

# DEC brownfield cleanup program marks successful year in 2021

42 cleanups completed, 90 new sites accepted into BCP



NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and then-Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul tour the former Tonawanda Coke main plant site. (Photo courtesy of DEC) • NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and a Niagara River habitat ecologist visit the habitat improvement project and in-water habitat construction area at Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area along the Niagara River on Grand Island. (Photos courtesy of DEC)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos celebrated another year of successful environmental cleanups this week as part of the state's brownfield cleanup programs. Included are a number of sites in Buffalo-Niagara.

"New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program is a powerful tool transforming former industrial properties across the state, improving quality of life, and revitalizing communities," Seggos said. "With site visits to cleanups from Buffalo to Long Island, I've seen first-hand just how valuable this program is for New York. During 2021, DEC's brownfield cleanup program completed 42 cleanups and accepted 90 new

sites into the program. With Gov. Kathy Hochul's leadership, DEC is bolstering our commitment to restore, redevelop and revitalize abandoned and underutilized properties in even more neighborhoods, particularly in communities historically overburdened by environmental pollution."

Among the local sites involved in DEC brownfield cleanups are the former Tonawanda Coke plant on River Road in Tonawanda, and the Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area along the Niagara River on Grand Island.

Seggos said that, in 2021, DEC issued a total of 42 certificates of completion and accepted 90 new sites into the program, helping to protect public health and the

environment across New York state, while revitalizing neighborhoods and strengthening local economies.

In her 2022 State of the State agenda and 2022-2023 executive budget, Hochul proposed to build upon the success of New York state's brownfield cleanup program by extending and expanding the program, which is set to expire in December. The proposal, which includes the 10-year extension, would reauthorize the program and improve it by making property tax credits available in certain disadvantaged, low-income communities, and providing credits for the development of certain renewable energy facility sites to help focus brownfield cleanup program-

driven redevelopment (and meet the state's climate goals).

Hochul also plans to grow the State's brownfield opportunity area (BOA) program, which provides communities with guidance, expertise and financial assistance to help develop revitalization strategies for areas affected by urban blight or economic distress.

"The brownfield cleanup program continues to transform communities from blight to eco-

nomically and environmentally sustainable areas across the state," Acting Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez said. "Under Gov. Hochul's leadership, we will continue to redevelop and revitalize these underutilized and dormant areas and continue to make our communities stronger."

For more information about the brownfield cleanup program, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html>.

## IN THE NEWS

### Higgins: Federal fire grants for fire safety

Congressman Brian Higgins announced the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant application period is now open with a deadline of 5 p.m. Feb. 18.

"In times of emergency, a quick and well-trained response can make a critical difference and save lives," Higgins said. "The Fire Prevention & Safety program works to support education and training efforts to ensure firefighters and our community are prepared, keeping them safe. We encourage local departments and nonprofit organizations to apply."

With the primary goal of reducing injury and preventing death among high-risk populations, FP&S grants are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and work to support projects in fire departments and nonprofit organizations that enhance safety for both the public and firefighters.

Congress approved \$46 million through appropriations and American Rescue Plan funding for FP&S grants in the current cycle. Eligible uses of the federal fund-

ing include public education, training, juvenile fire programs, arson investigation and code enforcement. In 2005, Congress expanded eligible uses of FP&S funds to include firefighter safety research and development, such as clinical studies or technology and product development.

Webinars hosted by FEMA will serve to provide an overview of the program and application process, as well as assistance in preparing

materials for interested fire departments. The first in the series runs from 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, with additional sessions found at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/workshops>.

Applicants with questions can also contact the fire grants help desk at [firegrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-866-274-0960. More information is available at <https://www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants>.



Committed to strengthening the viability and enhancing the value of family and privately owned businesses.

[www.niagara.edu/fbc](http://www.niagara.edu/fbc)  
(716) 286-8160

[CBAcenters@niagara.edu](mailto:CBAcenters@niagara.edu)

Stop running your business and start managing it!

### Join us for our next Podcast!

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Virtual Presentation:  
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

You must pre-register at  
[www.Niagara.edu/FBC](http://www.Niagara.edu/FBC)

"Business Succession Planning Advice in the Era of Covid-19"

Presented by:

Jamie Batt, Partner

Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham, LLC

James S. Segarra, Managing Partner

Tronconi Segarra & Associates, LLP

You must pre-register at: [www.Niagara.edu/FBC](http://www.Niagara.edu/FBC) (You will receive an email back from "NU College of Business Administration" with a web link.)



535 Division St. Twin City Highway  
North Tonawanda • 693-2802

OPEN DAILY: MON - SAT: 7AM - 8:30PM  
SUN 7AM - 7PM

VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR  
OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS  
[themarketinthesquare.com](http://themarketinthesquare.com)

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED

## TOWN OF WHEATFIELD 2022 Town/County Tax Notice

### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

**Mail Payments to:** Kathleen Harrington-McDonell, Town Clerk  
2800 Church Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**Pay in Person:** Wheatfield Town Hall, Town Clerk  
2800 Church Road  
Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wed- 8:00 am – 7:00 pm January only

**There is a drop box located at Town Hall for your convenience**  
**Pay online at [www.wheatfield.ny.us](http://www.wheatfield.ny.us)**

**Payments can no longer be made at the bank**

**LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY IS January 31, 2022**

All Taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of 1% to 02/28/22 and 2% to 03/31/22, after such date all County Taxes are payable to the county Treasurer with 5% penalty and interest calculated at a rate of 1% per month on the tax and penalty.