



**Annual Report
2024 - 2025**



40
YEARS
OF SERVICE
1985-2025



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Development Authority of the North Country.

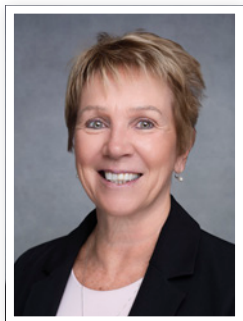
As we reflect upon our history, it becomes evident that our success is attributable to forging long lasting and successful partnerships. Partnerships between the Authority and Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, the City of Watertown and Fort Drum, which guide our direction. Partnerships between the Authority and the many municipalities with which we work collaboratively to help resolve complex challenges. Partnerships between the Authority and our elected officials, with whom we work to advance the North Country. But most importantly, partnerships between the community leaders and the people of the region that we serve. It's these relationships that drive the work we do.

As we look back at what we have achieved together over the last 40 years, we would be remiss to not recognize the key role that the employees of the Development Authority play. The Authority has evolved and grown to meet the needs and expectations of the North Country through the last four decades and so has our workforce. We began with two employees in 1985; now we number 97, each of whom is a subject matter expert in their field. We are very proud of our employees and they work they do to serve their communities.

We are proud of what the Development Authority has achieved in the last 40 years. Created to plan, implement and oversee the infrastructure needed to accommodate the expansion of Fort Drum in the mid-1980s, the organization has since proven its flexibility in meeting the ever-changing challenges the North Country faces.

We hope that you will enjoy taking a short journey back over the last 40 years in the following pages.

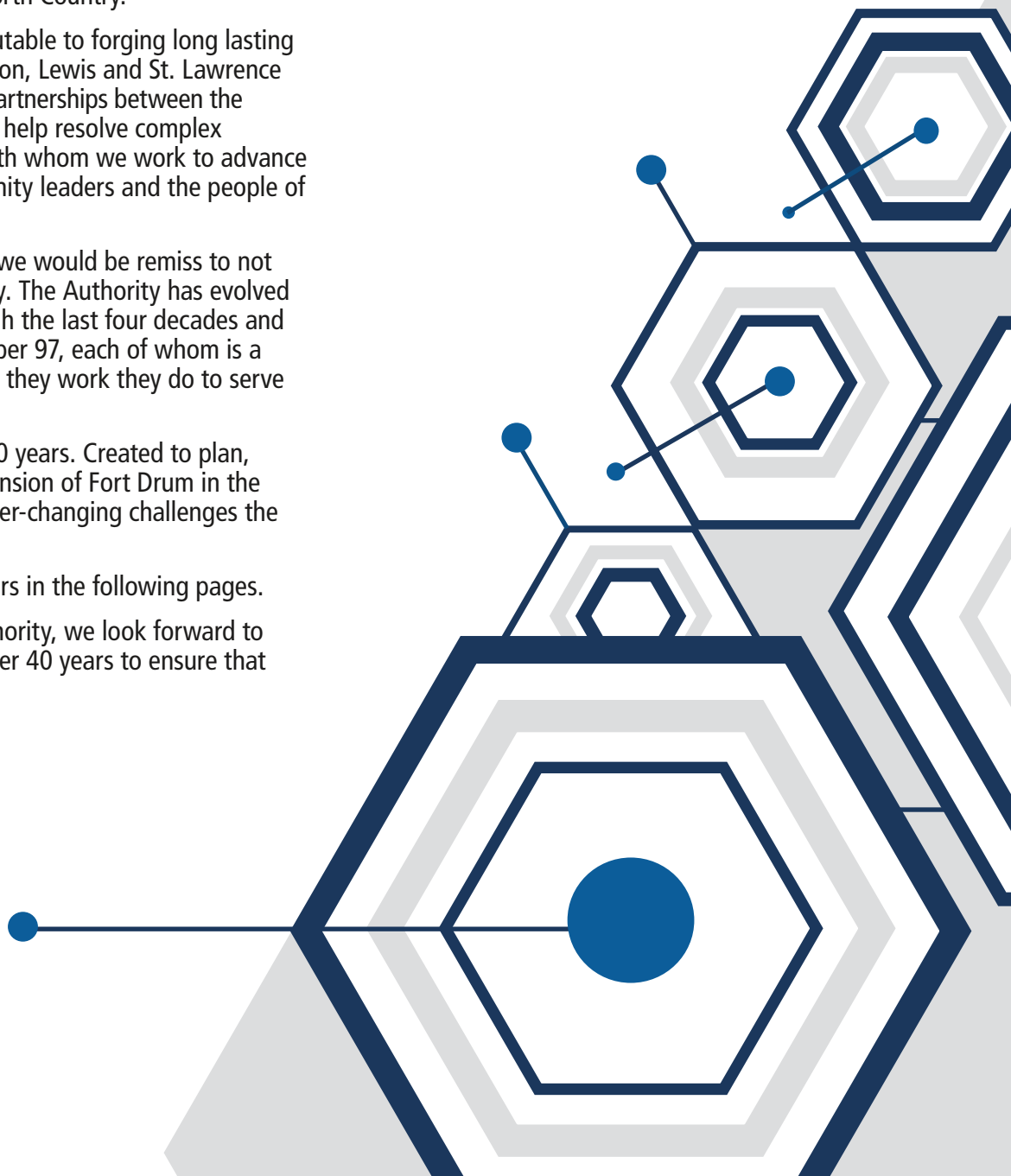
On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of the Development Authority, we look forward to continuing to work with our partners, communities and Fort Drum for another 40 years to ensure that northern New York remains the best place to live, work and play.



