each from the Soil and Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension located in the County.
- B. The following individuals shall be nonvoting ex-officio members of the Council:
 - (1) The County Executive may appoint the administrators of the following County government departments or their designated standing representatives from the respective agencies:
 - (a) Health.
 - (b) Parks and Recreation.
 - (c) Planning and Economic Development.
 - (d) Public Works.
 - (e) Division of Solid Waste Management.
 - (2) Two County Legislators.
- C. There shall be any number of nonvoting members.

§ 17-9. Selection.

- A. The Executive may consider nominees selected as set forth in Subsection A (1), (2) and (3) and shall submit his/her appointees to the Legislature for confirmation in accordance with County Resolution Permanent No. 277 of 1971, as amended. Selection of nominees for Council membership shall be as follows:
 - (1) At-large and student member nominees shall be selected by the Council's Membership Committee. These names shall be submitted for approval by a majority of Council members at a regular monthly meeting. Notification shall be included in the agenda for that meeting.
 - (2) Each conservation advisory commission may designate one of its members or employees as a Council member nominee.
 - (3) The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome and Soil and Water Conservation District may designate one of their members or employees as a Council member nominee.

- B. The County Executive may appoint County Department Heads_or their designees as representatives to Council.
- C. The Chairperson of the Legislature may appoint two Legislators as representatives to Council.

§ 17-10. Terms of membership.

Terms of membership on the Council shall be for periods specified as follows, subject to the provisions of § 17-7 above:

- A. At-large members shall serve a term that consists of two consecutive calendar years.
- B. Student members shall serve a term of one year beginning and ending with their school year. Student members may serve any number of consecutive one-year terms concurrent with enrollment at the institution they are representing.
- C. Representatives from conservation advisory commissions shall serve a term that consists of two consecutive calendar years. CAC representatives serve at the pleasure of their CAC.
- D. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome and Soil and Water Conservation District representatives shall serve at the pleasure of their agencies without a fixed term.
- E. County Department Heads (or their standing representatives) shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive without a fixed term.
- F. County Legislators shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson of the Legislature.

§ 17-11. Term expiration and filling vacancies.

- A. Whenever vacancies occur among at-large and student members due to the expiration of a term, the Membership Committee shall recommend nominees to be approved by a majority of Council members at a regular monthly meeting. Members whose terms have officially expired shall continue to serve until their replacements have been appointed and confirmed by the appropriate authorities.
- B. Whenever vacancies occur due to reasons other than the expiration of a term, the Membership Committee shall recommend replacements to serve out the vacated (or interim) term. A member who serves an interim term remains eligible to serve two additional consecutive terms. The nominees are subject to appointment by the County Executive and confirmation by the County Legislature.
- C. Whenever vacancies occur from among the other categories of Council membership, the Council shall notify the appropriate agency or organization so that it may submit the name of a replacement, subject to the provisions of § 17-7 above.

§ 17-12. Absences.

Unexcused absences from three consecutive Council meetings or from four meetings in any twelve-month period shall constitute presumed resignation. Following such absences, the member shall be notified, in writing, of his/her presumed resignation. If extenuating circumstances have caused the absences or if the member wishes to take issue with the proceedings for any reason, the member shall inform the Council Chairperson within one week of the date of the written notification. No response shall be considered a confirmation of the member's resignation.

§ 17-13. Compensation.

All members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services. They shall be reimbursed, to the extent that the budget permits, for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their Council duties [(excluding associate members)], subject to County expenditure approval procedures.