



CAPITAL DISTRICT
**Regional
Planning
Commission**

2019 Annual Report



**SERVING THE
COUNTIES OF
Albany, Rensselaer,
Saratoga, and
Schenectady**



**REGIONAL
ANALYTICS
AND MAPPING**



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



**SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**



**WATER
QUALITY**



**HUMAN
SERVICES**

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends-

On behalf of the board and staff, I am pleased to present the Capital District Regional Planning Commission's (CDRPC) 2019 Annual Report. During these challenging times, CDRPC remains a critical resource for our region by advancing collaborative regional and intermunicipal projects and providing valuable technical assistance services.

CDRPC's programming brings tremendous value to the communities and counties we serve. Last year, our various programs and events engaged or trained more than 650 participants. Over the last three years, CDRPC has helped secure more than \$2.5 million dollars in match free grant funding for communities in our region through the clean energy communities program. In addition, CDRPC provided technical assistance related to community planning, economic impact analysis, water quality, GIS mapping, sustainability, and data analysis including working with partners to re-imagine how we share data through the development of CapitalRegionIndicators.org.

Core funding invested by our counties- Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady- allows CDRPC to secure other revenues to support the full complement of our programs and services. **Every county dollar invested in CDRPC leverages \$4.60 in grant and other funding that supports our work.**

This report highlights a sampling of CDRPC's programs and contributions in 2019. As always, we appreciate your support and encourage your feedback on our work.

Sincerely,



Kristin Swinton
Chair



Kristin Swinton
Chair



Events and Training

Events and Workshops

CDRPC offered a wide variety of training and professional development events throughout the region in 2019. CDRPC continued with its traditional spring and fall workshops and hosted or led a variety of events related to our clean energy and water quality programs. In total, more than 650 people participated in CDRPC trainings and events in 2019. In response to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions,

CDRPC launched a webinar series to continue to serve municipal planning and zoning board members during the pandemic.

More than 650 people attend CDRPC live trainings and events in 2019 and more than 500 CDRPC virtual trainings offered in early 2020.



CDRPC Spring 2019 Workshop



CDRPC's 2020 Planning & Zoning Webinar Series

Awards For Intermunicipal Cooperation

CDRPC awarded the Erastus Corning, 2nd Awards for Intermunicipal Achievement recognizing municipalities and organizations whose efforts have significantly contributed to the advancement of intermunicipal cooperation and regional planning. 2019/2020 Award Winners included:

Albany/Saratoga Counties Regional Biosolids Facility: Albany County Water Purification District, Saratoga County Sewer District

Community Choice Aggregation: Adam Greenberg

East Greenbush Natural Resources Inventory: Town of East Greenbush, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University, **Rensselaer County**

Poesten Kill Watershed and Flood Mitigation Assessment: Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Jim Bonesteel, **Rensselaer County**



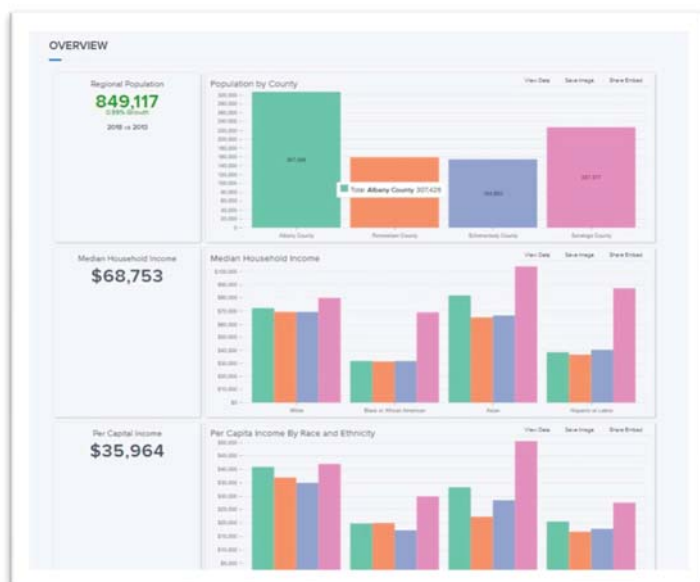
CDRPC Spearheads Capitalregionindicators.org Partnership