Margaret Murray
Chairperson



Carl E. Farone, Jr.
Executive Director





DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OVERVIEW

The Development Authority of the North Country is a New York State public authority dedicated to serving the common interests of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. By providing technical services and infrastructure, the Development Authority enhances economic opportunities and promotes the health and well-being of its communities and Fort Drum.

Unique among public authorities in New York State, the Development Authority's scope of activities is extensive. Unlike other single-purpose state authorities, the Development Authority owns and operates a number of revenue-based infrastructure facilities and manages a wide range of business and housing development programs. The Development Authority owns and operates water and sewer infrastructure linking the City of Watertown's facilities to Fort Drum, a regional waterline serving communities in western Jefferson County, a materials management facility in Rodman and a 2,000-mile open access telecommunications network. Additionally, the Authority offers contract operations and maintenance services for water and sewer facilities, technical assistance in geographic information systems and telemetry services, and administers revolving loan funds for affordable housing and small business development. It also provides services on behalf of New York State and contractually for municipalities throughout the North Country Regional Economic Development Region, including Franklin, Essex, Clinton, and Hamilton counties, as well as the tri-county area. The Authority's latest initiative, Next Move NY, is a program established by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. It is dedicated to assisting transitioning soldiers, spouses, and veterans in securing meaningful employment in the North Country.

Operating under the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York, the Development Authority of the North Country is a self-supporting, public benefit corporation. The majority of its revenue is derived from the sale of services to its customers. As a nonprofit entity, all revenue is allocated to operating expenses, construction costs, designated reserves, and outstanding debts.

The Development Authority is committed to environmental stewardship, fiscal integrity and building partnerships. To achieve these objectives, the Development Authority collaborates with its municipal partners through shared service solutions, using advanced technology and fostering municipal cooperation to achieve cost-effective services for the region.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE NORTH COUNTRY 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Seated, from left, Thomas H. Hefferon, Nancy C. Henry, Mark Hall, Dennis Mastascusa | Standing, from left, Eric Virkler, Alex MacKinnon, Executive Director Carl E. Farone, Jr., Stephen M. Hunt II, Margaret L. Murray.

