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**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

Local Health Department Mini-Grant Program Recap 2023

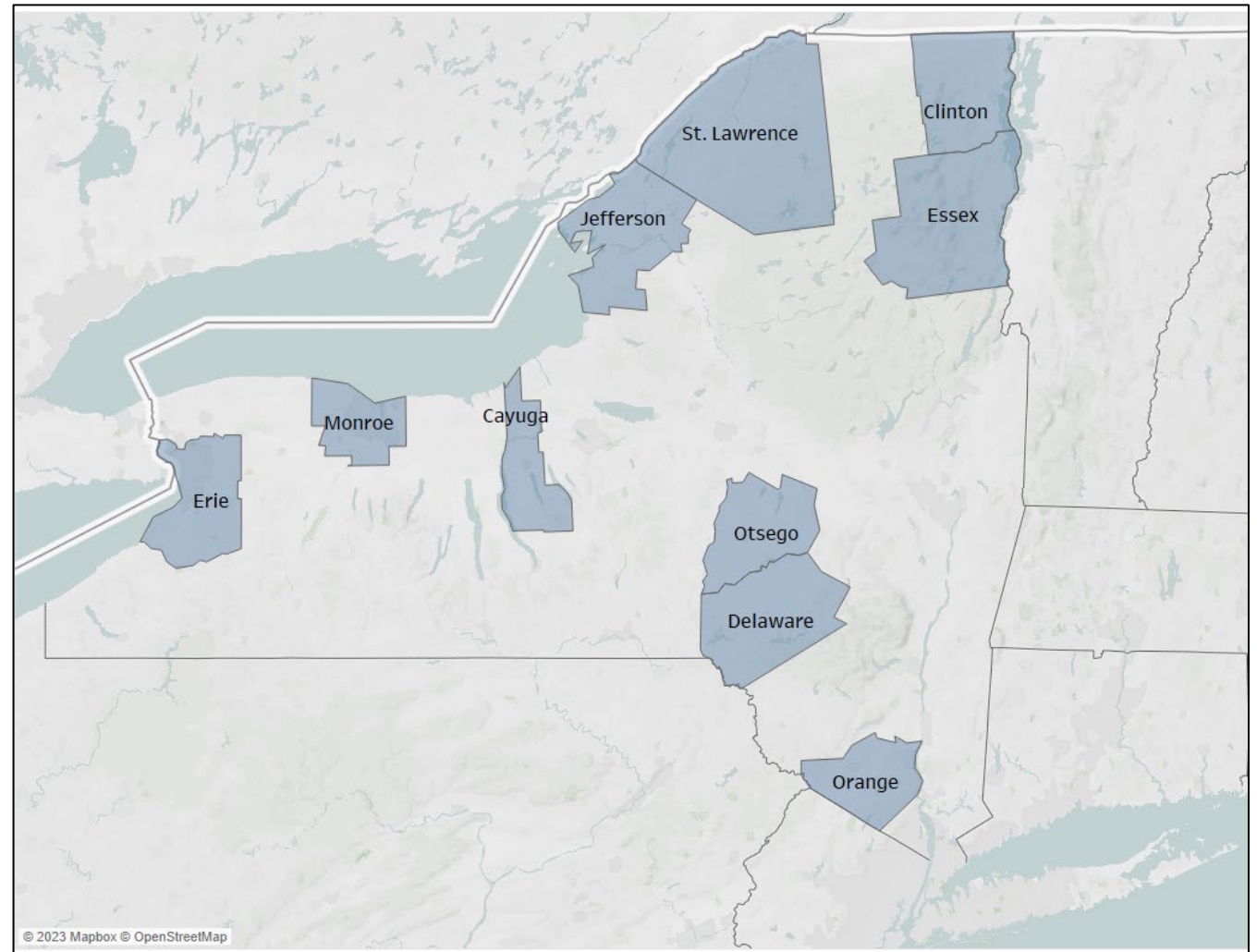
About the Program

- Held by NYS Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- 10 counties received funding up to \$3,000
- Themes: Food Waste Reduction, Extreme Heat Awareness, Cooling/Warming Centers, HABs, Vector-Borne Disease, Community Gardens, Home Gardening, Skin Cancer
- Timeline: April - July 2023