Version 1.0 of a new regional indicators dashboard was officially launched at an event hosted at the SEFCU auditorium. The website includes profiles for the 4-county and 8 county Capital Region Area, each individual county, and each city, town and village within those counties. Each profile includes roughly 50 demographic and other indicators which are categorized under Economy, Transportation, Housing, Education, Health and Social Welfare. Profiles pages feature data visualizations and ability to compare data overtime and across geographies. In addition, the

platform features a mapping interface that allows users to explore data geographically down to the census tract and block group levels. Using the best available information, the website serves as a common source for data and interactive visualizations that will inform community members on critical topics related to the economic and social health, as well as progress of our region. The project is funded by the Capital Region Chamber, the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, the Capital District Transportation Committee, and CDRPC and is being developed by the AVAIL lab at UAlbany.



L-R Natasha Pernicka, the Food Pantries of the Capital Region and Chair of the Chamber's Non-Profit Business Advisory Council; Dr. Kate Lawson and Eric Krans, UAlbany, AVAIL; Mark Castiglione; John Eberle, Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region.



CapitalRegionIndicators.org Data Visualizations



CapitalRegionIndicators.org 3D Mapping Visualization

Technical Assistance and Data Services

GIS Mapping and Technical Assistance

CDRPC developed a new Capital Region Atlas <https://cdrpc.org/atlas> which includes 53 regional maps that portray a broad spectrum of demographic characteristics, such as population, housing values, vacancy, race, income, commuting patterns and educational attainment. The atlas also includes documentation of development patterns, including land use, land cover, land cover change and

The new Atlas includes more than 50 regional maps that help better demographics, equity and growth patterns

building permits, as well as environmental characteristics, such as greenhouse gas emissions, wetlands, flood plains, topography, and hydrography. Individual maps can be downloaded in either .pdf or .jpg format and incorporated into reports, grant applications, and PowerPoint presentations. The GIS data included in these

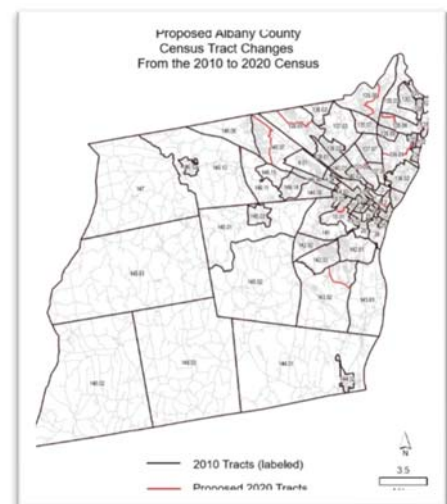
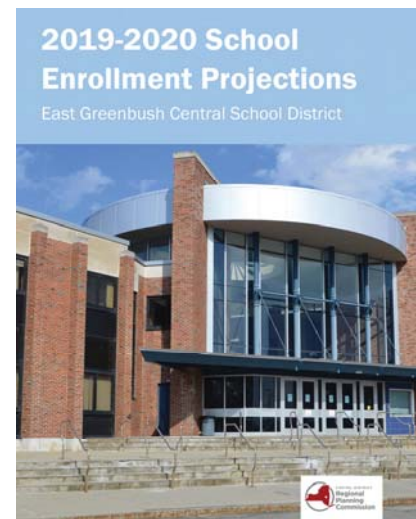
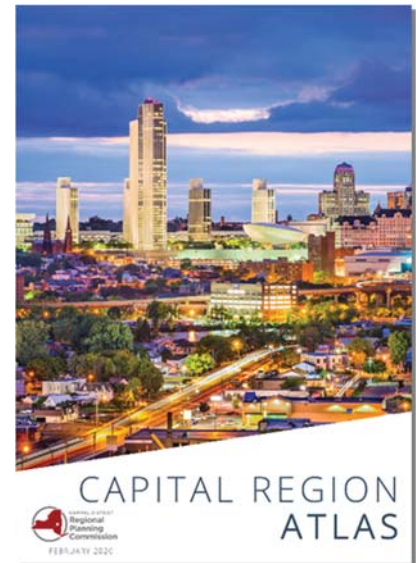
maps is utilized by CDRPC for a variety of projects, including technical assistance support to local communities.

