

STEUBEN COUNTY



ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE GUIDE

Information On Environmental Resources

Prepared by the Environmental Management Council of Steuben County

2006

The Environmental Management Council (EMC) is an advisory group consisting of private citizens (appointed by the County Legislature), five Legislators (ex-officio), and eight agency heads (ex-officio). The EMC provides input to the Steuben County Legislature on environmental issues and sponsors educational programs within the county. For more information call (607)664-2268 or visit the website at www.steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=76.

This pamphlet is to be used only as a guide to the various state and county resources. Its intent is to be a quick reference to the agencies to contact for environmental information.

NOTE: Agency name abbreviations, addresses, and web sites are listed on page 6.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health Information: For a free Environmental Health Information Kit or information about the health and safety aspects of low-level radioactive wastes, radon, pesticide poisoning, and other topics, contact NYSDOH Center for Environmental Health 1-800-458-1158. For a local problem, contact NYSDOH (607)324-8371.

Community Sanitation and Food Protection: For environmental or safety concerns at public swimming pools, campgrounds, restaurants, mobile home parks, hotels and motels, contact NYSDOH (607)234-8371.

Lead Poisoning: Lead poisoning is a serious health hazard, particularly for preschool children who should be tested annually. Tests and information are available from your pediatrician or Steuben County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, 3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810 (607)664-2438.

Poison Center: In case of a poison emergency call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 (or 911 if unconscious or not breathing). Non-emergency and poison prevention information is available from the Finger Lakes Regional Poison and Drug Information Center (585)275-3232, www.stronghealth.com/services/poison.

Pesticides: For questions about pesticide safety (not recommendations on use or proper disposal), contact US Environmental Protection Agency, National Pesticide Telecommunications Network 1-800-858-PEST (1-800-858-7378). Agricultural pesticide and herbicide information is available from CCE (607)664-2300. Pesticide Applicator Certification is required to purchase and apply controlled pesticides - contact NYSDEC Region 8 (607)776-2165 or (585)226-2466. For proper disposal information, contact the NYSDEC Solid and Hazardous Materials Engineer at (607)776-2165 ext. 21.

Asbestos: A list of contractors licensed to handle asbestos is available (for a fee) from the NYS Department of Labor (518)457-4385.

Radon: Steuben County is a high radon risk area. For testing information or names of local radon repair specialists, call NYSDOH, Radon Program 1-800-458-1158.

Rabies: Report human or domestic animal contact with animals suspected of rabies to your town Public Health Officer or Steuben County Public Health Nursing Services (607)664-2438.

Chemical Safety: Information on health and safety effects of most chemicals is available on the website: [HTTP://physchem.ox.ac.uk/MSDS/](http://physchem.ox.ac.uk/MSDS/).

POLLUTION

Report Polluters: Discharge from any pipe that has a strong odor, foam, solid matter, an oil sheen, or is discolored should be reported to NYSDEC Turn In Poachers and Polluters Program 1-800-TIPP-DEC (1-800-847-7332). Report sewage releases to NYSDOH (607)324-8371.

Hazardous Materials: Report spills or leaks of petroleum products or hazardous materials to the NYSDEC Chemical Spill Hotline 1-800-457-7362.

Open Burning: Burning of garbage poses serious health risks and is illegal in some areas. Contact the town or village government about regulations. For information or educational material about the health and environmental impacts of open burning, contact CCE (607)664-2300.

Diesel Engines: New York State Air Pollution Code, Part 218 specifies that no person shall permit a diesel engine to idle for more than 5 minutes when the vehicle is not in motion, except as may be required by traffic conditions.
Report violations to local police.

Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites: For information about hazardous waste sites and citizen participation plans, call NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466.

Bulk Storage Regulations: Storage tanks over 1100 gallons must be registered with the state - contact NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466. Information about bulk storage of chemicals and petroleum is available from the NYSDEC Bulk Storage Helpline (518)402-9543.

Community Right-to-Know: For information about local industrial discharges, call the NYSDEC Community Right-to-Know Information Line (518)402-9553. Environmental Defense provides pollution reports by county, covering air, water, chemicals, and more at www.scorecard.org.

RECYCLING

Mandatory Recycling: Steuben County law mandates recycling of **mixed paper** (newspaper, magazines, glossies, catalogs, telephone books, paperback books, paper, and envelopes), **clear glass containers**, **#2 HDPE plastic** with mold seam across bottom, **corrugated cardboard**, and **metal food cans**. These materials are collected by haulers or may be taken free of charge to County transfer stations (Erwin, Hornell, and Wayland) or to the Bath landfill. For information contact DPW Recycling Program (607)664-2471.