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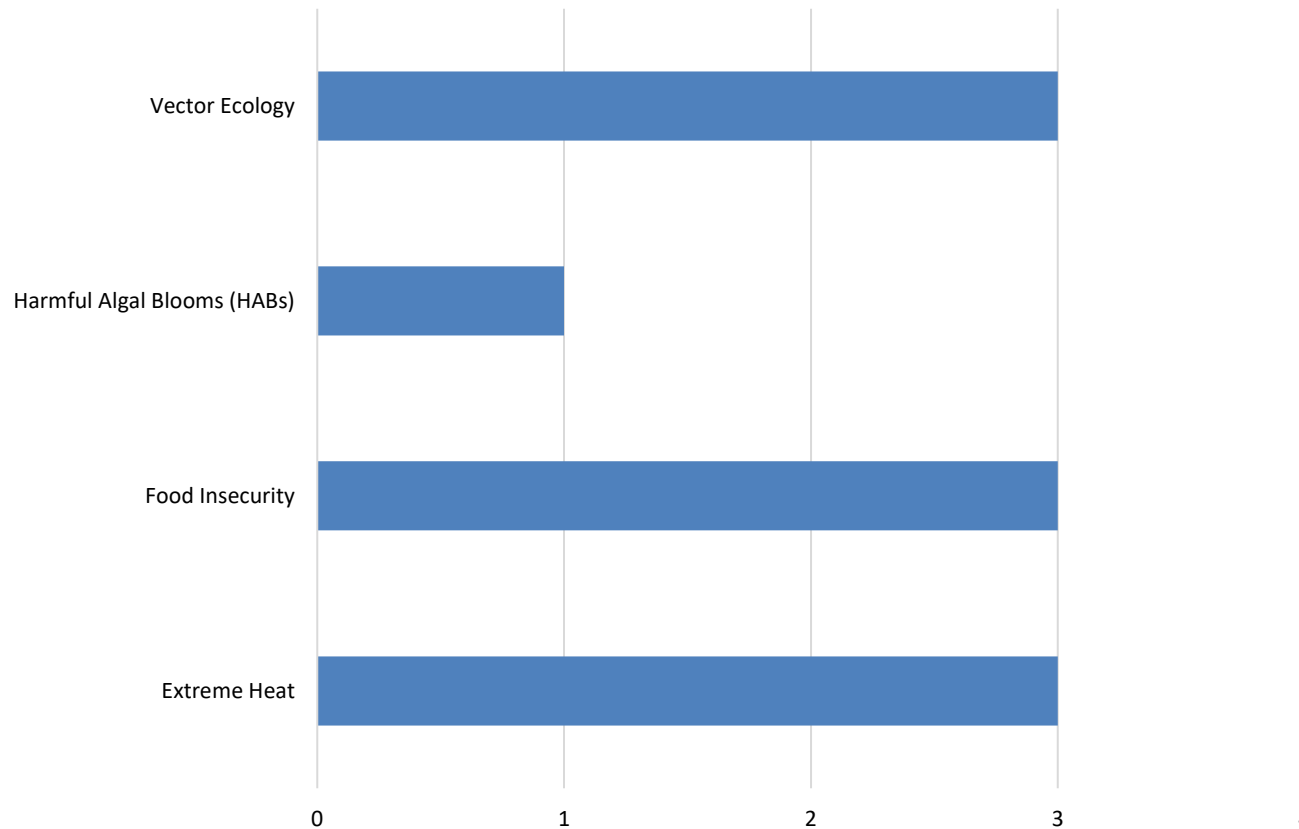
Grantee Background

