

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**BROOME COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**JASON GARNAR
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

**ANTHONY F. FIALA, JR.
COMMISSIONER**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development serves to promote the sound and orderly economic and physical growth of Broome County and its constituent municipalities. It provides technical planning guidance and assistance to the County Executive and County Legislature and implements projects and programs designed to improve the economy, environment, and physical infrastructure of the county. The department extends professional services to local municipalities and other public and private entities in the areas of land use planning and zoning, grantsmanship, economic development, cartography, community assistance, research and infrastructure development.



DEPARTMENT STAFF

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ANTHONY F. FIALA, JR.

Commissioner

BETH LUCAS

Director*

STEPHANIE BREWER

Chief Planner

LORA ZIER

Senior Planner

AIMEE DAILEY

Senior Planner

GILLIAN SLOAN

Planner

ISABELLA PAULLAY

Planner

LORI DARLING

Senior Account Clerk

EVAN MCHUGH

Intern

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

DOUGLAS ENGLISH

GIS Administrator**

JOSEPH GAYNOR

GIS Specialist

BRIAN DAMOUR

GIS Specialist

*Director January –July 2024

** Acting Director/Commissioner July – December 2024

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Broome County Office of Planning and Economic Development, it is my pleasure to present the 2024 Annual Report. The Department continues to enhance and increase awareness in its mission statement and widening the impacts of planning and economic growth within Broome County.

In 2024, the Department advanced important initiatives for the county including:

- Updating demographic data and building outlines layer on the Parcel Mapper.
- Completion of the Jenison Park Art Park Improvements Project
- Completion of multiple planning projects including the Housing Needs Assessment, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy, and the Sustainable Operations & Energy Action Plan.
- Securing funding for the Broome-Tioga Arts and Cultural Master Plan.

A major commitment to Broome County made by the County Executive is the investment in quality housing. In 2024, Broome County announced a \$5 million Housing and Economic Development Fund to support projects that revitalize our neighborhoods. The commitment to this fund is producing results. Broome County will add on more than 1,000 housing units that will be completed within the next 6 to 12 months. Our community is providing housing for its seniors, veterans that need a stable level of housing and care and families who are just starting out.

I'd like to thank the staff of the Planning Department. Their hard work, commitment and dedication to our community is greatly appreciated. Many of them are behind the scenes but contribute a great deal to our community. Their work is leaving a lifelong mark on many projects and that is the true legacy.

Here is to the next year,

Anthony F. Fiala, Jr. Commissioner
Planning and Economic Development

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

BROOME COUNTY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

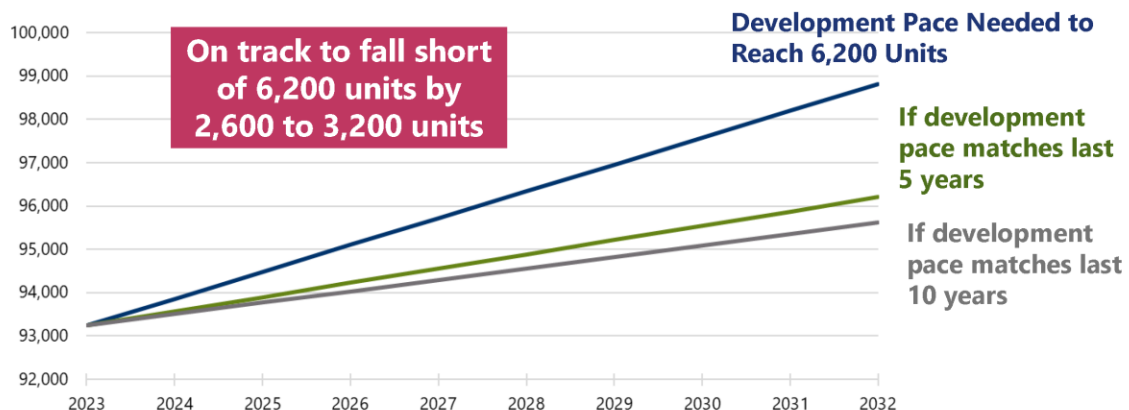
Completed in February 2024, the Broome County Housing Needs Assessment is the result of a collaborative effort led by the Broome County Planning Department. This effort began in 2023 and builds on existing plans and local priorities to create a better understanding of housing needs and potential solutions for Broome County.

The goal of the plan is to develop a framework to guide activities related to housing opportunities for the County, municipalities, and other partners. The report includes a wealth of technical data, information, and visuals to illustrate existing conditions and trends related to the population, economic conditions, housing market, and other trends driving housing needs in Broome County.

The plan establishes six broad goals that focus on different elements of housing and focus on enhancing capacity of the county and organizations, investing in housing improvements, improving housing on a neighborhood scale, increasing resiliency and efficiency of housing, supporting new construction that meets the needs of the community, and improving housing options, opportunities, and services for residents most in need. The Implementation Strategy outlines a range of actions to help make the best use of local resources across the focus areas to overcome the county's housing challenges.

Pace of Housing Development Needs to Increase

Projected Housing Development Gap in Broome County (2023-2024)



