

Planning for Rising Waters: How can community members become involved?

Join or attend meetings, be an advocate, a community champion, an earlier adopter, maven, or connector.

Appointed Commissions

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Kingston 2025: Revision of Comprehensive Plan. Visit the website and sign up to stay informed and read documents. Contact: Suzanne Cahill (845) 334-3955
<http://www.kingston-ny.gov/content/4463/default.aspx>

Conservation Advisory Council: A volunteer board that works to ensure the sustainable use of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment. www.kingstoncac.org
Chair: Julie Noble at julielnoble@kingston-ny.gov or (845) 481-7339

Heritage Area Commission is designated as the Waterfront Advisory Committee with authorization to review and make recommendations to appropriate agencies regarding the consistency of proposed actions with respect to the **Kingston Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)** policy standards and conditions. Kingston's LWRP has forty four waterfront policies including promoting waterfront economic development, maintaining and improving public access to the shoreline and promoting water dependent uses, reducing health and pollution hazards, and many other issues.
<http://www.kingston-ny.gov/content/76/6654/6658/default.aspx>

Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission

<http://www.kingston-ny.gov/content/76/6654/6660/default.aspx>

Kingston Tree Commission consists of 7 members appointed by the Mayor. The purpose of the Commission is to look at problems and needs of the City of Kingston in connection with public tree plantings, seek ways to educate the public regarding the importance of tree protection, maintenance, removal and plantings and to work toward continuation of the Arbor Day Foundation's "Tree City USA" designation and "Growth Award". The Tree Commission meets regularly to review tree removal permit applications and discuss ways and locations to plant new public trees. The Commission also coordinates the annual Arbor Day Celebration in cooperation with the Kingston School District. Contact Suzanne Cahill (845) 334-3955

Municipal Boards

For more information on the following boards, please contact the associated office listed below. Meeting times can be found on the meeting calendar on the City of Kingston website:

<http://ci.kingston.ny.us/content/54/1914/default.aspx>

Parks and Recreation Board- Parks and Recreation Office, (845) 331-1682

Public Works Board- Department of Public Works, (845) 331-5213

Planning Board- Planning Office, (845) 334-3955

Zoning Board of Appeals- Building Safety Division, (845) 331-1217

Volunteer Committees

Climate Smart Kingston Committee: The Committee is working to implement the Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs; improve energy efficiencies and local job growth; and adapt to a changing climate. Chair: Julie Noble julielnoble@kingston-ny.gov or (845) 481-7339
<http://kingstoncac.org/index.php/initiatives/climate-action>

Waterfront Advisory Committee: A committee formed to ensure public involvement and comment on projects and initiatives related to the Heritage Area and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program on the Rondout Waterfront. Meetings are semi-annual and as needed as grant-funded projects move forward. Call or email to be placed on the list to be notified of meetings and updates. Check the website for most current plans and studies. Gregg Swanzey at gswanzey@kingston-ny.gov or (845) 334-3962
<http://www.kingston-ny.gov/EcoDev>

Community Organizations

Business Alliance of Kingston is an umbrella group that represents business and property owners from the Uptown, Midtown and Rondout commercial districts. <http://www.businessallianceofkingston.org/>

Friends of Historic Kingston has a mission which includes “to preserve historical and architecturally significant buildings and sites in the City of Kingston and to promote and foster interest in the historical heritage and beauty of Kingston.” There are historic buildings and sites in the waterfront areas of Kingston. <http://www.fohk.org>

Green Building U.S. Green Building Council New York Upstate Chapter – Hudson Valley Branch: <http://www.greenupstateny.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=976006>

Kingston Land Trust is a non-profit organization committed to the protection and preservation of open space, historic sites, wetlands, scenic areas, and forests in the City of Kingston and the surrounding region. <http://www.kingstonlandtrust.org/>

Sustainable Hudson Valley's mission is to speed up the shift to a low-carbon economy with high quality of life for all, by bringing people together with knowledge and each other. <http://www.sustainhv.org/>

Transition Towns Kingston: See Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kingston-Transition-NY/192540537518818>

Issues and Initiatives

Community Rating System - Encourage city officials to enroll in the Community Rating System, a voluntary incentive program providing discounted flood insurance premium rates to communities that partake in floodplain management activities beyond the minimum standards. <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>

Energy Conservation: NYSERDA has many energy conservation programs. For information on how to get a free residential energy audit contact RUPCO (Rural Ulster Preservation Company) at 845-331-2140. For energy efficiency resources for commercial properties contact Courtney Strong Inc. at 845-331-2238

Flood Proofing: If your property is in the floodplain or experienced flooding in past storms, consider elevating or flood proofing your house and serve as an example for others. <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/13261?id=3262>

Green-Infrastructure: Disconnect your rain gutters from combined sewers, put in a rain garden or rain barrels, plant a tree or shrub. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/58930.html>

Hazard Mitigation Planning: The Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes Kingston, was approved by FEMA in 2009. In August 2013, the planning team initiated the process for the first formal update, required every five years. <http://ulstercountyny.gov/emergency-services/hazard-mitigation>

Disclaimer: This information has been compiled from a variety of information sources. Information may be time limited and accuracy should be verified. This is not meant to be an inclusive list of all organizations which may have interest or influence in implementing the recommendations of the Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force.