County	Population Size (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020)
Essex	37,381
Delaware	44,308
Otsego	58,524
Cayuga	76,248
Clinton	79,843
St. Lawrence	108,505
Jefferson	116,721
Orange	401,310
Monroe	759,443
Erie	954,236



Climate and Health

Climate Hazards Addressed



Other Hazards Addressed: Water Supply, Exposure to Harmful UV Rays

Health Impacts or Climate Impacts Addressed

- Heat Related Illness
- Chronic diseases associated with extreme heat
- Tick-borne diseases (including Lyme disease)
- Mosquito-borne diseases (Including Triple E and WNV)
- Nutrition
- Gastrointestinal illness (from HABs)
- Liver and kidney damage (from HABs)
- Skin cancer
- Reduction in GHGs



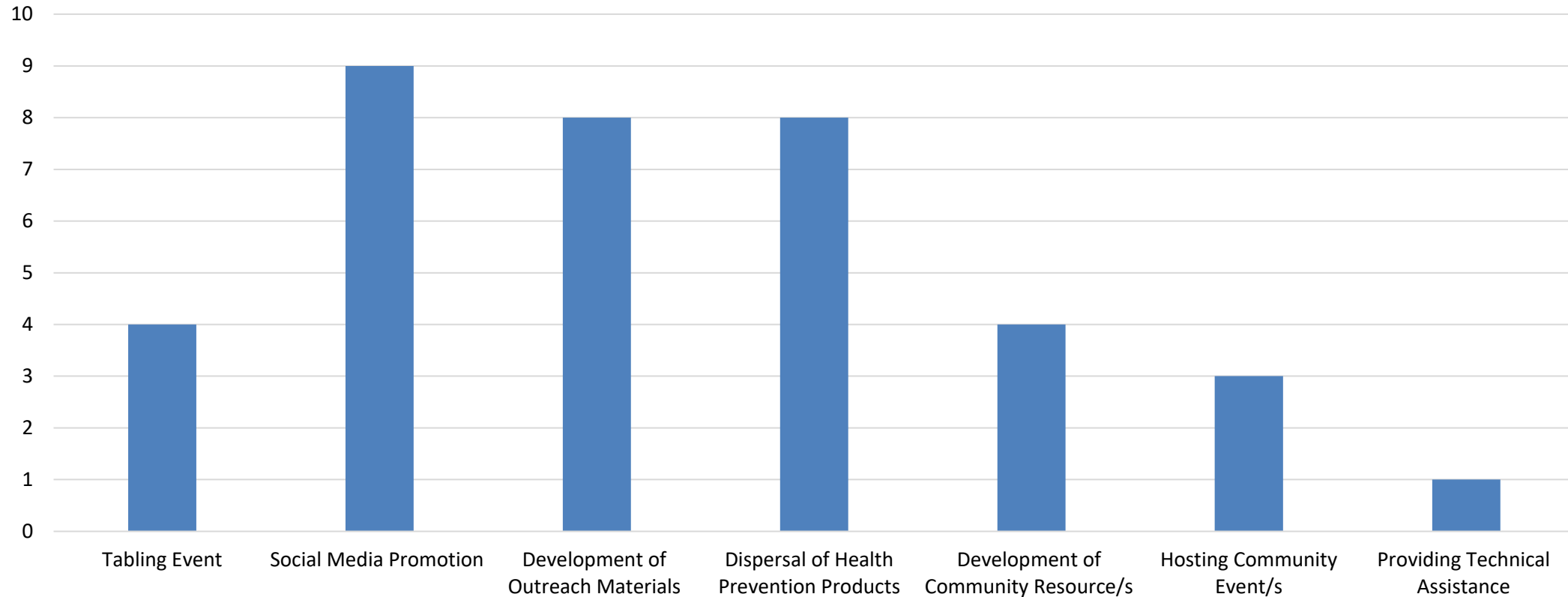
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Strategies