Source: Esri; HUD; U.S. Census ACS; Camoin Associates

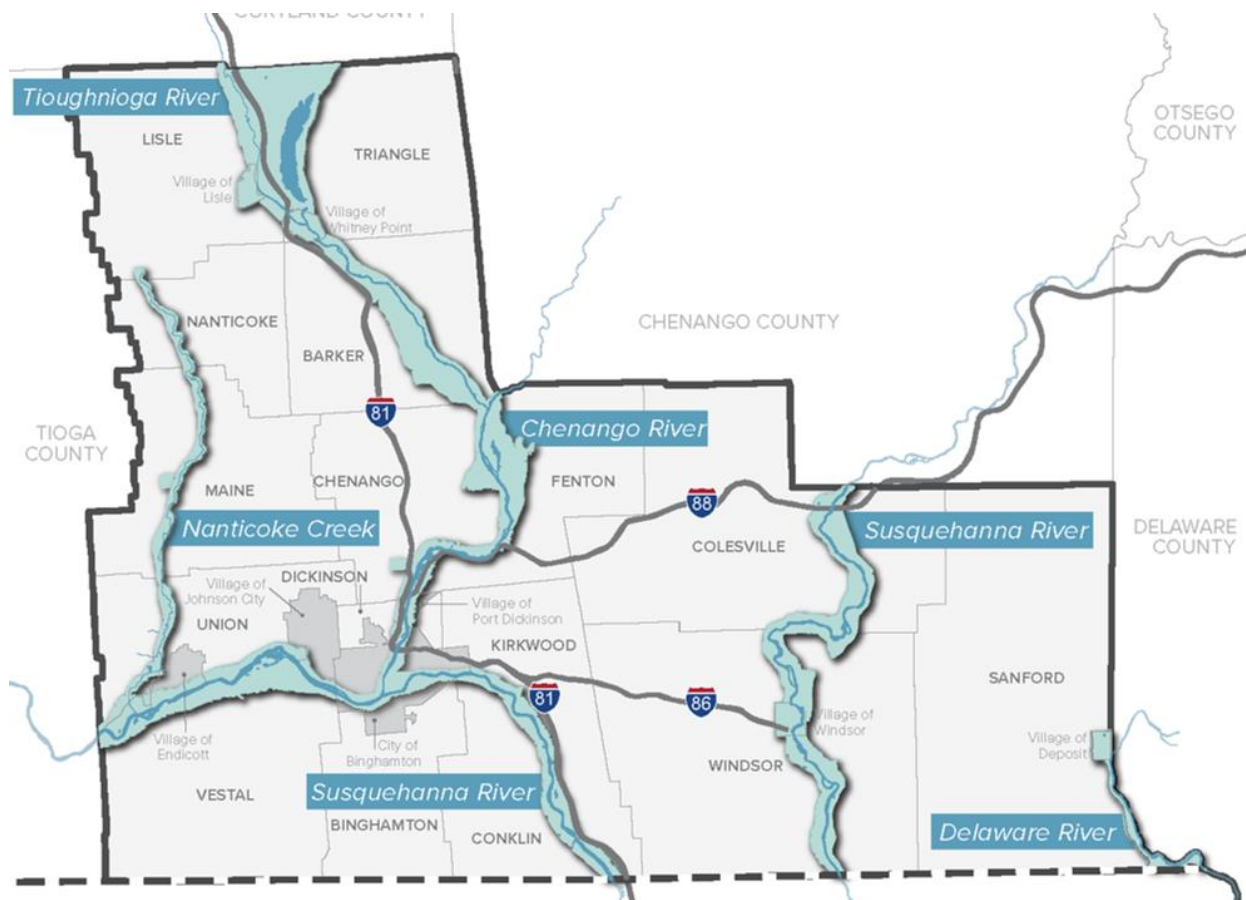
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

The Broome County Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy (LWRS), completed in April 2024, builds upon the work completed in the 2011 Intermunicipal Waterfront Access Plan. This update features a Blueway Plan and River Trails Guide which lay the groundwork for strategic planning and development of future blueway trails.

The LWRS identifies key challenges facing our waterways, including complex regulations, local capacity limitations, and potential flood and environmental risks. A number of opportunities, from economic growth and enhanced access to fostering regional collaboration and building resilience are presented to address some of the primary challenges.

Working with communities throughout the county, the LWRS establishes priority projects to enhance the waterfront revitalization area. These projects focus on expanding trails and connections, improving streetscapes and gateways, upgrading riverfront parks, integrating flood control and public access infrastructure, creating a unified wayfinding system, and preserving waterfront heritage.



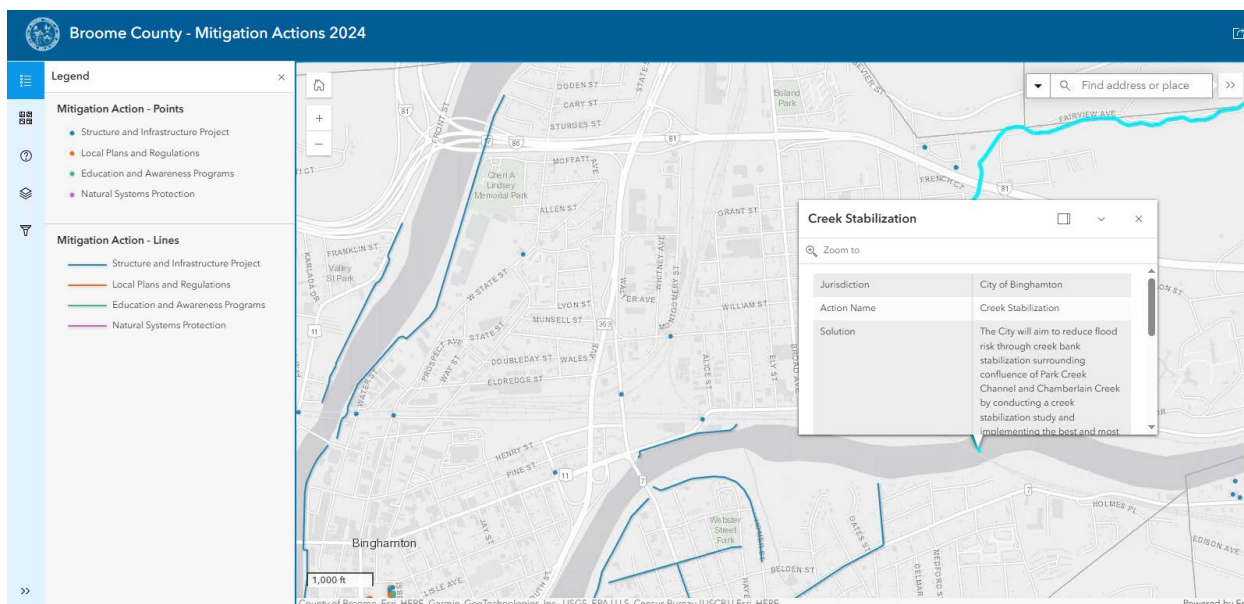
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

2024 BROOME COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Completed in December 2024, the Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (HMP) was a multi-jurisdictional effort to update the 2019 Broome County HMP. Completing the HMP update every five years, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), ensures our local communities' continued eligibility for non-emergency disaster assistance.