Missing from photo: Mary Reidy Doheny, Kenneth M. Bibbins, Brian S. McGrath

The Board of Directors sets the policy and strategic direction for the Development Authority and provides oversight through established policies for implementation by the executive director. All members serve in a voluntary capacity and are not paid for their service.

OFFICERS

Margaret L. Murray, Chair
Appointed by Jefferson County

Mary Reidy Doheny, Vice Chair
Appointed by City of Watertown

Alex MacKinnon, Treasurer
Appointed by St. Lawrence County

Dennis Mastascusa, Secretary
Appointed by Lewis County

Kenneth M. Bibbins
Appointed by Jefferson County

Mark Hall
Appointed by St. Lawrence County

Thomas H. Hefferon
Appointed by City of Watertown

Nancy C. Henry
Appointed by Governor

Stephen M. Hunt II
Appointed by Governor

Brian S. McGrath
Appointed by Governor

Eric Virkler
Appointed by Lewis County

*Two Board vacancies currently exist for gubernatorial appointees.

40TH ANNIVERSARY (1985-2025)



The Development Authority of the North Country was founded in 1985 to implement a comprehensive, coordinated program of economic development activities in the area comprised of the counties of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence, which surround the U.S. Army base at Fort Drum. The purpose of its creation was to provide the region with the capability to effectively plan and develop the infrastructure needs of the region required by the population increase due to the expansion of Fort Drum. Forty years later, the organization has a proud history of fulfilling that mission and addressing new challenges as they arose.

The key to the Authority's success is threefold:

- **Its people.** Growing from a staff of two initially to 97 today, the Authority's dedicated employees are recognized experts in their fields, whether it's building broadband networks, operating heavy equipment to keep the regional landfill safe and environmentally sound, working with partner communities to address complex technical challenges or operating water and wastewater facilities for municipalities.
- **Its commitment to its mission.** The Authority has remained true to its mission of serving the common interests of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties by providing technical services and infrastructure, which enhance the opportunities in the region and promote the health and well-being of its communities and Fort Drum. The Authority has assisted North Country communities in overcoming complex challenges: providing clean drinking water, safely managing wastewater, improving housing stock, bridging the digital divide, operating an environmentally sound regional landfill, assisting with complex technical projects, offering business development assistance to enhance the economic foundation of the North Country, and now, implementing key aspects of the Next Move NY initiative, a workforce development pipeline to retain soldiers transitioning out of the military, spouses and veterans to help fill North Country jobs.
- **Its ability to utilize critical thinking and creativity to successfully navigate new challenges.** For example, in 2000, North Country school districts were falling behind due to the lack of broadband access. Although at that time this was not an area of expertise for the Authority, staff worked with the schools and others to create the Open Access Telecommunications Network, which began operation in 2004 and has since expanded to meet the telecommunications needs of North Country schools, businesses and residents.



ESTABLISHING PARTERNSHIPS

The concept of “partnerships” has been a foundational principle for the Development Authority since its inception.

After the creation of the Development Authority by New York State, the very first thing that occurred back in mid-1985 was the development of agreements between the Development Authority and its county partners, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis. This would be followed by many other beneficial partnership agreements throughout the decades:

- The Solid Waste Management partnership agreement between the Authority and the counties to site and operate a regional landfill;
- A three-way agreement between the Authority, the City of Watertown and Fort Drum to supply fresh water to the Fort through an Authority-owned transmission line;
- A partnership between the three counties and the Authority to seek designation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a HOME Program Consortium (the only rural consortium in the country in 1994);
- An agreement between the Authority and several municipalities to develop the 22-mile Western Jefferson Regional Waterline;
- Creation of the Route 3 Sewer Line in partnership with the towns of Champion, Rutland, LeRay and Pamela and the Village of Black River;
- The development of the landfill gas-to-energy plant which uses methane gas generated by the landfill to create electricity which is sold to the power grid. In 2008 the Authority was the first entity outside of California to receive carbon credits;
- Multiple agreements between New York State and the Authority to administer loan funds that have helped build housing and develop, expand and retain businesses;
- Agreements between the Authority and many individual municipalities to provide contractual technical services, large capital project oversight, housing assistance and water and sewer system operation and maintenance.