Strategies for Implementation



Other Strategies: educational opportunities, healthy policy work, Dispersal of NYSDOH educational materials on tick and Lyme disease prevention, community partnerships and collaboration, education/presentations, “Hands-on” education and training



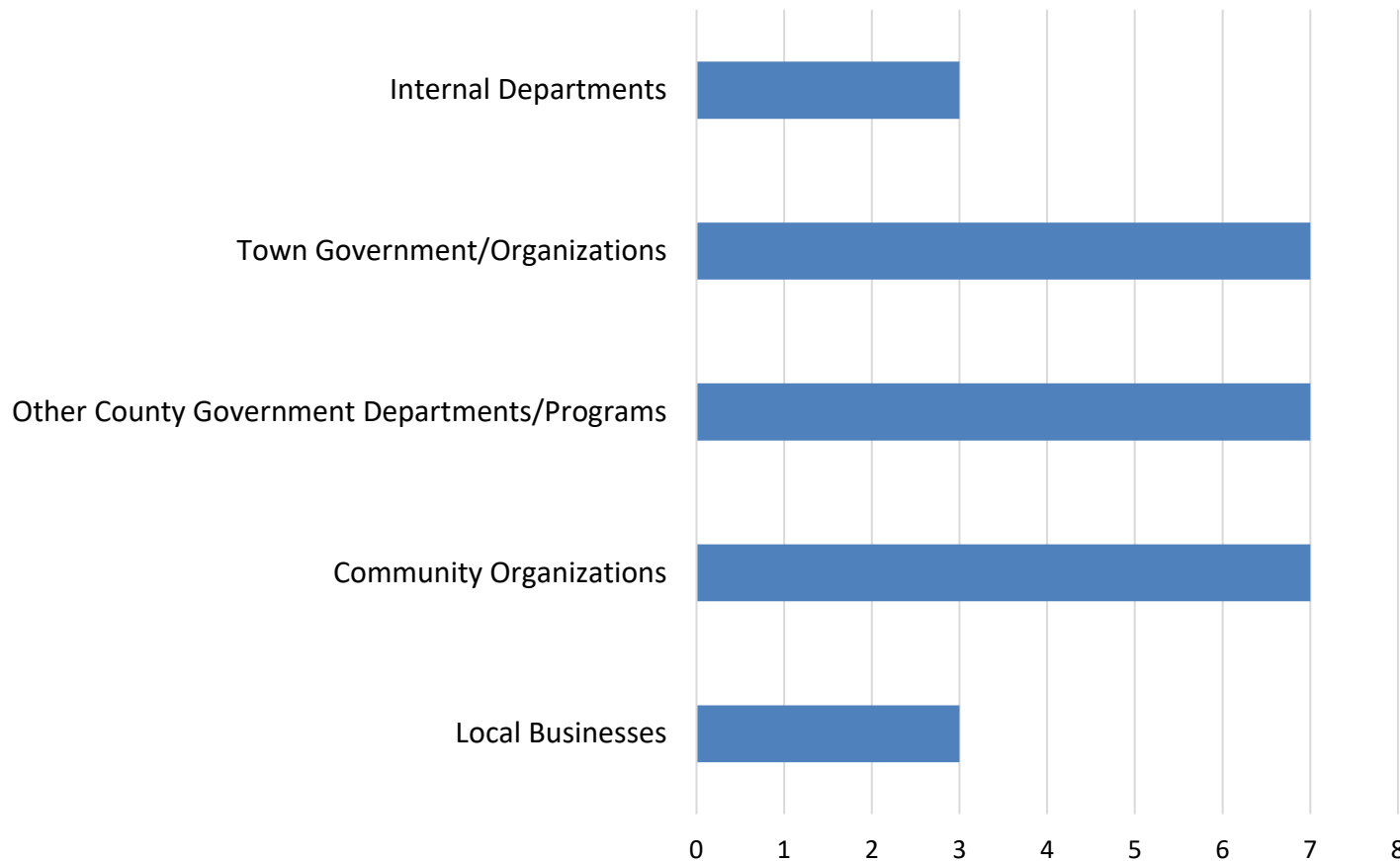
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Stakeholders