The Plan evaluates each jurisdiction's risk and vulnerability to identified hazards by analyzing past events, historic and projected future losses, and the probability of future occurrences. It also includes a capability assessment that reviews local mechanisms, highlighting which tools communities use and where enhanced capabilities would be beneficial. The HMP reviews the status and relevance of previous mitigation actions, incorporating new mitigation actions as needed.

To support broader statewide mitigation planning efforts, the Planning Department worked with the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to build a mitigation database for the county and its municipalities. This will support DHSES' initiative to provide an overview of local mitigation actions across the state. Additionally, an interactive online mitigation action map was developed which will allow local officials as well as members of the community to easily view current mitigation actions and their status, while also providing a framework for the county to use for future updates.



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

In December 2024, the Planning Department completed the Sustainable Operations Plan and the Energy Action Plan. Together, these plans outline a comprehensive strategy for the county to enhance its sustainability efforts, improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and reduce vulnerability to environmental and climate hazards. These plans will better position the county for future grant opportunities and advance the county's progress towards New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) goals.

The Sustainable Operations Plan assesses current operations, energy consumption, emissions, and best practices to offer recommendations that will support improved operations related to transportation, buildings and facilities, waste management, land use planning, and education and outreach. The Energy Action Plan evaluates the county's energy infrastructure and demand to outline strategies for sustainable energy development in the future.

Top 5 County Owned Buildings by Emissions
(MTCDE)

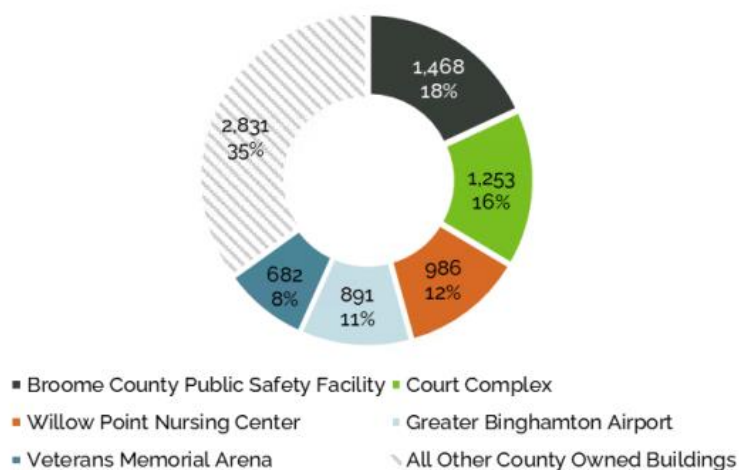


Figure 2-1: Top 5 County Owned Buildings by Emissions (MTCDE)

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

BROOME COUNTY COUNTYWIDE RESILIENCY PLAN

Broome County was awarded a grant to prepare the Countywide Resiliency Plan. In 2024, the Planning Department procured a consultant to assist with the development of the plan. This project will focus on assessing the risks and vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure and key assets to various climate hazards. The plan will include assessments and vulnerability modeling, as well as extensive community outreach. The goal of the project is to identify effective strategies and projects to mitigate the impacts of climate change, inform future planning efforts and Capital Improvement Plans. Planning efforts commenced in early 2025.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY UPDATE

Broome County secured a grant to update the 2019 Natural Resources Inventory. The NRI Update will involve leveraging current data, enhanced mapping, and comprehensive analyses to catalog the county's natural assets. The goal is to establish a framework for resource protection and conservation strategies to guide future land use and environmental management planning.

In 2024, the Planning Department coordinated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to finalize the project work plan and initiate the development of procurement materials.

ARTS & CULTURAL STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN

In 2024, Broome County in partnership with Tioga County, received a grant to support the creation of an Arts and Culture Strategic Master Plan. This plan will serve as an update to the 2009 Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan and will identify and quantify the region's creative and historical assets, analyze the economic impact of arts in culture in the region, and develop recommendations to leverage these assets. Project kickoff is scheduled for Fall 2025.

A high-angle photograph of a community planning meeting held in a church hall. Numerous people of various ages are seated at several round white tables, engaged in discussion. The room features a wooden floor, a balcony with a decorative railing, and a banner that reads "Centenary-Chicago Street United Methodist Church Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors All are Welcome". A man in a red shirt is operating a video camera on a tripod in the background. The text "COMMUNITY PLANNING" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

COMMUNITY PLANNING

BRANDYWINE BOA REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

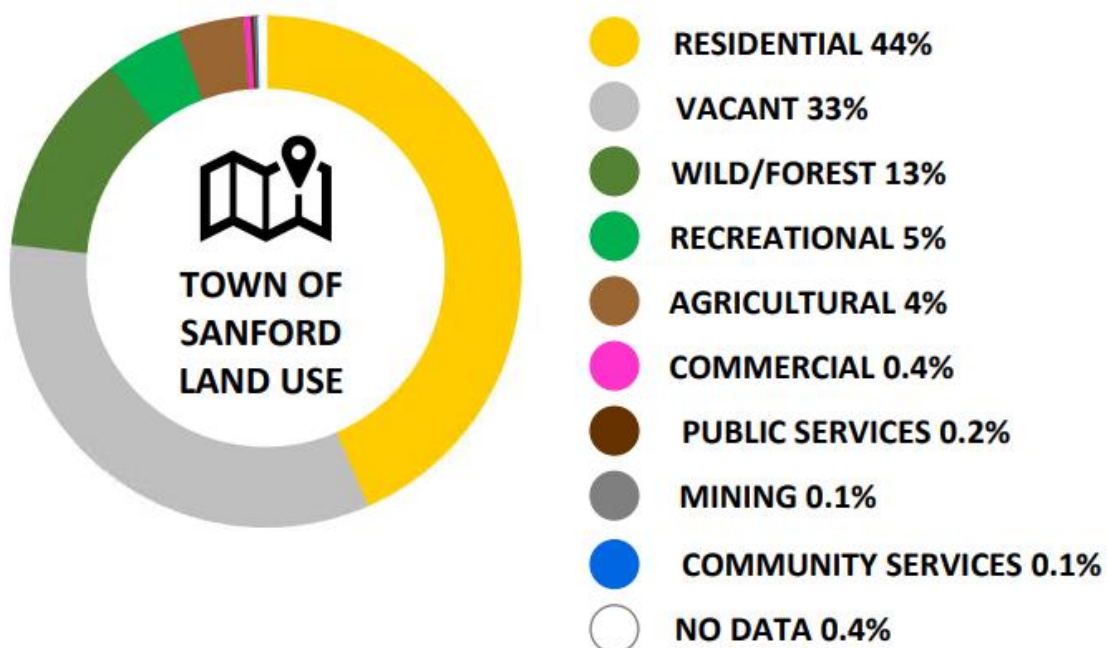
Broome County was awarded \$448,200 for the Brandywine BOA Predevelopment Activities Project. This project aims to develop strategic analyses and a master plan to advance key actions from the 2013 Nomination Study, establishing a foundation for future revitalization and redevelopment.

