



Catskill Mountainkeeper 2024 Impact Report

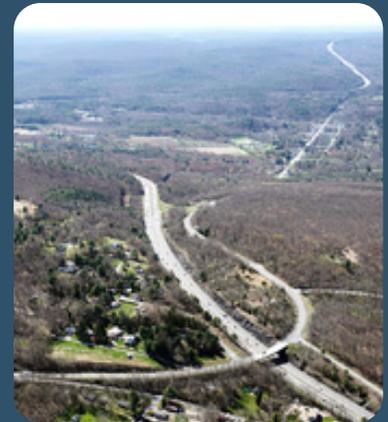


Dear Friends,

Catskill Mountainkeeper accomplished so much in 2024, a year that offered real challenges and opportunities to safeguard the Catskills Park and Region. Local grassroots advocacy to protect public health and the environment continues to be the most effective way to make a positive impact in our region. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the incredible victories our supporters and allies like you helped achieve.

Together,
Ramsay Adams, Executive Director

Catskill Mountainkeeper's mission is to protect the Catskill Park and Region by supporting policies and strategies that safeguard its natural environment and promote sustainable, resilient, and just communities.



Rethink Route 17

Catskill Mountainkeeper continues to anchor the ReThink Route 17 Alliance to oppose a \$1.4 billion-dollar plan to widen nearly 20 miles of Route 17 in the Catskills and Hudson Valley. This year the project area was shortened from 45 miles to 30 and the area of the highway expansion shortened to under 20 miles.

Mountainkeeper and our partners are calling on Governor Hochul and our legislators to stop all plans for a highway expansion. Our communities deserve an alternative, sustainable transportation plan for Route 17 and we are using this highway campaign to push the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop state-wide regulations and strategies to implement the CLCPA and prioritize multimodal transportation. *(photo credit: J. Henry Fair)*



Steward Update

Our Catskill Trail Steward program engaged over 7,000 visitors at popular, understaffed outdoor sites in 2024. We removed over 250 pounds of trash during our annual clean up day. This year we hired a full-time steward to oversee the program, thanks to funding from the DEC. We'll be adding more programming and educational opportunities. *(photo credit: Ivy Yin)*



Unlawful Dumping

On May 10, 2024, New York State Supreme Court delivered a decisive judgment against J. Karolys and Son, LLC. The court mandated the remediation of three unlawfully sited construction and demolition debris dumps, coupled with an \$8 million settlement. Our water, air, lands, and communities are worth more than ill-gained profits.

Keep in touch!

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2024 Impact Report

Your Support in Action

Protect Winston Farm

In October, after months of community organizing and public pressure by Beautiful Saugerties, Mountainkeeper and community allies, the Town of Saugerties returned the developers' Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), stating it "came up short." The first draft lacked the information needed for the board and community to assess important environmental impacts. If the project is approved, it would permit a new development hub as big as the existing village of Saugerties in a massive build-out replacing 800 acres of forest, meadow, and stream corridor. (photo credit: J. Henry Fair)



Save the Nature of the Catskills

At the end of 2024, Catskill Mountainkeeper launched a new campaign to track, speak out against, and block overdevelopment that threatens the natural resources, communities, and character of the region. "Save the Nature of the Catskills" will build a network of local citizen groups to advocate for strong local, county, and state land-use protections. And we will create and share rigorous legal and scientific research- as well as other essential tools- to help grassroots and municipal officials protect our land, air, water, food, and community heritage from the existential threat of large-scale overdevelopment. We will also embrace a forward-looking vision to support right-sized development projects that will foster a healthy, sustainable economy for the region. (photo credit: J. Henry Fair)

Mountainkeeper Recognized for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

We were honored to be recognized by Radio Catskill for our dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainability in their 2024 Community Awards. According to general manager Tim Bruno, "These honorees exemplify our region's commitment to environmental stewardship, climate action, and education. Through their dedication, they contribute to a healthier, more sustainable, and greener community." (photo credit: Jessica Roda)





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“My favorite part about being a steward is educating visitors about how incredibly biodiverse the Catskills are, and how important it is for us humans to keep this habitat as pristine as possible.”



Jo Hee, 2024 Catskill Mountainkeeper Steward

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Climate Superfund Bill Signed

On December 26, Governor Hochul signed landmark legislation that will bolster New York’s efforts to protect people and the environment by requiring large fossil fuel companies to pay for critical projects that mitigate climate damage resulting from their greenhouse emissions. This bill creates a ‘Climate Superfund’ to support New York-based projects that bolster New York’s resiliency to dangerous climate impacts like flooding and extreme heat. This is a big win for Mountainkeeper, NY Renews, and other partner organizations that have long sounded the alarm about the many harms caused by the activities of oil and gas companies in New York.



NYS Bans CO2 Fracking!

On December 23, Governor Hochul signed into law a ban on fracking with carbon dioxide in New York, protecting our water, air, and communities from a new and untested approach to fracking. Mountainkeeper was one of the earliest groups to champion the CO2 Fracking Ban, which closes a loophole in the state’s existing water-based fracking ban by extending it to forbid the use of carbon dioxide, which poses the same types of harm to human health and the environment.

Another Successful Farmers’ Market

Catskill Mountainkeeper hosted another successful season at the Liberty Farmers’ Market. We are committed to furthering the local food movement and access to healthy food in the region. Part of that initiative is managing the liberty farmers’ market, which has seen steady growth both in visitorship and government-assisted resources being used to get healthy food into the hands of families that need it.



Thank You To Our Supporters!



Meet Your Mountainkeepers

We advocate for the Catskills on your behalf



Ramsay Adams
Executive Director



Wes Gillingham
Associate Director



Kathy Nolan, MD, MSL
Senior Research Director



Beth Scullion
Chief Operating Officer



Taylor Jaffe
Environmental Justice
Program Coordinator



Patricia Cronin, CFRE, MPA
Development Director



Lenny Miret
Stewardship Coordinator



Eugene Thalmann, MS, CNS, CDN
Food and Agricultural
Advisor

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