Stakeholders Utilized to Implement Projects



Partnership Examples:

County Departments

- Planning departments, emergency services, climate change task force, Department of Social Services

Town Government/Organization

- Town/City Government, Climate Smart Community Taskforce, Farmers Market, Libraries, School

Community Organizations

- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Food Pantry, Hunger Coalition, Language Access Center, Churches

Businesses

- Local media, local veterinarian, restaurants, feed store

Other: National Army Reserve



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Challenges

Challenges with Implementation	# of Counties Who Identified the Challenge
Lack of interest from population	4
Reaching the population	3
Environmental factors	2
Engagement/Coordination with stakeholders	2
Producing materials	1
Data errors	1
Time	1
Sustainability after funding period	1
Costs	1
Cultural relevance	1
Approval process	1
Lack of equipment	1



Health Equity

- 7 counties addressed health equity in their projects
- Examples of projects that addressed health equity:
 - Monroe utilized the NYS Heat Vulnerability Index to target areas in the county that had a higher proportion of Hispanic residents who have limited understanding of English
 - Otsego provided access to fresh produce to residents of their Tiny Homes Program (people who had recently been unhoused) through development of a community garden
 - Jefferson provided outreach on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) to Amish Farmers after having outbreaks in the last few years amongst horses
- Challenges: reaching intended audience; anticipating high turnover in residents; ensuring project is culturally relevant



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Accomplishments

- 28 Educational Resources were developed
 - Flyers
 - Magnets
 - Brochures
 - Social Media
 - Recipe cards

Harmful Algal Blooms

KNOW IT

Strongly colored water.
Paint like appearance.
Floating mats or scum.

AVOID IT

Do not swim, fish, boat, or wade in areas with blooms.
Do not eat fish caught in these areas.

REPORT IT

Report blooms to:
HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov



THIS LOCATION IS A DESIGNATED

COOLING CENTER

WE INVITE YOU INSIDE TO COOL DOWN FROM THE HEAT

for information on hours of operation for this location, call:

Find other cooling centers in the county by calling St. Lawrence County Public Health or online at:

SCAN ME




315-386-2325

<https://tinyurl.com/SLCCoolingCenters>

OUTDOOR WORKERS and Heat Safety

Working in extremely hot conditions increases the risk of illness for those who work outdoors, like:

- Heat Stroke
- Heat Exhaustion
- Heat Cramps

Ways to protect yourself:

Avoid overexertion and prolonged exposure to extreme heat and high humidity to stay safe. When you can't avoid it, take these steps:



Monitor yourself and coworkers for any signs or symptoms of heat-related illnesses.



Drink water frequently and don't let yourself become thirsty



Choose clothing that is:

- loose fitting;
- light-colored;
- breathable



Take breaks more frequently and go to an area out of the sun and as cool as possible.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

<p>HEAT STROKE</p> <p><u>Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High body temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Confusion <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of coordination <input type="checkbox"/> Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating <input type="checkbox"/> Throbbing headache <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Coma 	<p>HEAT EXHAUSTION</p> <p><u>Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rapid heartbeat <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy sweating <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme weakness or fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea, vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Irritability <input type="checkbox"/> Fast, shallow breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly elevated body temperature 	<p>HEAT CRAMPS</p> <p><u>Symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy sweating during physical activity <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle pain <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle spasms
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CALL 911
This is a medical emergency!