During 2024, the Planning Department worked with the City of Binghamton to procure a consultant and finalize the project scope and schedule. The official project kickoff began in January 2025.

TOWN OF SANFORD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Broome County worked closely with the Town of Sanford in developing its first comprehensive plan in over three decades. The 2024 Plan presents the existing conditions, summarizes public engagement outreach and feedback, and provides strategic goals and recommendations for the future.

The Planning Department presented the draft plan and recommendations in March 2024. Following this, a public hearing was held, and the plan was officially adopted by the Town of Sanford on June 11, 2024.



IDISTRICTS PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Broome County was awarded \$240,000 from New York State through the Greater Binghamton Fund to install public art in the Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott iDistricts. The goal of this program is to create more public art in our downtown areas and further enhance the cultural identity of these areas.

While no new projects were completed in 2024, Broome County worked with property owners and local municipalities to identify and plan future installations utilizing the remaining grant funds. The installation of these final projects is anticipated for summer 2025.

JENISON PARK ART PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Following its groundbreaking in 2023, the Planning Department continued to work with the Village of Johnson City and other project partners to ensure advancement of remaining project activities. In November 2024, the Jenison Park Improvements project was completed.

Through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), the Village of Johnson City will implement art installations at Jenison Park, in addition to other public realm improvements, aiming to create a distinct and welcoming identity for the downtown community.



ENDICOTT ART PARK

The Planning Department worked with the project team to bid the Endicott Art Park project in September 2024. This resulted in two competitive bid responses. To ensure the full vision of the project was realized, the Planning Department worked with the Village of Endicott to secure local funding for the project. The project was awarded in November, and construction is expected to start in August 2025.



CITY OF BINGHAMTON PLACEMAKING PROJECT

In 2024, the Planning Department worked with the City of Binghamton to continue planning efforts for a proposed alley activation project that will create a new public space between the Broome County Forum and a privately-owned arcade. The vision for the project is to transform the space with hardscape and infrastructure improvements, landscaping, and an illuminated art installation.

A photograph of a gravel trail winding through a forest. On the right side of the trail, there is a steep, rocky cliff face. The trees are lush and green, and the sky is visible in the background. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

TRAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

CHUGNUT TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT

The Planning Department received a \$2,613,820 from the NYSDOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Grippen Park and Chugnut Trail Waterfront Improvements project. This project will extend the Chugnut Trail to Grippen Park as well as expand the playground area and incorporate wayfinding/interpretive signage into the park.

In 2024, the Planning Department worked with the project team to finalize the design as well as environmental permitting documents for the project. The bid for the trail construction project was released in December 2024.



MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

Broome County, alongside representatives from the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS), the City of Binghamton, the Town of Vestal, the Village of Johnson City, the Town of Union, Binghamton University, and the Trust for Public Land, outlined a comprehensive scope of work for a 12-mile trail network across four municipalities to address crucial gaps in the existing Two Rivers Greenway system. In 2024, the Planning Department began preparing a \$2.6 million federal BUILD grant application for planning and pre-development activities.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #5 ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

The Planning Department, in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) administers the county's annual enrollment period. The enrollment period provides an opportunity for landowners to submit parcels for inclusion to receive certain protections provided by the NYS Agricultural Districts Program.

In 2024, the Planning Department worked with CCE Broome, the County Legislature, and the Broome County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board to review and approve applications, hold a public hearing, complete the SEQR process, and compile the necessary documentation for NYS Ag & Markets approval. As a result, 14 parcels covering approximately 572 acres were added to Broome County Agricultural District #5 in March.



AGRICULTURE MUNICIPAL TRAINING SESSION

In July 2024, the Planning Department partnered with CCE Broome to host a municipal training session for municipal planning and zoning board members. The training featured speakers from NYS Ag & Markets, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and the Southern Tier Land Conservancy, covering topics such as, agriculture zoning, conflict resolution, and land conservation. Approximately 30 people attended the training.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

In 2019, Broome County was awarded bronze certification as a Climate Smart Community by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This designation establishes Broome County as a leader in sustainability and gives the county an extra advantage when applying for state grant funds.

Recertification for the Climate Smart Communities Program is required every five years for communities to maintain their status. The Planning Department worked closely with other county departments and partner organizations to collect documentation of Broome County's progress since 2019. In September 2024, Broome County was recertified as a Bronze Community, receiving 244 points earned from 39 completed actions.

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Since its designation as a Clean Energy Community in 2019, Broome County has demonstrated its commitment to clean energy initiatives. In 2024, Planning staff successfully completed three High Impact Actions identified by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). These actions, including a Municipal Clean Fleet Inventory, Electric Vehicle Community Campaign, and Climate Smart Communities Recertification accumulated to 3,700 points. This achievement made Broome County eligible for up to \$225,000 in grant funding to support clean energy improvements in a disadvantaged community.

Broome County will use this funding to complete energy audits and implement upgrades at the George Harvey Justice Building and the Broome County Courts Family Annex. Remaining funds will be used to purchase EV landscaping equipment for the Broome County Parks Department.

GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Broome County conducted an inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at both the county operations and community levels. This Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis will serve as a foundational benchmark as Broome County transitions into a new energy economy and addresses the challenges of a changing climate. Future studies and analyses will build upon this information, enabling the County to make more informed decisions for both its operations and the broader community.