KEY PARTNERSHIP

The key partnership to the Development Authority's foundation is with Fort Drum. The announcement that the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) would be reactivated at Fort Drum was the spark that ignited the creation of the Development Authority in the mid-1980s. While the announcement was met with great enthusiasm by the community, it also brought practical challenges: housing for the new residents, waste management, and water and sewer systems. At that time, no entity had the ability to cross regional lines and provide the necessary resources to address these issues. That is why the New York State Legislature created the Development Authority of the North Country.

The infrastructure issues that arose with the expansion of Fort Drum were similar to the issues being faced by many local municipalities at that time. The development of the regional landfill, the Army Water Line, the Army Sewer Line (both of which also serve surrounding communities) and housing addressed immediate infrastructure needs, however, additional challenges emerged through the years.

The Authority has continued to work closely with Fort Drum to help address its needs so that the installation can focus on its mission.



- In 1988 the Authority received \$12 million from the state to create its first housing program. This allowed the Authority to work with developers to build rental housing units in the Fort Drum impact area. The Authority implemented two more similar housing programs through the years and to date, has lent over \$58.9 million toward projects totaling \$433 million, assisting 4,165 units through these three programs.
- A Joint Land Use Study, funded with a \$526,500 Department of Defense Grant, was conducted to address potential land use concerns between Fort Drum and surrounding communities.
- The Authority has worked with Fort Drum to address solid waste challenges.
- The Authority created the Fort Drum Compatibility website as a regional land use planning tool to help avoid land use conflicts between Fort Drum and surrounding communities.
- In 2024 the Authority received a \$3.9 million grant from the North Country Regional Economic Development Council to implement the framework and several key aspects of Next Move NY, a workforce development pipeline to retain soldiers transitioning out of the military, spouses and veterans, to help fill North Country jobs.
- The Authority, Jefferson and St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agencies, the Lewis County Office of Economic Development and Planning, Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization and National Grid partnered in 2011 to create Drum Country Business, a regional initiative to attract businesses to the region, recognizing Fort Drum as the economic impetus. This initiative was rebranded as Drum Country Business in 2021.

For its record of successful partnership, in 2019 the Development Authority received an Army-Community Partnership Award from the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Drum "in recognition of outstanding collaboration, cooperation and innovative solutions."



MUNICIPAL PARTNER

In addition to working with Fort Drum through the last four decades, the Authority has evolved into a problem-solving partner for North Country municipalities. In 1994 the Authority undertook its first contract for water and wastewater operations for the Town of LeRay. As municipal operators retired and regulations became more challenging, more towns and villages looked to the Authority for assistance. Today, the Authority provides contractual operations for 27 different municipalities across the region.

Authority staff also work with communities that don't have the technical expertise on staff to help them understand complex technical challenges and develop cost-effective solutions such as when undertaking a significant wastewater facility upgrade. Technical services also include capital project management and management of community redevelopment projects like the Lyons Falls Mill in Lewis County and the J & L site cleanup in St. Lawrence County. The Authority has hundreds of technical assistance agreements with municipalities across the region.

The Authority administers several lending programs on behalf of New York State, to the benefit of developers and businesses in the region. For example, farmers have been assisted through two agricultural programs which have lent \$892,799 to assist with improvements to over 1,677 acres of farmland in the tri-county area. Tourism-related businesses have been assisted through the seven-county Transformational Community Tourism Loan Fund. Since its inception in 2013, \$6.8 million has been lent to transformational tourism projects totaling over \$40.9 million. In total, of the seven loan funds the Authority administers, \$38 million has been lent to leverage \$172 million and create or retain almost 2,000 jobs in the North Country.

In 2000 the North Country faced one of its biggest challenges - a critical gap in telecommunication services in the region that needed to be filled to provide North Country students with a level playing field in the classroom. The Authority began work to develop a fiber optic system to serve schools, businesses and other institutions in the region.