Accomplishments

- 32/38 Objectives were met; 3 in progress (as of 8/1/2023)
 - Cayuga distributed 800 magnets and flyers on HABs safety to lakefront properties
 - Essex partnered with local municipalities to display free sunscreen dispensers at five (5) public beaches/waterfronts
 - Erie attended three (3) summer community events/festivals and distributed extreme heat emergency preparedness information, 500 cooling neck scarves and 500 planter kits
 - Orange set up composting collection sites and rainwater collection barrels and community sites



LHD Lessons Learned

- Building relationships with communities takes time and consistent effort
- Tailor project to meet needs of residents
- Choosing the right time and place is crucial to ensuring participation from intended audience
- Seek out expertise and team up with other agencies





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Projects

Harmful Algal Blooms Magnets for Lakefront Properties

- **Department:** Cayuga County Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- **Goals:** Educate owners of lakefront properties who draw water from the lake on HABs and tips on how to protect their health.
- **Actions:** Design and mail magnets with information on HABs to Lakefront property owners

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Harmful Algal Blooms Magnets for Lakefront Properties

- **Lessons Learned:** Sending out a mailer in advance of the magnets to all owners on our lists may have saved time (did not have to correct addresses after packages were returned to sender) and money (postage expenses add up)
- **Successes:** Distributed approximately 800 magnets and flyers to lakefront properties.



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Eat Smart, Waste Less Clinton County

- **Department:** Clinton County Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Green-House Gas Emissions
- **Goals:** 1) Complete a focused educational campaign addressing time sensitive messaging related to in-progress food waste reduction activities. 2) Provide technical assistance to at least 2 consumer facing businesses in establishing food waste reduction/recycling policies.
- **Actions:** Advertised several ads for social media, online, digital billboard, and print ads. Facilitated 2 Food Waste Warrior Facebook groups. Complete key informant interviews with partners previously assisted. Recruited new businesses in establishing food waste reduction/recycling policies.



Eat Smart, Waste Less Clinton County

- **Lessons Learned:** Engage with businesses early to gain buy-in. Share success stories of other businesses engaged to recruit new businesses
- **Successes:** Completed 2 Food Waste Warrior Facebook groups that educated 26 residents. Recruited 2 new businesses to work on food waste reduction policies

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Tick Kit Distribution at the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Military Event

- **Department:** Delaware County Public Health Services
- **Climate Hazard:** Vector Ecology
- **Goals:** 1) Distribute tick kits and tick prevention education to community members, military personal and staff at the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) event. 2) Provide sunscreen dispensers at community/town pools.
- **Actions:** Promoted tick bite prevention through social media. Held table at IRT event everyday and distributed tick kits and tick education free to the public. Installed sunscreen dispensers at community pools.



Tick Kit Distribution at the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Military Event

- **Lessons Learned:** Contracted with independent agency to create social media posts, graphics, and outreach materials to account for lack of staff able to help with social media posts. Provide more education to decision makers-town boards and village boards on the benefits of offering free sunscreen while at the pool or at a village park.
- **Successes:** 1,000 tick kits were distributed to at the IRT event and community fair.

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Stay Cool Erie County

- **Department:** Erie County Department of Health's Office of Health Equity
- **Climate Hazard:** Extreme Heat and Urban Heat Island Effect
- **Goals:** 1) Develop heat emergency preparedness informational materials. 2) Identify communities at high need and summer events and festivals and other strategies through which to reach these communities. 3) Distribute heat emergency preparedness information along with 500 cooling neck wraps and 500 seed kits at these community events.
- **Actions:** Developed extreme heat resources. Held tabling events at summer community events/festivals in Erie County and distributed cooling neck wraps and seed kits.

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Stay Cool Erie County

- **Lessons Learned:** Collaborative distribution was challenging to coordinate between internal departments so materials were distributed independently. Some of the seed kits were damaged upon arrivals, but most were able to be repaired by staff.
- **Successes:** Three tabling events were held in which 500 cooling neck scarves, 500 planter kits, and 1,100 newsletters were distributed.