SUSTAINABLE BROOME PANELIST SERIES

In 2024, the Planning Department continued its Sustainable Broome Lunch & Learn Series. This program focuses on a key sustainability area, guided by the Climate Smart Communities Pledge Element framework, and features guest speakers who present relevant projects, programs, research, and opportunities. The series aims to provide local information on ongoing initiatives, encourage community involvement in sustainability efforts, and outline steps that individuals and municipalities can take to reduce their impact on interconnected climate systems.

In 2024, two sessions were held:

- Managing our Refuse: Local Solid Waste Stewardship Part
- Facing Challenges Head On: Resiliency Transportation & Micromobility Across Broome



BROOME-TIOGA STORMWATER COALITION

In 2024, Broome County Planning continued its active role within the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC), a collaborative of municipalities dedicated to addressing local stormwater issues and ensuring compliance with federal and state mandates.

The Planning Department, in conjunction with the county's Engineering Department, serves on the BTSC and helps document activities related to Broome County's Stormwater Management Program Plan. This data is then compiled for the New York State-mandated Annual Report, which summarizes the activities of all regulated municipalities under state regulations, alongside Coalition-wide initiatives for submission to the NYSDEC.

Planning's contributions primarily focused on public education and participation requirements of the program. Key activities included active engagement at local events and the coordination of the annual Riverbank Cleanup.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

In 2024, the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC), serving as a citizen advisory board to county government on environmental matters, continued its work in environmental research, planning, and public education. County Planning provided support, facilitating the EMC's monthly meetings and membership management.

Additionally, 2024 was a pivotal year for the EMC's internal restructuring. Members and Planning staff supported efforts to revise the EMC Charter and Code, primarily focusing on membership numbers and composition.

The annual EMC Riverbank Cleanup, organized by the volunteer Riverbank Cleanup Committee in October, marked its largest event in recent years. This initiative, crucial for promoting water quality and meeting state and federal stormwater regulations, engaged 264 volunteers across 23 sites. They successfully collected and removed 177 bags, totaling an estimated 3.4 tons of trash.



EMC WORKING COMMITTEES

The EMC further advanced its goals through three active working committees:

- **Climate Smart Communities:** As Broome County's officially designated Climate Smart Community Task Force, this committee focused on advancing the County's climate action goals. In 2024, with support from Planning staff, the committee ensured the County's successful recertification as a Bronze Climate Smart Community in August.
- **Zero Waste:** This committee advised on enhancing waste management policies and programs, promoting alternatives like recycling and composting to reduce community waste. Their 2024 research into local composting efforts, in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension and VINES, led to the Broome County Health Department initiating an internal composting program, with plans for a pilot expansion.
- **Membership & Outreach:** Established to bolster EMC membership and visibility, this committee worked to recruit new members. An outreach initiative developed in 2024, by the Binghamton University Student Representative, was the creation of a bimonthly EMC Newsletter to EMC activities, committee updates, partner organization news, and relevant opportunities. The first newsletter was published in February 2025.

HOTEL-MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

HOTEL-MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

BROOME COUNTY HOTEL MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

The County's Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax, a 5% levy on hotel and motel stays, allocates 2% of its proceeds to economic development and marketing, brownfields, and the Small Community Fund. The Planning Department assists with administration of these funds, providing guidance and support to the Hotel Motel Committee, which is responsible for allocating the funding. In 2024, the Planning Department administered two programs through this fund:

Economic Development and Marketing Fund

This fund supports projects that enhance the local economy and tourism by attracting visitors, improving community character, and leveraging private investment. In 2024, the fund allocated about \$500,000 to various projects and events including: Dick's Sporting Goods Open, Spiedie Fest, LUMA, and Binghamton Pond Hockey Festival, and the Special Olympics.

Small Community Fund

This fund provides support for local projects that enhance community character or leverage other funding for larger initiatives. In 2024, the fund allocated \$650,000, leading to a record number of applications and funded projects, including: EMS equipment, generators, sports field improvements, parks amenities project, trail enhancements, historic sites renovations, and upgrades to social services facilities.



LOCAL LAND USE



MUNICIPAL TRAININGS

The Planning Department organizes municipal trainings each year to give local planning and zoning board members an opportunity to meet NYS training requirements and to educate local boards and officials on land use issues and opportunities in our community. In 2024, the Planning Department, in collaboration with Coughlin & Gerhart LLP, and Tioga County, hosted two trainings:

- Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Revision: Representatives from New York State Department of State presented on comprehensive planning and revising zoning.
- Cannabis Land Use Regulation: Representatives from Coughlin & Gerhart LLP presented on cannabis-related land use regulation and enforcement.

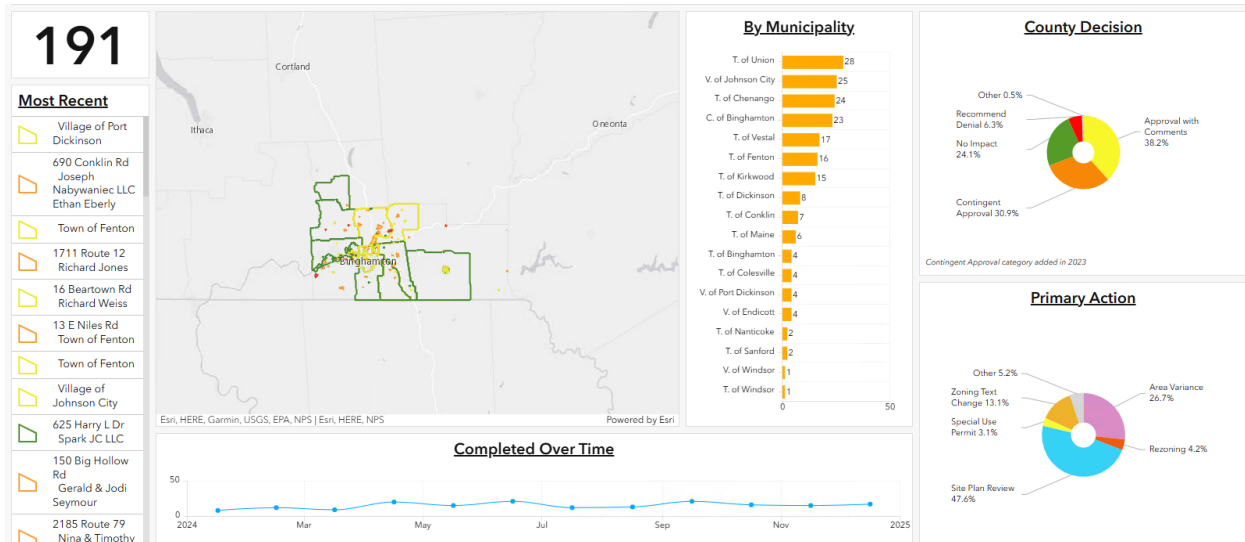
The department's website also provides training resources with recorded videos and presentations.



