

Department Name	Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District
Account(s)	8730

<p><b>Department Function</b></p> <p>The mission of the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is to advance comprehensive natural resource management on a voluntary basis to residents, landowners, and units of government. The District leads by providing science-based technical and educational assistance and coordination of resources from Federal, State, and Local governments and other sources.</p> <p>The Conservation District works with landowners, land managers, local government agencies, and other local interests in addressing a broad range of resource concerns.</p>
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<p><b>Current Year Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded nine schools funding for various conservation-based projects through our School Assistance Program – total amount awarded is \$42,000.</li> <li>• Purchased 200 Home Water Analysis Kits and distributed to private well owners within Albany County. These kits test for Bacteria, Lead, Nitrates, Nitrites, Chlorine, Iron, Copper, pH, Alkalinity, Hardness, and Pesticides.</li> <li>• Partnering with 6 municipalities to complete conservation projects with a total cost of \$168,000 funded by the District.</li> <li>• Offered a second round of funding to Albany County nonprofit organizations to apply for up to \$40,000 to complete conservation-related projects that protect the natural resources of the County.</li> <li>• Distributed over 9,200 tree and shrub seedlings/transplants through our Tree and Shrub Program. This annual sale provides appropriate plants for various land management practices.</li> <li>• Collaborated with Montgomery Co. SWCD, Columbia Co. SWCD, Schoharie Co. SWCD, Rensselaer Co. SWCD, and Schenectady Co. SWCD to coordinate and host the Annual Capital Region Envirothon, an environmental competition for high school students. Three teams from Shaker High School represented Albany County, with the winning team participating in the New York State competition.</li> <li>• Awarded \$63,550 through the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition (MRWC) under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation MRWC Capacity contract to complete culvert inventories/assessments, invasive species inventories and erosion remediation on road ditches.</li> <li>• Through the Agricultural Environmental Management Program we contracted with a private consultant to complete multiple Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans on farms in the County.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Next Year Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide comprehensive natural resource management technical assistance to residents, landowners, and units of government.</li> <li>• Participate in public education events to inform landowners and county residents about District programs and activities.</li> <li>• Continue to apply for and implement funded projects through Agricultural Non-point Source Abatement and Control Grants and Climate Resilient Farming Grants to assist farms in implementing farm conservation practices.</li> <li>• Continue to assess culverts throughout Albany County using the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative protocol.</li> </ul>
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Link to Website	<a href="https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district">https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district</a>
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