Used Motor Oil: It is illegal to dump motor oil on the street, ground or down a drain. Store oil in a clean plastic container and take it to a transfer or service station for processing into lubricating or heating oil. The transfer stations and Bath landfill accept oil and oil filters free of charge from County residents (not commercial firms). For information contact DPW Recycling Program (607)664-2471. Service stations that sell motor oil must accept up to five gallons of used oil per person per day at no charge. If a service station won't accept used oil, notify NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466.

Fluorescent Light Bulbs: It is illegal to put fluorescent bulbs in with trash. The County landfill and transfer stations take fluorescent bulbs free of charge from residents (not from businesses).

Latex Paint Exchange: County residents may leave or pick up usable latex paint at the Erwin Transfer Station at no charge.

Additional Recyclables: Other recyclable materials accepted free of charge at the County landfill and transfer stations are **white goods** (refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, etc.), **scrap metal**, **license plates**, **propane tanks** (up to 100 pounds), and **antifreeze**. **Green glass** is collected at the Bath Landfill only. Annual collection programs are held at the Bath landfill for **book recycling** and **computer/electronics equipment**. Contact DPW Recycling Program (607)664-2471. Scrap dealers may pay for separated metals.

Car Batteries: It is illegal to dispose of a lead-acid battery in the regular trash. Used vehicle batteries must be returned to a battery recycler or to a retail store that sells lead-acid batteries. Service stations and other auto battery vendors are required to accept free of charge up to two used batteries per month per person. If a store that sells vehicle batteries refuses to accept used batteries, notify NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466.

Composting: Farm, municipal, and home composting information is available from CCE (607)664-2300.

Christmas Trees: The DPW collects Christmas trees each year, chips them and gives chips free to County residents. For details call DPW (607)664-2471.

Greeting Cards: Send greeting or holiday card fronts without writing to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005-1618, www.stjuderanch.org (fund raiser for abused, abandoned and neglected children).

Freecycle: The Freecycle Network consists of locally moderated groups for giving and receiving items for free, using online posting to members. Link to North Steuben County and South Steuben County Networks through www.freecycle.org.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Hazardous Waste: Steuben County holds an annual collection day for hazardous waste from households and farms. Eligible household waste includes: cleaning supplies, oil base paint/stain, pesticides/insecticides, antifreeze, solvents, corrosives, household batteries, polishes, waxes, pool chemicals, paint thinner, lead acid auto/marine batteries, driveway sealers, resins, and adhesives. Eligible farm wastes are herbicides and insecticides. Contact DPW Landfill Division (607)664-2460. For information about safe disposal of household hazardous waste, contact NYSDEC Household Hazardous Waste Information Line 1-800-462-6553.

Tires: The landfill and transfer stations accept tires from passenger vehicles, trucks, and tractors (without rims) for a fee. On the annual Tire Amnesty Day, County residents may bring four tires free of charge and additional tires for a reduced fee. Contact DPW Landfill Division (607)664-2460.

Yard Waste: Leaves and yard waste are not accepted at the County landfill and should not be included with other trash. Some municipalities process yard waste for residents - contact the local government. For information about composting and land application of leaves, contact CCE (607)664-2300.

Junked Autos: State law defines a junk yard as any site containing two or more motor vehicles no longer intended for use on public highways. For regulations and licensing requirements, contact your municipal government.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Household Energy Efficiency: Some utilities offer customers free home energy audits: NYSEG 1-800-572-1111; SREC 1-800-240-8658. For weatherization assistance, call Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Steuben County Pro Action (607)776-2125 or 1-800-553-2033.

Fire Wood: For information about cutting wood from state land, contact the Regional Forester, NYSDEC Bath Sub-office (607)776-2165.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

Adopt-A-Highway Program: Community groups and individuals keep sections of state and county roads litter-free. For state highways, contact Adopt-A-Highway Program, NYS Department of Transportation (607)324-8527. For county roads, contact DPW (607)664-2460.

LAND AND WATER USE

NYS Conservation Land: No person may remove or destroy trees or enter NYS wildlife management or reforestation land with the intent to alter it in any way. Report violations to NYSDEC Bath Sub-office (607)776-2165.

