

Goals for Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (2023-2024)

These goals are meant to help guide the work of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7) from August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. The Hudson 7 marks its anniversary on May 31 each year, as the date in 2018 when municipal leaders gathered to sign the Memorandum of Agreement that created the Council. These goals will help guide the work of the Council in its sixth and seventh year.

Goal 1: Create 501c3

Work with the Hudson 7's lawyer to research and identify the appropriate non-profit structure and bylaws.

Goal 2: Establish Policies & Procedures with the Hudson 7 Executive team

Develop, evaluate and review all necessary policies and procedures for the Hudson 7 and its committees for the council to discuss and adopt.

Goal 3: Develop a strategy for maintaining sustainable funding streams for operation and development expenses

The Hudson 7 should develop a budget and budget goal to identify its needs, with support through fundraising, grant writing as well as municipal funding options through water user fees, tax-funded municipal dues, or other means. These funding options should be analyzed for fairness and equity, both at the municipal and county level and the individual water rate payer level. A proposal should be formulated, discussed and adopted by the Council and, as needed, by its member municipalities.

Goal 4: Become an important resource for Hudson 7 drinking water operators

Develop a plan that includes communications, training sessions and shared services support for participating municipality's drinking water operators.

Goal 5: Education

Create outreach and education materials such as a presentation about the Hudson 7's accomplishments to date, importance for the water supply, and priorities, to ensure that member communities and other collaborators are well informed about the work and value of the Council.

Other important means for outreach/education include:

- Host speakers on topics relevant to other priorities
- Tour Hudson 7 water treatment plants
- Design signage for Hudson Riverfront and/or stream crossings
- Educate elected representatives (county, state, federal) to improve policies and laws whether existing or new.

Goal 6: Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

Complete the map of the Hudson River Drinking Water watershed including known threats and concerns to be adopted by each municipality and included in a new source water assessment.

Goal 7: Salt Front Study

Liaise with DEC to ensure the successful scoping and implementation of a salt front study in the Hudson.

Goal 8: Maintain watchdog role on key issues threatening water quality

Hudson 7 will remain vigilant on issues that are affecting or may affect drinking water quality, including Esopus Creek turbidity, CHPE transmission cable, Central Hudson coal tar and Coast Guard spill prevention and response efforts and anchorages. The issues the Council has to deal with are largely driven by external factors, and so prioritization and time allocation beyond listing these known priorities is difficult.

Goal 8a: CHPE Committee

The CHPE committee's role is to:

- Research next steps in the CHPE process, including Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EMCP), jet plowing pilot tests, etc;
- Advise Hudson 7 on opportunities for engagement and advocacy - e.g. draft advocacy letters, develop strategy to engage in EMCP process;
- Get legal advice to identify how to protect municipalities' interests, how to garner state agencies' support, and what legal requirements TDI must meet.

Goal 8b: Lower Esopus Creek Committee

The Lower Esopus Creek committee's role is to advocate for improvements to the turbid releases being dumped from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek by the NYCDEP.

Goal 8c: Anchorages Committee

The Anchorages committee's role is to discuss and advise on establishing a Hudson River drinking water watershed zone that is inclusive of all of the Hudson 7 intakes.