In 2004, the Authority's Open Access Telecommunications Network (OATN) began operation, providing broadband access to both the Jefferson-Lewis and St Lawrence-Lewis BOCES. Today, the OATN spans over 2,000 miles across the northern portion of the state, with connectivity to Syracuse, Utica and New York City. The network has gone far beyond schools and businesses and now provides the backbone for residential connections to the internet as well. The Authority does not provide internet service; its OATN is what enables internet service providers to offer service to customers.

The Authority continues to expand and enhance its broadband network to meet the ever-increasing demands of a technology-driven population. In 2020, the Authority worked with Lewis, St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties to conduct public broadband surveys of residents to more accurately identify gaps in service and to inventory the existing broadband infrastructure. Using that data, Authority staff are working with county staff to develop plans and funding sources to fill those gaps.

Over the last 20 years, the Authority has transitioned from a couple of employees realizing that the digital divide was impacting the regional educational system, to designing a telecommunication system to address that need, to constructing and operating a state-of-the-art OATN. The OATN has a staff of 14 who are recognized experts in their fields. The success of the OATN and the staff's acknowledged expertise has resulted in significant success in obtaining grants to fund broadband expansions to benefit the North Country, including a \$39 million expansion in partnership with ION in 2012, \$2.2 million to develop a six-county public safety network and in 2023, a \$14.5 million federal grant in partnership with National Grid to expand middle-mile broadband capacity throughout northern New York. The Authority was also a key partner in the creation of the two telemedicine networks that reach across northern New York, connecting hospitals and clinics to enhance health care for residents.

The Development Authority of the North Country looks forward to continuing to meet the needs of North Country municipalities and residents, and Fort Drum, for another 40 years and beyond, ever evolving to meet new challenges.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Along with celebrating 40 years of serving the North Country, the Development Authority must also celebrate its 2024-2025 achievements. Partnerships are key to the Authority's success and so we celebrate our place as a community partner, an environmental partner, a Fort Drum partner and a telecommunications partner.

The Authority works with municipalities throughout northern New York on a contractual basis to assist with programs and services that communities often don't have the resources to undertake themselves. Communities can request the Authority's assistance with housing programs, business loan funds, operation of water and wastewater facilities, technical oversight of complex projects, and much more.

Highlights from the last fiscal year include:

- Authority staff provided grant administration and program delivery services for new Community Development Block Grants received by the Town of Gouverneur and St. Lawrence County. In Fiscal Year 2025, staff assisted with the completion of approximately 11 owner-occupied rehabilitation projects between the two grants.
- Many businesses and not-for-profit organizations receive grants from state and federal programs however, the grants are typically paid to the entity upon completion of the project. This means that the grant recipient must have another source of funds to complete the project prior to receiving reimbursement. Many banks do not lend to projects under these circumstances due to perceived risk. The Authority's Board of Directors authorized providing gap financing to allow for the completion of critical projects while awaiting reimbursement of grant funds. Organizations assisted last year include:
 - Hand In Hand Early Childhood Center-\$250,000
 - Massena Arts and Theater Association-\$750,000
 - Clark House Preservation-\$50,000
 - Clayton Improvement Association (for a LaFargeville mixed-use project) -\$1,600,000
 - Tug Hill Artisan Roasters-\$200,000
 - 242 Washington Street LLC-\$250,000
- The Engineering Division provided technical and management services to local and county governments of Alexandria, Alexandria Bay, Chateaugay, Champion, Clayton, Clifton, DeKalb, Diana, Edwards, Jefferson County, Gouverneur, Hammond, Henderson, Heuvelton, Lewis County, Lawrence, LeRay, Long Lake, Louisville, Lyons Falls, Malone, Massena, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Pamelaia, Paul Smiths, Potsdam, Richville, Rutland, St. Lawrence County, Theresa, Tupper Lake, Wilna and Waddington.
- The Authority's GIS program hosted data for 72 customers in six counties and the Authority's Internet Mapping Application received an average of 12,360 visits per month.
- Phase 2 of a three-year grant-funded project that will develop GIS data for highway and public works assets for 25 municipal partners in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties was completed. The regional project is funded with a \$384,500 NYS Local Government Efficiency grant and Phase 3 is scheduled to be completed by December, 2025.