Wetlands and Protected Streams and Lakes: NYSDEC and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits may be required to: alter a fresh water wetland or adjacent buffer zone, change the course of or remove sand or gravel from the bed or banks of any stream, excavate from or place fill in navigable waters or adjacent marshes/wetlands, erect or repair any dam or dock. For permit requirements and technical assistance, contact SWCD (607)776-7398, ext. 3. Official NYS wetlands maps may also be studied at NYSDEC Bath Sub-office (607)776-2165 and DOP (607)664-2268.

Water Quality: For information about public water systems, private wells, water testing (information only), interpretation of test results, water treatment, and health related inquiries, contact NYSDOH (607)324-8371. For assistance with watershed management contact SWCD (607)776-7398, ext. 3. Region-wide water quality data and information on storm water management, nonpoint source contamination, aquifer characteristics, protection strategies, and drinking water are provided to municipalities by STCRPDB (607)962-5092.

Watershed Stewardship: Watershed Stewardship Program information and packets for Water Week (May) are available from NYSDEC Division of Water (518) 402-8232.

NY State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR): Community guidance with the SEQR process and floodplain, wetland and other environmental mapping are available from STCRPDB (607)962-5092.

Land Use Planning: For general land use issues, particularly circumstances requiring County review or zoning and subdivision regulations, contact DOP (607)664-2268. For specific questions about a community's regulations, contact the municipal clerk.

Land and Water Conservation: Technical assistance for land and water conservation (erosion control, storm water management, identification of development constraints due to soil type, etc.) is available from SWCD (607)776-7398, ext. 3.

Forest Management: For information and technical assistance, call NYSDEC Bath Sub-office (607)776-2165. For assistance with Christmas tree production (site selection and preparation, species selection, cultural practices and pest control), contact CCE (607)664-2300.

Mining: Mining in excess of 1000 tons (approximately 750 cubic yards) requires a permit. Additional restrictions may apply to any mining in or near a stream. Contact NYSDEC (585) 226-5373 or (585) 226-2466.

Oil and Gas: A permit is required to drill a well for oil, gas or solution salt mining, or for brine disposal, stratigraphic or geothermal purposes when drilled depths exceed 500 feet. Contact NYSDEC (585) 226-5373 or (585) 226-2466.

Boating Safety: Steuben County Sheriff's Boat Patrol enforces speed limits, rules-of-the-road, DWI and related laws and regulations on Keuka Lake. For information call (607)776-3347.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife Poisoning: Report fish kills or suspected pesticide poisonings of wildlife to NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466.

Wildlife Management and Control: Information on wildlife control in farm crops, home/business pest control, insect identification, plant identification, and wildlife/rodent control is available from CCE (607)664-2300. For information about regulations and permits contact NYSDEC Bath Sub-office (607)776-2165. For beaver activity impacting a road, contact the applicable highway department (town, county, or state).

Hunting and Fishing: Licenses (and information about the mandatory Gun and Bow Hunter Safety Course) are available from town clerks and sporting good stores. For information about hunting and fishing regulations, contact NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466.

Poaching: Report any one hunting or fishing out-of-season or otherwise violating hunting laws to NYSDEC Turn In Poachers and Polluters Program 1-800-TIPP-DEC (1-800-847-7332) or the NYSDEC Police (877)457-5680.

Stocking of Ponds: Obtain a permit from NYSDEC Region 8 (585)226-2466. Fish for stocking may be purchased from SWCD (607)776-7398, ext. 3.

Rodents: Report rat or mouse problems to your municipal Health Officer or Code Enforcement Officer. If this is not successful, call NYSDOH (607)324-8371. Report other rodent problems (woodchucks, squirrels, beavers, etc.) to NYSDEC (585)226-2466.

AGENCY NAMES & ADDRESSES

CCE: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810, (607)664-2300, www.cce.cornell.edu/steuben

DOP: Steuben County Department of Planning, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810, (607)664-2268, www.steubencony.org/planning

DPW: Steuben County Department of Public Works, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810, (607)664-2460, www.steubencony.org/pubwrks.html

NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. **Bath Sub-office**, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, NY 14810, (607)776-2165; **Region 8**, 6274 E. Avon-Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414, (585)226-2466; **Environmental Conservation Police Officers**, (877) 457-5680, www.dec.state.ny.us

NYSDOH: New York State Department of Health, 107 Broadway, Hornell, NY 14843, (607)324-8371, www.health.state.ny.us

STCRPDB: Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board, 145 Village Square, Painted Post, NY 14870, (607)962-5092, www.stcplanning.org

SWCD: Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District, 415 W. Morris St., Bath, NY 14810, (607)776-7398, ext. 3

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