

Department Name	Economic Development, Conservation and Planning
Account(s)	8020

Department Function
<p>The mission of the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning is to create economic opportunity for residents of Albany County through policies, practices and projects that focus on creating private sector employment and related infrastructure. In doing so, the Department will promote a balance between economic growth, natural resource conservation, and sound land use planning throughout the County. The Department provides senior leadership support to the Advance Albany County Alliance LDC to promote private sector businesses and employment. The Alliance is the umbrella agency that manages all county level economic development agencies including the Albany County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), the Albany County Capital Resources Corporation, the Albany County Business Development Corporation and the Albany County Pine Hills Land Authority (ACPHLA) and the Sustainable Technology and Green Energy (STAGE) program. The Department also serves residents, businesses, local governments and other County agencies by providing advice and assistance with economic development projects, environmental regulatory compliance, land use planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping support, and other technical assistance. Staff also provide direct and indirect benefits to the public through our work on open space conservation, natural resource conservation and agricultural and farmland protection programs.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the County Executive's efforts to secure \$14.6 million to demolish the Central Warehouse by selecting a contractor to complete the demolition. Department leadership provides all staff support of the ACPHLA, to transition the future use of facilities of the College of Saint Rose in a way that upholds quality of life, while promoting and stimulating economic development in Albany County and the City of Albany. This year assisted the County in the occupancy of several buildings on the Campus for County Offices and selected a firm to complete a redevelopment Master Plan for the St Rose Campus. Continued implementation of the STAGE Grant Program. The Program has provided \$3.65 million in grant support for clean technology-focused manufacturing expansion projects to date. Through the Advance Albany County Alliance, supported several expansion and attraction projects in the County including Regeneron's development in Menands, Altas Copco's \$40 million expansion in Voorheesville, and Bilinski Sausage Co.'s growth in the Town of Colonie. The AI-Tech loan fund approved seven loans totaling \$843,800 to support the growth of small and medium sized businesses in Albany County. Expanded partnerships with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board including a \$1 million On-the job training program for Albany County businesses. Assisted in efforts to expand reliable and affordable broadband access to all corners of Albany County. Albany County Capital Resource Corporation provided \$18 million for BOCES expansion and sponsored \$20,000 for women's NCAA Tournament. Albany County IDA is working with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company, on a \$27 million expansion project in the village of Menands.

Next Year Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue management and support of the ACPHLA efforts by overseeing the redevelopment master plan for the campus and begin the process of identifying actual development projects for the campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Governor Hochul's consultant and Empire State Development staff on the \$400 million CAP initiative for downtown Albany Continue to develop shovel ready sites for economic development, particularly the County-controlled AI Tech Steel Site in the Town of Colonie Partner with Empire State Development, the Center for Economic Growth, and the Ports of Albany and Coeymans to attract major offshore wind manufacturing projects to Albany County. Complete the demolition of the Central Warehouse and identify redevelopment uses for the site. Continue to expand workforce development programs that provide training opportunities to our residents and meet the needs of local employers. Create county comprehensive plan to guide future growth, economic development, and investment.

Link to Website	https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/economic-development-conservation-and-planning
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