- Assisted two communities in application and award of \$6.7 million in NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grants. The Village of Theresa received \$1.7 million for a wastewater disinfection upgrade and improvement project and the Village of Clayton received \$5 million for an upgrade to its raw water intake and distribution system.
- Authority Engineering staff assisted the towns of DeKalb, Louisville, and Diana, and the Village of Malone in bidding and awarding \$15.6 million in total construction contracts for water and wastewater system improvements.
- Regional Development staff developed and submitted an application to the NYS Affordable Housing Corporation on behalf of the Town of Tupper Lake for \$300,000 for a housing improvement program that will allow homeowners to address code deficiencies, improve energy efficiency and address other health and safety issues.
- The New York Power Authority agreed to extend the North Country Economic Development Fund Board Agreement, which maintains the structure for the Authority to administer the \$10 million in funding provided to NYPA in 2014 by Alcoa to create a regional revolving loan fund. Since the fund's inception, 26 loans have been made using \$7.3 million in NCEDF funds and leveraging \$28 million in other investment.
- The Water Quality Division implemented organizational changes to create four geographic-based service areas, each overseen by a Water Quality Supervisor. This will allow the Authority to more efficiently deliver services to its municipal partners.
- To help communities and residents understand what the Authority does, a video was produced that provides an overview of Authority facilities and activities. The video can be viewed at www.danc.org.
- Authority staff completed upgrades to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and electrical systems for five communities including the City of Ogdensburg, Village of Heuvelton, and towns of Diana, DeKalb, and Wilna. The Authority provides SCADA services to communities on a contractual basis.
- Staff at the Materials Management Facility conducted bi-monthly meetings with Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis county partners, as well as Fort Drum, to discuss landfill operations, environmental permitting and compliance, safety, budgets and tipping fees.
- To ensure uninterrupted services provided by Authority facilities, the Engineering Division managed various phases of 22 internal capital projects for the Materials Management, Telecommunications and Water Quality divisions that will exceed \$30 million in Authority asset improvements once completed.
- To ensure that the Authority can continue to provide critical water and wastewater services to partner municipalities, 14 employees obtained additional water and wastewater operator certifications.



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER

The Authority is committed to being an exemplary partner to the environment through various initiatives aimed at promoting waste diversion, natural resource management, and responsible stewardship. Additionally, the Authority encourages residents to adopt these practices through its programs, fostering a collective effort to preserve and protect the North Country for future generations.

Highlights from the last fiscal year include:

