



## Projects - 2007

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### **1. Adirondack Energy Smart Park Initiative (E\$PI)**

The Energy Smart Park Initiative (E\$PI) is a partnership of over 20 agencies, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, academic institutions, and businesses formed in 2005 to address issues related to energy production and use in New York's Adirondack Park region. We promote reliable, affordable, environmentally sound energy options that benefit all Adirondack residents and visitors by working to increase energy efficiency and local energy production from renewable resources. We strive to help make the Park and its communities a working example of what the world must do to achieve energy independence and transition to a clean, green, climate-friendly energy future.

ASCI is a subcontractor on the NYSERDA North Country Energy Smart Coordinator program, receiving seed monies for development of the E\$PI, and has developed a proposal, budget and work plan in close coordination with two partner organizations. ASCI cosponsored the January 2007 Community Exchange Day to highlight the Town of Jay municipal facility energy efficiency improvements, with attendance from more than 40 participants, including municipal officials from at least three other communities in the Park. Our *Climate Tools for Communities* Projects support the goals of the E\$PI (see below). See ASCI's website hosting the E\$PI program at: [www.energysmartpark.org](http://www.energysmartpark.org).

### **2. Lake Placid Region Sustainable Living Demonstration Project**

A local organization that owns a mixed use property (fields, forest, and several buildings) in the Lake Placid area has asked Adirondack Sustainable Communities to conduct an assessment of current energy usage and "sustainable" energy options for future use of its campus. After gathering information about the facilities and site over the summer of 2007, ASCI will assess needs and present the organization with options for retrofitting of its campus to utilize current technologies in green building and design, especially for energy efficiency and renewable approaches. ASCI will present its findings to the organization at its next meeting in the fall of 2007. ASCI is implementing this assessment project in the context of its ongoing participation in the Adirondack Energy Smart Park Initiative.

In case the organization opts to convert the property into a "green" facility, ASCI will also present options for it to document the conversion process for a wide audience. Establishing interpretive panels and trails and inviting public viewing and education about this process would allow the host organization to share lessons it learns about energy efficiency and renewable energy, green building and design, and other "sustainable" approaches. This could become a "Sustainable Living Education Center," which could provide a showcase of locally available technologies for the community of the Northern Adirondacks.

### **3. Wilmington Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP)**

This project has been working to help citizens, local government, and support organizations create a waterfront revitalization plan that will serve as a long term management program for the town's waterfront resources. These include the 10 mile stretch of the West Branch of the Au Sable River within the Town's boundaries and the 200-acre Lake Everest, which is heavily sediment-laden. The plan will help the Town to guide resource protection, enhanced recreational opportunities and public access, tourism-based economic development, growth management, reduction of nonpoint source pollution, hamlet revitalization, and protection of community character, for the short and long term.

Last fall, a community meeting attended by over 40 residents ratified the LWRP committee's priorities: (1) dredging Lake Everest; (2) renovation and enhancement of the Town Beach facilities including increased boat access, trails, playground enhancements; and (3) greater public access to the waterfront for walking, fishing, and boating. The Town and State and ASCI are now identifying steps to finalize the LWRP document that reflects these priorities and move forward with project implementation.

ASCI has received very high marks from the community, Town officials, State Dept., and other community oriented non-profits for its outreach work on the LWRP. The effort overall has already garnered an additional grant for the Town to



implement a dredging feasibility study and beach master plan; has launched a new volunteer committee to develop a community center for local residents; has spurred beach improvements in maintenance and playground equipment; and significantly raised awareness of issues including water quality, hillside development, energy efficiency, affordable housing, and the need for further code/legal protections at the local level. For a copy of the LWRP document, updates, reports, PowerPoint presentations, minutes, contacts within the community, photos of events, etc., see: <http://www.adksc.org/wilmingtonwaterfront/wilmingtonwaterfront.htm>

#### **4. High Peaks Intermunicipal Waterfront Revitalization Grant**

The future of community planning is in regional and watershed-based approaches. The Town of Wilmington will lead on preparation of an intermunicipal waterfront revitalization strategy for a cluster of communities – including the towns of Keene, Jay, Wilmington, and North Elba and the village of Lake Placid, all on the AuSable River – in the High Peaks of the Adirondack Park. The strategy will include a regional approach to community revitalization, economic development, and enhanced public access to waterways in the communities, for example by addressing such common challenges as affordable housing, marketing and promotion of tourism, and / or water quality.

This project will build on existing planning projects such as the Wilmington LWRP, the affordable housing initiative in Keene, comprehensive land use planning and code reform underway in Lake Placid and North Elba, and revitalization work in the town of Jay. The project will bring together communities around the use and protection of the AuSable River resource, developing a regional plan and demonstration projects that are mutually beneficial to ecological protection, community development, and quality of life. This \$500,000 project will likely be administered by ANCA and community outreach and planning will be subcontracted to ASCI and others. ASCI has briefed the Town of North Elba Board, the Village of Lake Placid Board, and met with Supervisors from Keene, Jay, and Wilmington to solicit their participation. All have signed resolutions intending to participate and the work program is being signed.

#### **5. Climate Tools for Adirondack Communities**

With Paul Smith's College, ASCI led a coalition of organizations to highlight energy and climate issues in the Park through the April 2007 Adirondack StepItUp program, which achieved resolutions from 30 communities in the Park in support of improved policy on climate protection; we also helped to host a "Global Warming Café" in Lake Placid, at the invitation of the Mayor's Office and Visitor's Bureau. ASCI's president is a recent director of the Adirondack Research Consortium, heading up the "Research Committee." The 2007 annual meeting May 22-24 focused on Park energy issues especially related to global change and protecting natural areas. In coordination with the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, hosts of a planned Climate Change conference in July 2008, ASCI is developing an Adirondack-adapted Climate Impacts and Carbon Footprint Calculator for local municipal leaders and citizens.

#### **6. Common Ground Blueprint for the Blue Line**

ASCI is a key organizer of the Common Ground Initiative, which aims to find elements of common agreement in key regional issues that bridge the interests of constituent organizations from protection, development and local government perspectives. ASCI acts as a catalyst between the elements - bringing information for decision making and local interests to the fore - and helped to organize a very successful meeting July 18 in Long Lake that added new perspectives and supporters of the framework document, "Blueprint for the Blue Line."

#### **7. Altai Assistance Project**

We continue our support to the Adirondack Altai Assistance Project, whose mission, vision, projects, and exchanges enhance our view of the Adirondacks as a regional model of sustainable conservation and development. Visit the AAP web site at <http://www.altaiassistanceproject.org/>.