Six School Enrollment Projections

In 2019, CDRPC provided school enrollment projections for a number of local school districts, including Bethlehem and South Colonie in **Albany County**; Averill Park and East Greenbush in **Rensselaer County** and Ballston Spa and Shenendehowa in **Saratoga County**.

CDRPC Providing Tech Support and Outreach for Census PSAP Review Process:

As the regional coordinator for the US Census Bureau, CDRPC mapped and evaluated the proposed census tract changes and coordinated with the Counties for feedback in advance of the 2020 Census. CDRPC staff mapped and evaluated 32 splits of 64 2010 tracts to better fit tract population criteria as the county's population has evolved over the past decade. Staff is coordinating the evaluation with CDTC staff and has notified communities where the tract changes are proposed.



US Census Tract Boundary Changes Map

Clean Energy Communities Program

Staff continues to manage and implement the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program for the Eastern Upstate NY Territory.

At the close 2019, 38 communities in the Capital Region have achieved Clean Energy Communities designation with the help of CDRPC staff.

To date, CDRPC has helped 38 communities qualify for **\$2,597,150** in match-free project funding through the Clean Energy Communities Program.

To date, CDRPC has facilitated more than \$2,597,150 in match-free project funding for communities in the greater Capital Region through the CEC program. These awards include:

Albany County (\$280,000): Altamont (\$35,000), Bethlehem (\$130,000), City of Albany (\$180,000), Cohoes (\$130,000), Town of Colonie (\$27,150), Guilderland (\$35,000), Knox (\$130,000), New Scotland (\$80,000), Voorheesville (\$80,000), Watervliet

(\$80,000), Westerlo (\$35,000), **Rensselaer County:** Town of Nassau (\$35,000), City of Troy (\$180,000), **Schenectady County (\$250,000):** Niskayuna (\$100,000), **Saratoga County:** Clifton Park (\$50,000), Edinburg (\$50,000), Saratoga Springs (\$50,000), Malta.

Under CDRPC's direction, 124 communities became Designated Clean Energy Communities within the Eastern Upstate Territory, which we then assisted in developing and submitting clean energy grant projects. A total of 208 communities were assisted in completing 670 high impact actions.

During the year, CEC program staff developed a variety of training programs including webinars, workshops and events covering community choice aggregation, clean heating and cooling, clean energy projects, LED streetlight conversion, and electric vehicle infrastructure. We also held three on-site workshops about LED streetlights, Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and community solar.

Total CECP Program Grants to Municipalities by County

Albany County: \$1,222,150

Rensselaer County: \$215,000

Saratoga County: \$150,000

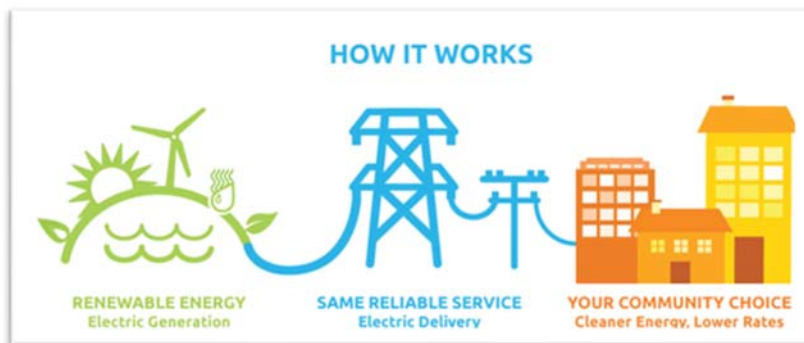
Schenectady County: \$350,000



Clifton Park Arena Lighting Upgrades funded via CECP Grant

Community Choice Aggregation

One of the major accomplishments for 2019 was the creation of a Capital Region Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which includes 13 communities in the region and over 90,000 households. This program, when fully implemented in the fall of 2020, will provide 100% renewable energy options to all residents in the aggregation. CDRPC played a large role in educating and informing the municipal leaders in the region on CCA, which is a CECP high impact action item.