Fun in the Sun Safety in Essex County

- **Department:** Essex County Health Department
- **Climate Hazard:** Exposure to harmful UV rays; Vectors
- **Goals:** 1) Install sunscreen dispensers in public locations. 2) Provide tick prevention education and disperse tick kits
- **Actions:** Gifted the dispensers and start-up sunscreen to five towns with the agreement that the towns would maintain and refill the dispensers. Distribute tick kits at 9 public events.

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Fun in the Sun Safety in Essex County

- **Lessons Learned:** Place dispensers in weather protected locations. Provide reminders to towns about winter storage and replenishing the sunscreen stock.
- **Success:** Partnered with local municipalities to display free sunscreen dispensers at five (5) public beaches/waterfronts and distributed 500 tick kits and education at 2 rabies clinics and 3 community events.

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Fight the Bite, LaFargeville!

- **Department:** Jefferson County Public Health Service
- **Climate Hazard:** Vector Ecology
- **Goals:** Educate the Amish community and residents in the area on prevention of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (Triple E)
- **Actions:** Mailed postcard invitations via U.S. Postal Service and promote through established media partnerships. Convened a town hall meeting at a local school. Educated about mosquito lifecycles and disease transmission, how to prevent bites and how to protect your livestock. Distributed education materials and provided free insect repellent for attendees to take home.



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Fight the Bite, LaFargeville!

- **Lessons Learned:** Choose a time for the event that works for the population (Amish farmers work late nights in June). Conduct outreach to speakers sooner.
- **Success:** Planned a town hall meeting and utilized 4 different methods of outreach to promote event.



Calor Extremo

- **Department:** Monroe County Department of Public Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Extreme Heat
- **Goals:** Engage Spanish-speaking residents and give them greater access to the information and resources they need to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death.
- **Actions:** Distributed bilingual resources at community events and pop-up events

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Calor Extremo

- **Lessons Learned:** Secure relationships with vendors who provide interpreters and translation assistance. Work with the community to reach intended audience.
- **Success:** Distributed bilingual 1,000 pieces of resources at five community events and two pop-up events



Healthy Orange Goes Green

- **Department:** Orange County Department of Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Food Insecurity; Water Supply
- **Goals:** Increase interest in growing local food and reduce landfill through sustainable practices.
- **Actions:** Held educational events for residents on growing vegetables, composting and recycling. Presented to health department staff on benefits of composting/recycling. Installed rain barrels and composters at community sites.

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Healthy Orange Goes Green

- **Lessons Learned:** Seek out expertise and team up with other agencies.
- **Success:** Held 3 planting education events for the public and provided 150 residents with tomato seeds and education on how to grow seeds.



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Otsego County Community Garden

- **Department:** Otsego County Department of Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Food Insecurity
- **Goals:** Build a community garden for residents of “Tiny Homes” and educate residents on how to grow, harvest, and cook their own food.
- **Actions:** Prepare garden and plant seeds. Engage residents in the maintenance of garden. Hold cooking classes using produce harvested from garden and educate on health cooking.



Otsego County Community Garden

- **Lessons Learned:** Required more time and effort from health department staff than previously anticipated due to turnover in residents.
- **Success:** Provided residents with access to nutritional food and distributed extra produce harvested from garden to local food pantries.



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Battling Extreme Heat in St. Lawrence County: Improving Access of Cooling Centers

- **Department:** St. Lawrence County Public Health
- **Climate Hazard:** Extreme Heat
- **Goals:** Increase cooling center access and outreach among residents
- **Actions:** Engaged city, towns, and villages in identifying cooling centers. Compiled a list of cooling centers for distribution. Created and shared educational materials with cooling center locations.



Battling Extreme Heat in St. Lawrence County: Improving Access of Cooling Centers

- **Lessons Learned:** Held calls with local jurisdictions to discuss the benefits of cooling centers and what a cooling center is to increase engagement.
- **Success:** Identified an additional 7 cooling centers and held a paid social media campaign which had a significant reach.