LOCAL LAND USE

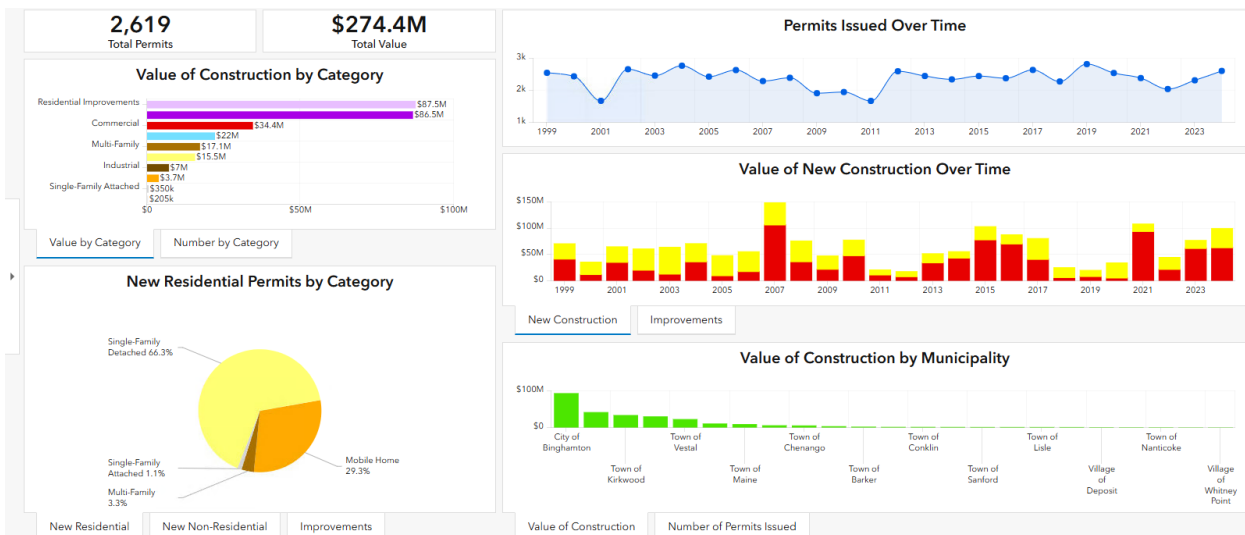
LAND USE 239 REVIEWS

The Planning Department has a legal obligation to conduct reviews and render advisory opinions on land-use proposals covered under NYS General Municipal Law 239 (l) and (m). In 2024, the Planning Department reviewed and provided opinions on 202 projects.



BROOME COUNTY CONSTRUCTION DATA REPORT

In 2024, the Department prepared the Construction Data Report, a key resource providing insights into countywide growth and development patterns. Available on Planning's website, this report compiles residential and nonresidential building data from municipalities, offering comprehensive tables and charts that document annual building permit activity across the county.



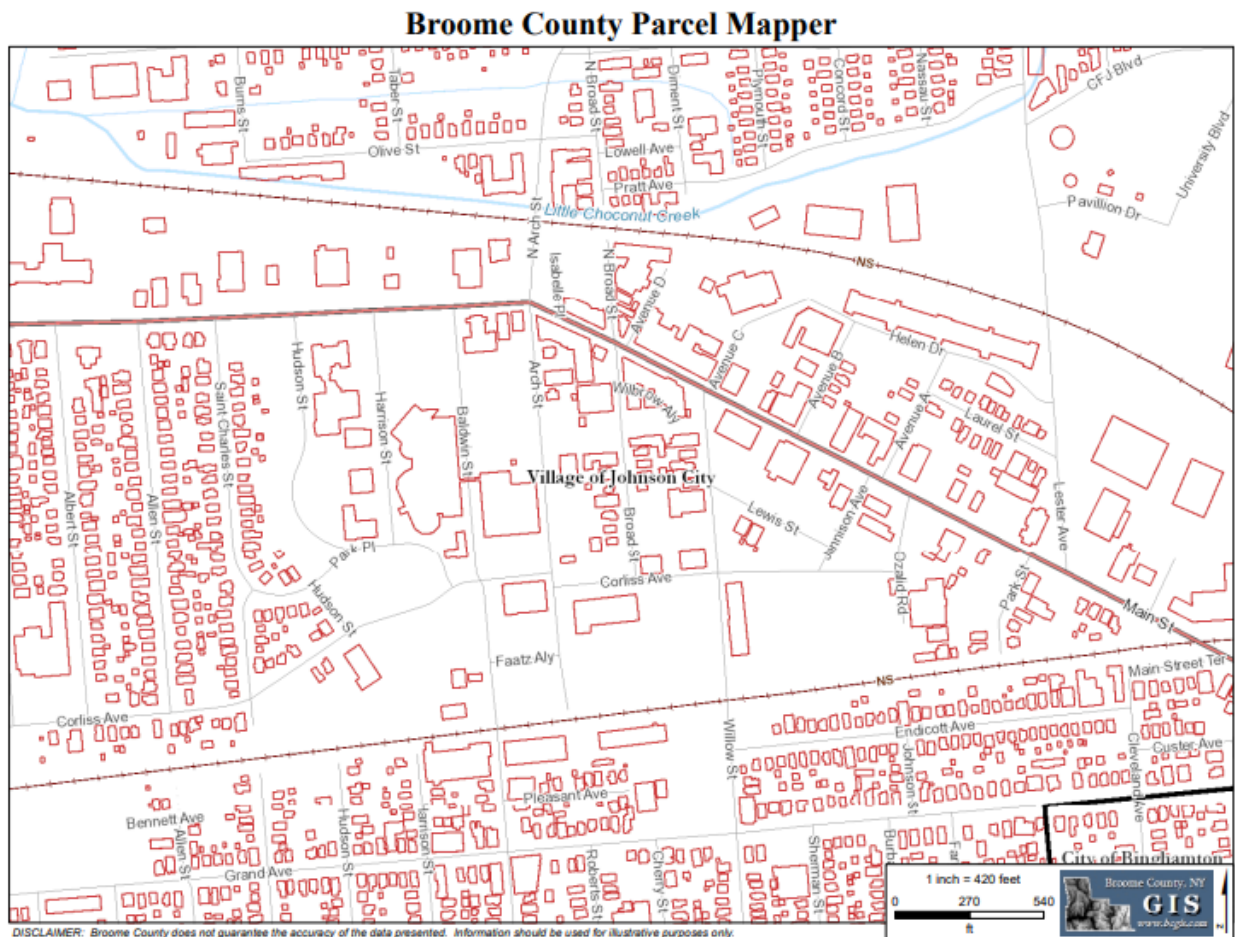
An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing streets, parks, and buildings. The image is darkened to serve as a background for the title.