HeatSmart Capital Region

Beginning in April 2019, staff has been working on the Clean Heating and Cooling Communities Campaign, scheduling outreach, tabling at events, making educational presentations, holding open houses, and managing installer leads. The campaign involves conducting community-based outreach, education, and installer promotion for clean heating and cooling (CH&C) technologies (e.g., ground- and air- source heat pump systems). The campaign aims to increase education and consumer awareness of CH&C technologies, reduce costs associated with the purchase and installation of CH&C projects, increase local adoption of CH&C technologies, and identify campaign characteristics and approaches that are important for success and can potentially be replicated in other campaigns. Campaign outreach, educational, and marketing events are underway. For more information see: www.heatsmartcapitalregion.com



CDRPC's Jill Henck and Heat Smart Outreach

Water Quality

Albany Pool Communities CSO Long Term Control Plan

CDRPC coordinates a jointly implemented 15-year CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). This \$136 million-dollar project administered collectively by six municipalities and two sewer districts is an unprecedented collaboration to complete more than 50 abatement projects to improve water quality in the Hudson and its tributaries.

In 2019, CSO Communities secured \$7.9m in grant funding and CDRPC was awarded a \$432,000 grant for CSO Corporation Administration

In 2019, CDRPC staff worked with the Albany Pool Communities CSO Corporation to certify \$10 million dollars of completed project costs toward the overall program and continued to work with the funding agencies to ensure that project costs are eligible for grants and financing. Program progress in 2019 included:

- Four projects began construction
- Two project design plans completed
- Two projects completed
- Final design for the largest LTCP project, the Beaver Creek Clean River Project, began

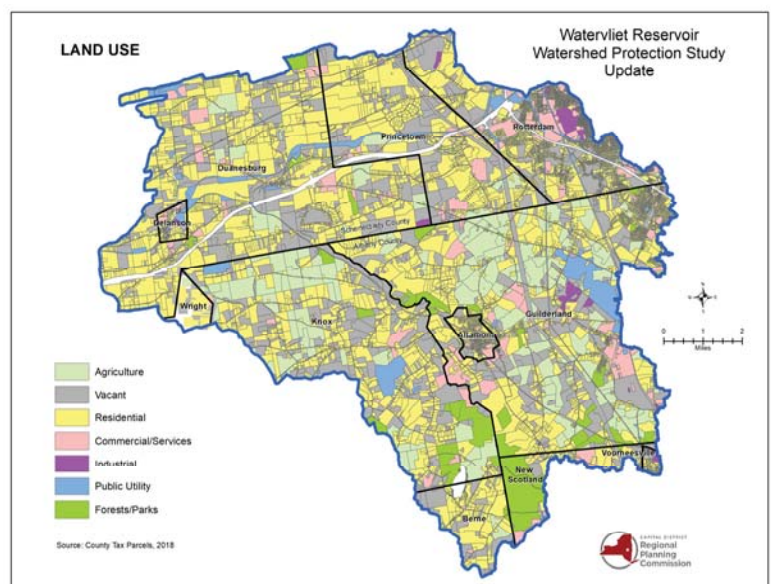
604b Water Quality Program

CDRPC provides a variety of water quality technical assistance to communities and organizations through a partnership program with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In 2019, we have refocused attention on source water protection planning and began working with the City of Watervliet and communities surrounding their reservoir on an update to the Watervliet Reservoir Protection Study. Completed work includes

- Charting and summary of City of Watervliet Sampling Data completed
- Developing a series of maps completed illustrating land use, potential sources for pollutants of concern, impervious land coverage change and soils



Concept Design for the \$45 Million Dollar CSO Beaver Creek Clean River Project in Albany

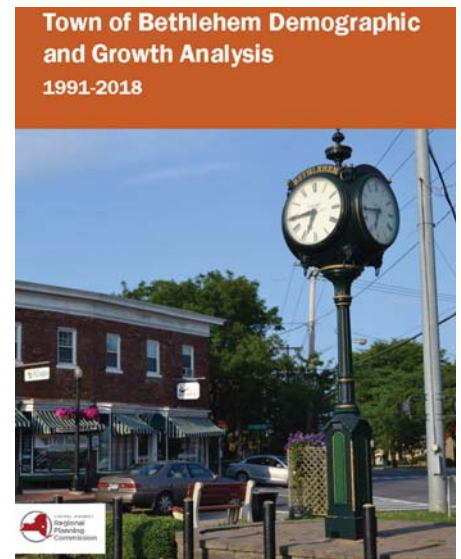


Planning and Economic Development

Community Technical Assistance Program

CDRPC partnered with the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) on the second year of the Community Technical Assistance Program. In 2019, CDRPC provided services to the following municipal projects:

1. **Town of Bethlehem, Albany County**-Town of Bethlehem Demographic and Growth Analysis
2. **Town of Coeymans, Albany County**-Guidance to Support a Coeymans Comprehensive Plan Update
3. **Village of Menands, Albany County**- Food Access Best Practices and Feasibility Analysis
4. **City of Rensselaer, Rensselaer County**-General Community Planning Assistance
5. **Village of Scotia, Schenectady County**-NYS Routes 5 and 50 Traffic Data & Case Study Review



Future Leaders In Planning Program Launches

Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) – CDRPC’s pilot program that connects high school students with opportunities and challenges in Planning for the Capital District, had a successful, very engaging week in collaboration with the Clean Technology and Sustainable Industries Early College Program. Students engaged with leaders in regional planning on transportation, energy, economic development, waste and recycling, and open space conservation. Diverse visits to places like the Albany Pine Bush, Global Foundries, Brookfield Renewables Hydropower facility, and Pitney Meadows Community Farm offered a unique experience for the students to interact directly with community leaders.



CDRPC's FLIP Program Students Visit Global Foundries

CDRPC Named Regional Coordinator for Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)

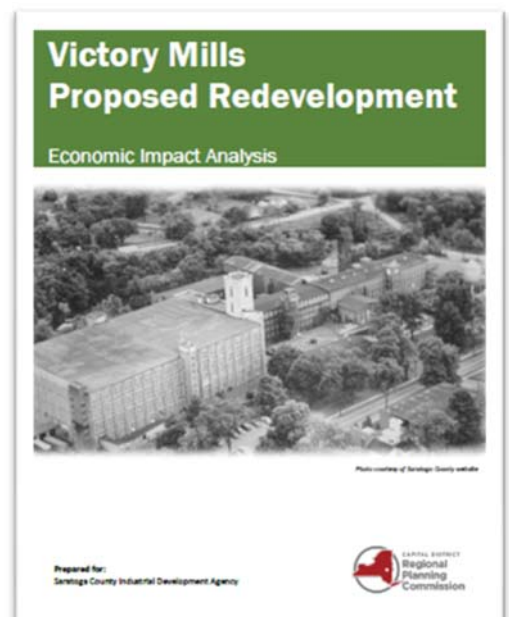
Projects in **Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties** now eligible for **NBRC Grants up to \$500,000** for infrastructure and \$250,000 for all other projects.

In 2019, as local development district for program, CDRPC provides notice on funding availability and coordination with the NBRC for the eligible counties of **Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties**. Funding is available for up to \$500,000 for infrastructure and \$250,000 for all other projects. The maximum NBRC contribution for a project or activity is up to 80%, depending upon the NBRC's economic designation for the county.

Economic Impact Analysis

CDRPC launched a new economic impact analysis program in 2017 and has continued to provide these services to economic development organizations in the region. In 2019, CDRPC conducted several studies for organizations around the region including:

- 427 Washington Ave, Capitalize Albany Corporation, **Albany County**
- 563 New Scotland Ave, Capitalize Albany Corporation, **Albany County**
- Victory Mills Regan Redevelopment, Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency, **Saratoga County**



Capital District Youth Center, Inc.

CDRPC hosts and provides management services to the Capital District Youth Center, Inc (CDYCI). Administered by CDYCI and operated by the Berkshire Farm Center for Youth, the Capital District Juvenile Secure Detention Facility has provided significant savings for the member counties since it opened in 1997. Significant updates in 2019 are related to Raise the Age (RTA).

