

WHAT IS A REGIONAL COUNCIL?

A regional council is a public organization created to foster coordination among neighboring counties and to provide a regional approach for addressing multi-jurisdictional concerns. The governments representing these counties have voluntarily joined together to address common economic, environmental and social concerns.

Regional councils are multi-purpose organizations with legal status. Partially funded by county governments and with state and federal funds, regional councils are responsible to the representatives of their member counties. The governing bodies of regional councils are primarily composed of local government officials and/or appointed representatives of local and county government. Responsibilities include:

- Environmental and water resources management
- Economic development
- Community development
- Transportation planning
- Aviation planning
- Energy use planning and development
- Geographic and data services
- Regional marketing

By presenting a regional perspective on issues, regional councils promote intergovernmental cooperation and facilitate dialog between state and federal governments and small municipalities. Regional councils have developed an ongoing working relationship with a variety of state agencies to deliver state-funded programming on a regional basis.

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VISIT NYSARC'S
WATER RESOURCES WEB SITE:
WWW.CNYRPDB.ORG/NYSARCWATER

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS



STATEWIDE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Compiled by the
Central New York Regional Planning
and Development Board

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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS (NYSARC)

STATEWIDE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

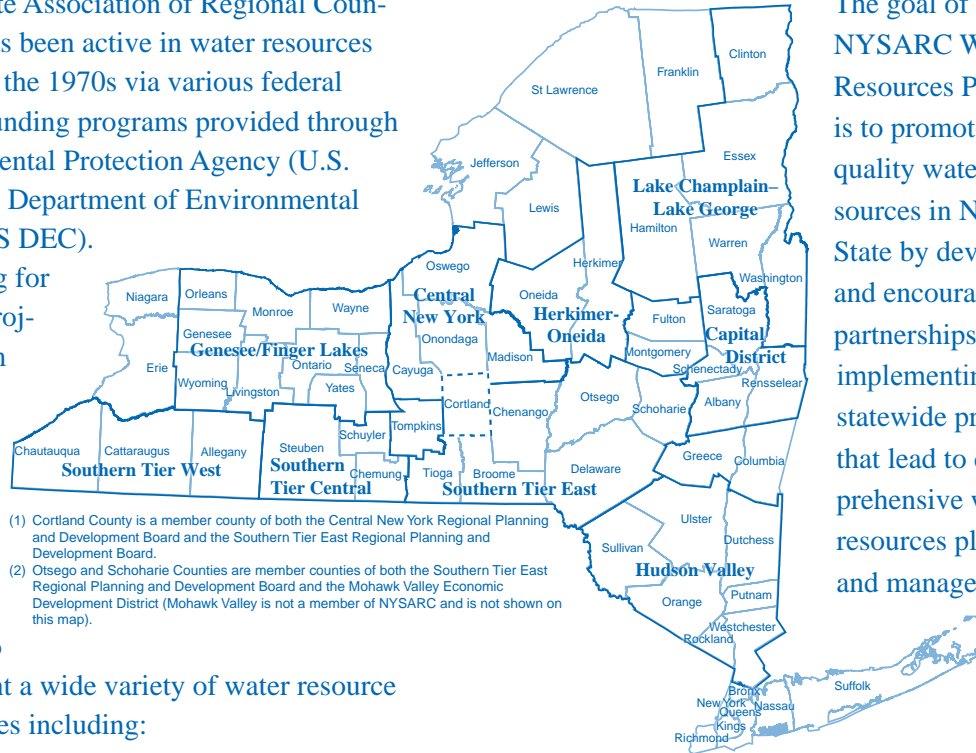
WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The New York State Association of Regional Councils (NYSARC) has been active in water resources management since the 1970s via various federal Clean Water Act funding programs provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).

Substantial funding for NYSARC water projects has come from Sections 205(j) and 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

NYSARC members work with local governments to plan and implement a wide variety of water resource protection initiatives including:

- Watershed planning
- Stormwater and floodplain management and hazard mitigation
- Source water protection
- Nonpoint source pollution control
- Outreach, training, and education
- Collaborative partnership building
- GIS mapping and data development
- Inventorying and data collection
- Public participation and technical assistance



WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the NYSARC Water Resources Program is to promote high quality water resources in New York State by developing and encouraging partnerships and by implementing unified statewide programs that lead to comprehensive water resources planning and management.

NYSARC is composed of nine locally created regional councils throughout New York State. Although NYSARC regions do not include all NYS counties, NYSARC members often contract with and include nonmember counties in various types of programming to obtain statewide or expanded regional coverage. This is common in the area of watershed planning where hydrologic boundaries necessitate the involvement of nonmember counties.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Fostering collaboration and building partnerships are key functions of the NYSARC water resources program. NYSARC members place strong emphasis on collaboration of efforts both within and across regional council boundaries. A significant aim of NYSARC's water program is the transferability of methodology and products to other areas of the state. NYSARC works closely with state and local governments, county water quality coordinating committees, and many other local and regional water resources protection partners to facilitate and conduct watershed-based initiatives.

NYSARC works closely with NYS DEC to provide unified response to statewide water resources management needs suited to be handled at the regional level. Because the regional perspective is both broad enough to address multi-community concerns and local enough to be sensitive to unique issues, NYSARC is recognized by local and state governments as a vehicle for the development of locally applicable programs.

A summary document of NYSARC's water resources projects is available at www.cnyrpd.org/nysarcwater or by contacting Kathleen Bertuch at the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) (see contact information on back panel). The CNY RPDB serves as NYSARC's statewide water resources program coordinator.