GIS & MAPPING SERVICES

GIS PORTAL WEBSITE & MAPPING APPLICATIONS

The GIS Portal website and mapping applications continue to be a highly-demanded online county resource. In 2024 the GIS Portal website received over 300,000 visits by over 100,000 unique users. This represents a slight 3.3% decrease in visits and a minor 1.8% increase in unique users over 2023. The most viewed resource on the site was the Parcel Mapper with over 200,000 views (-8.1%). Parcel detail sheets views remained largely steady over 2024 with just over 155,000 (+0.5%). The Election Mapper saw a substantial increase in views at over 3,100 (+48.0%), likely due to 2024 being a presidential election year. PDF tax maps were viewed over 11,000 times (-5.7%).

Other online GIS items of note: the demographic information app was updated to reference newer 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey data; the Construction Report dashboard was updated with 2023 data; 2020, 2021, and 2022 countywide land use maps were added to the map library; an updated building outline layer was added to the Parcel Mapper.



COUNTY DEPARTMENT SUPPORT

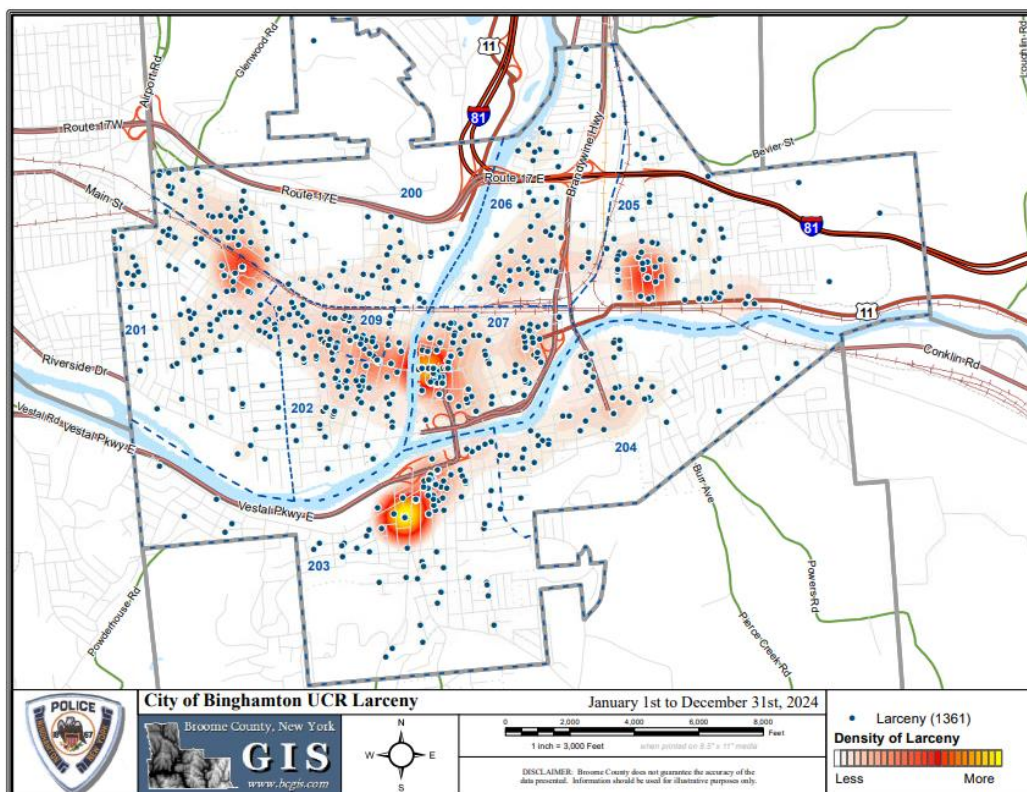
The GIS Division supports nearly all county departments in some capacity with mapping, data, and analysis. Some highlights from individual departments include:

- **Emergency Services:** continued to assign all 911 addresses within the county; continued to support 911 dispatch mapping; created various fire coverage and fire quadrant maps.
- **Sheriff's Office:** continued to provide weekly, monthly, and year-to-date maps and data for long term, strategic/administration planning; continued to provide access to online web maps using ArcGIS Online.
- **Security:** provided maps for various county events like the Dick's Open, Spedie Fest, and the Greater Binghamton Air Show.
- **Real Property:** continued to support tax mapping functions; continued to provide PDF tax maps and access to RPS data online through Image Mate Online from the GIS Portal website.
- **Planning & Economic Development:** continued to update 239 review information in the parcel data and the 239 review layer in the Parcel Mapper; provided various maps and/or data for different projects and grants.
- **Health:** geocoded and provided various maps and data including tobacco retailers and youth friendly locations mapping, railroads and school locations mapping, and elevated lead levels mapping.
- **Elections/Legislature:** finished the court-ordered County Legislature redistricting process modifying some election districts as a result; fulfilled various map and data requests for Elections and the Legislature; verified voter addresses for Elections; updated the polling places layer; produced maps for the annual additions to agricultural district # 5 for the Legislature; created an 'old' legislative district webmap for reference purposes.