CDYCI New Omnibus Agreement

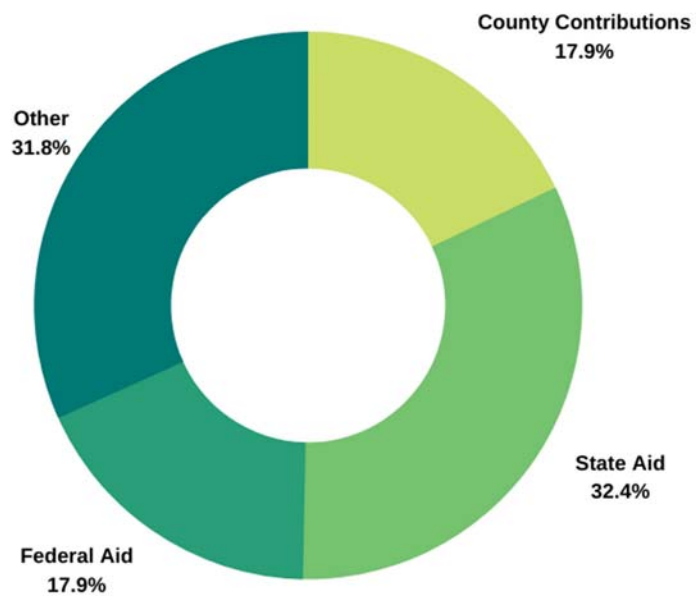
In 2019, CDYCI, working with Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, developed a new omnibus agreement that was needed to address certain new requirements imposed after the Raise the Age law was implemented. The new intermunicipal omnibus agreements govern the financial operations of CDYCI and financial relationships between the counties from 2020 and beyond including cost share of capital project costs. The new agreements replace those in place since 1996. New referring county agreements and a new operator agreement were also developed and are being executed. All CDYCI Counties approved these new agreements.

2019 CDRPC Financial Summary

Fund Balance, Dec 31, 2018:
\$400,269.91

Revenues

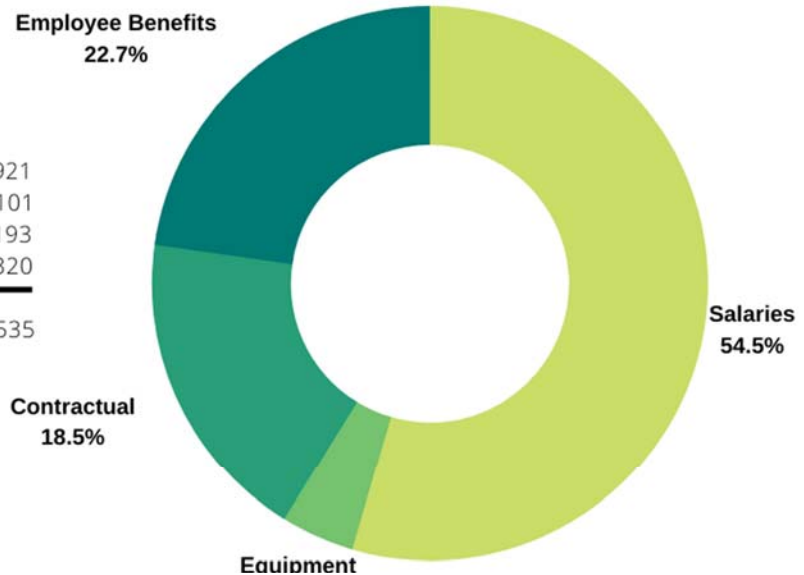
Total County Contributions:	\$205,466
State Aid:	\$406,052
Federal Aid:	\$178,075
Other:	\$308,968
Total:	\$1,147,125



Expenses

Staff Salaries:	\$575,921
Equipment:	\$45,101
Contractual:	\$195,193
Employee Benefits:	\$240,320
Total:	\$1,056,535

Fund Balance, Dec 31, 2019:
\$490,485.24



Contributions from our founding counties- Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady- allows CDRPC to obtain grant funding and other revenue to expand our programs and services. Every county dollar invested in CDRPC leverages four dollars in other funding.



Capital District Regional Planning Commission, 2020



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Willard A. Bruce
Lucille M. McKnight
Lawrence Schillinger



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First Vice Chair

Judith H. Breselor, AICP
Scott Bendett
James D. Shaughnessy
Jacqueline Stellone



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Amy Standaert



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Tara Donadio, Sustainability Planner

Todd Fabozzi, Director of Sustainability

Jill Henck, Senior Planner

Kate Maynard, AICP, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Joshua Tocci, Assistant Planner

Amy Weinstock, Office Manager

Thomas White, Financial Officer

cdrpc.org