CITY OF BINGHAMTON SUPPORT

In 2024 nearly 475 GIS projects were provided for the City of Binghamton. Some highlights include:

- **Police:** incidents and cases dashboard updated daily; continued to provide technical support to the City's Environmental Policing Task Force; continued to provide weekly, monthly, and year-to-date map, charts, and graphs for long term, strategic/administration planning; provided support for the City Crime Intelligence Center; utilized ArcGIS Online to create web maps for police use; participated in various meetings.
- **Planning:** provided mapping for various projects and grants; continued to provide updated data and server map services for the City's Building Blocks application; updated the zoning map with various edits.
- **Building & Code:** provided various maps and data; mapped code violations in relation to low-moderate income areas; created a code violations heat map.



BROOME COUNTY LAND BANK



BROOME COUNTY LAND BANK

BROOME COUNTY LAND BANK PARTNERSHIP

Broome County Planning was awarded a grant through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in partnership with the Broome County Land Bank as a subrecipient of funds for residential housing rehabilitation projects. This grant allows the County and Land Bank to devote attention to the housing needs in these areas through rehabilitation of sub-standard or blighted properties.

The Land Bank focused on identifying and acquiring properties under ownership of the County through foreclosure and in need of substantial rehabilitation for residential housing. Through this process, the Land Bank took ownership of three properties, 1593 Oakdale Road in the Town of Union, and 224 and 313 Marion Street in the Town of Vestal. While rehabilitation was completed in 2023 for the homes at 1593 Oakdale Road and 313 Marion Street, both homes were marketed and sold to LMI eligible families in early 2024 in consultation with the Planning Department.

Also, throughout 2024 Planning and the Land Bank worked together toward the design and construction associated with the rehabilitation of 224 Marion Street, which was marketed and sold in the Summer of 2024 to an LMI eligible family. Following the completion of all three rehabilitation projects, the grant was closed out in the Fall of 2024.





SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE AREA

OVERVIEW

The Broome County Planning Department, in collaboration with the Tioga County Economic Development and Planning Department, continues to provide administrative and technical support for the Susquehanna Heritage Area. Our work directly implements the goals and recommendations outlined in the 2010 Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan, building upon the foundation laid since the area's recognition by the New York State legislature in 1982.

The core objective of the plan is to identify, promote, and develop the rich historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources within the expanded Susquehanna Heritage Area, which encompasses both Broome and Tioga counties. This guides our efforts in implementing programs and projects that foster economic revitalization and enhance the quality of life across the region.

In 2024, the Planning Department worked with Tioga County to organize meetings to discuss grant opportunities and potential projects and plans to update the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

GRANT FUNDING

In 2024, the Planning Department continued its vital role in supporting New York State Environmental Protection Fund Heritage Area grants. This involved reviewing and recommending projects for funding, including those for historic preservation and parks. The Planning Department conducted outreach to municipalities and non-profit agencies and provided technical assistance to ensure project consistency with the SHA Plan.

In 2024, the Planning Department oversaw the review and endorsement of three projects: the Roberson Museum and Carriage House Roof Restoration, the Goodwill Theatre, Inc. Historic Firehouse Masonry Restoration, and the Southern Tier Zoological Center – Ross Park Interpretive Center Complex.

SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE AREA

PATH THROUGH HISTORY WEEKEND

The Planning Department helps coordinate local participation in New York State's bi-annual Path Through History Weekends, an event promoting the state's historical and cultural resources. The Department collaborates with Visit Binghamton, local municipalities, and historical/cultural groups to develop and promote annual events that highlight Broome County's historical and cultural resources through an interactive map, promotional materials, and a press conference.

The June PTHW featured programming at four sites: Roberson Museum and Science Center, Phelps Mansion Museum, Endicott Visitor Center, and Broome County Arts Council. The October PTHW featured special programming at five sites: Village of Deposit, Village of Windsor, Kilmer Mansion, The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier, Phelps Mansion Museum, and Broome County Arts Council.



RIDE THE CAROUSEL CIRCUIT

The Planning Department, in partnership with Visit Binghamton and local municipal parks departments, promotes the Ride the Carousel Circuit Program by providing informational brochures and buttons.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

DRONES OVER BROOME

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

SOUTHERN TIER 8

The Planning Department actively collaborates with the Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Development Board, with its Commissioner serving on the board and committees, to guide regional projects and secure federal funding, including the Appalachian Regional Commission program.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

As a member of the Regional Planning Board, the Commissioner of Planning collaborates with other Planning Directors on the ST8 Planning Committee to help distribute federal Appalachian Regional Commission funds, requiring a letter of support from the Director for each project application and annual assistance in project outreach and review. In 2024, the Director provided six letters of support.

CEDS

The Commissioner of Planning also sits on ST8's committee that drives development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region. The committee consists of representatives from each county with a role in economic development. In Broome this includes representatives from the Leadership Alliance (IDA and Chamber of Commerce) and Broome-Tioga Workforce in addition to Planning.

BROADBAND

Under the leadership of ST8, Broome County has partnered with neighboring counties to work together through the Regional Broadband Collaborative. The group works together on assessing local broadband needs, identifying the barriers to accurate service data and funding, and monitoring state and federal broadband policies that may impact our ability to make progress in broadband expansion.

A group of people are gathered in a greenhouse or nursery. In the foreground, a woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a green cardigan and blue jeans, is seated on a stool and gesturing with her hands. Behind her, several other people are standing and looking towards the camera. The greenhouse has a high ceiling with a complex network of metal beams and hanging plants in white pots. The floor is concrete, and there are wooden benches or tables in the background. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

BOARDS & MEMBERSHIPS

REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Planning staff serve the community and help shape policies by participating in other governmental boards and commissions.

- Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
- Agricultural Task Force
- BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
- BMTS Planning Committee
- Broome County Community Health Assessment Steering Committee
- Broome County Environmental Management Council
- Broome County Flood Task Force
- Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition
- Communities Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)
- Department of Public Art
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- NYS DEC Region 7 Open Space Committee
- Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Development Board
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board
- New York State Path Through History Local Committee
- Binghamton 2Degrees