- The Authority, along with its county partners and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, sponsored five free household hazardous waste collection events in 2024, providing the opportunity for residents to safely dispose of hazardous materials that are not permitted in the landfill. Through these events, 158,443 pounds of hazardous material was diverted from the landfill and collected for proper disposal.
- Approximately 73% of the material collected at Household Hazardous Waste events is unwanted paint. To provide residents with another free option for unwanted paint disposal, the Authority worked with PaintCare, a non-profit organization that collects paint for recycling, to promote retail drop-off locations through the PaintCare system, which can be found at www.paintcare.com. In addition, the Authority worked with St. Lawrence and Lewis counties and the PaintCare organization to set up free monthly paint collection events for the convenience of residents.
- An assessment of the landfill gas system was completed and plans were developed to improve gas collection.
- Captured landfill gas produced 29,707 megawatts of energy through the Landfill-Gas-to-Energy Plant, an increase from 23,361 megawatts the previous year.
- The Authority received a \$1.442 million grant through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to evaluate leachate pretreatment options at the Materials Management Facility.
- As part of its Natural Resources Management Plan, the Authority treated for invasive plant species at the Materials Management Facility and planted low-height native shrub plant species to improve slope stabilization and reduce sightline obstructions for facility traffic. Additional native shrubs were planted on the steep side slopes around the expansion area of the landfill to continue efforts to reduce the need for mowing.
- To help students understand what happens to the garbage they generate, the Materials Management Facility offered educational tours of the landfill facility for school groups. Eleven school groups toured the landfill in 2024, comprised of 440 students.
- The Authority partnered with Slack Chemical in Carthage to make large recycling barrels available for schools to use for special events. The barrels are thoroughly cleaned and are loaned to schools to collect single-stream recyclables at events. The barrels had previously been disposed of in the landfill.
- To reinforce the importance of recycling and its impact on the environment, and to direct residents to a resource where they can find more specific information, the Authority launched a digital recycling ad campaign through social media. The ads direct viewers to www.northcountryrecycles.org.
- As an environmental steward and operator of a solid waste management facility, the Authority operates its landfill with a concerted effort to reduce landfill emissions into the environment. As such, the Authority's landfill is built utilizing proactive measures to both collect and destroy methane gas produced as the waste in the landfill decomposes. Through such efforts, the Authority became eligible to apply for carbon credits which can be sold to offset landfill costs. In fiscal year 2025, the Authority sold carbon credits earned in calendar years 2021 and 2022 for \$866,000.
- Significant improvements were made to the James R. Kanik Recreation Trail in Calcium to make the trail safer and more visually appealing. The trail was built 30 years ago and is used by many for walking and running.



FORT DRUM PARTNER

The Authority was created due to the expansion of the installation 40 years ago and Fort Drum remains a key community partner. The Authority and Fort Drum work collaboratively to ensure the Fort has the infrastructure required to achieve its mission and meet its current and future needs: sufficient freshwater, wastewater disposal, solid waste management, and telecommunications capacity. The Authority also assists Fort Drum with land use planning issues.

Highlights of this partnership over the last fiscal year include:

- The Authority was awarded \$3.9 million to establish the administrative framework for Next Move NY. Next Move NY is an initiative of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, funded with \$10 million from New York State, to build the most robust transitioning soldier and spouse retention workforce pipeline in the country. The Authority has hired three full time staff to ensure that transitioning soldiers, spouses and veterans are able to find meaningful employment in the North Country. The Authority will also be responsible for developing a job portal, veterans ambassador program, internship matching program, and internship stipend program. Through the Next Move NY initiative, the Authority is working closely with the Transition Assistance Program at Fort Drum.
- The Fort Drum Compatibility Committee met on March 31, 2025. The group, comprised of representatives from the three county planning offices and the City of Watertown, leaders from communities adjacent to Fort Drum and other planning organizations, heard from Fort Drum about natural resources, training and upcoming capital projects. The committee provides the opportunity for discussion about how joint land use planning can help protect Fort Drum's mission.
- Work continued on the rehabilitation of the Army Sewer Line, which transports wastewater from Fort Drum through an Authority-owned transmission line to the City of Watertown's wastewater treatment plant. The \$10 million project involved relining approximately 3.3 miles of the line, which will extend the life of the line by approximately 50 years and reduce the infiltration of water into the system.
- Drum Country NY, a regional marketing initiative, continued to educate prospective businesses about the outstanding local resources that support businesses. Three new videos were produced to promote agribusiness, manufacturing and tourism-related businesses in the tri-county region. The videos can be viewed at www.drumcountryny.com.
- The Authority received a \$174,400 grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to fund the engineering design and construction documents for Phase II of the Army Water Line replacement project. These documents are essential in applying for grant funding to support the project.
- Several Authority employees volunteered at Riverfest, an opportunity for Fort Drum soldiers and their families to relax and visit Alexandria Bay for the day. The event is co-sponsored by the Association of the United States Army and Authority Project Development Specialist Matt Siver is president of that organization.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS PARTNER

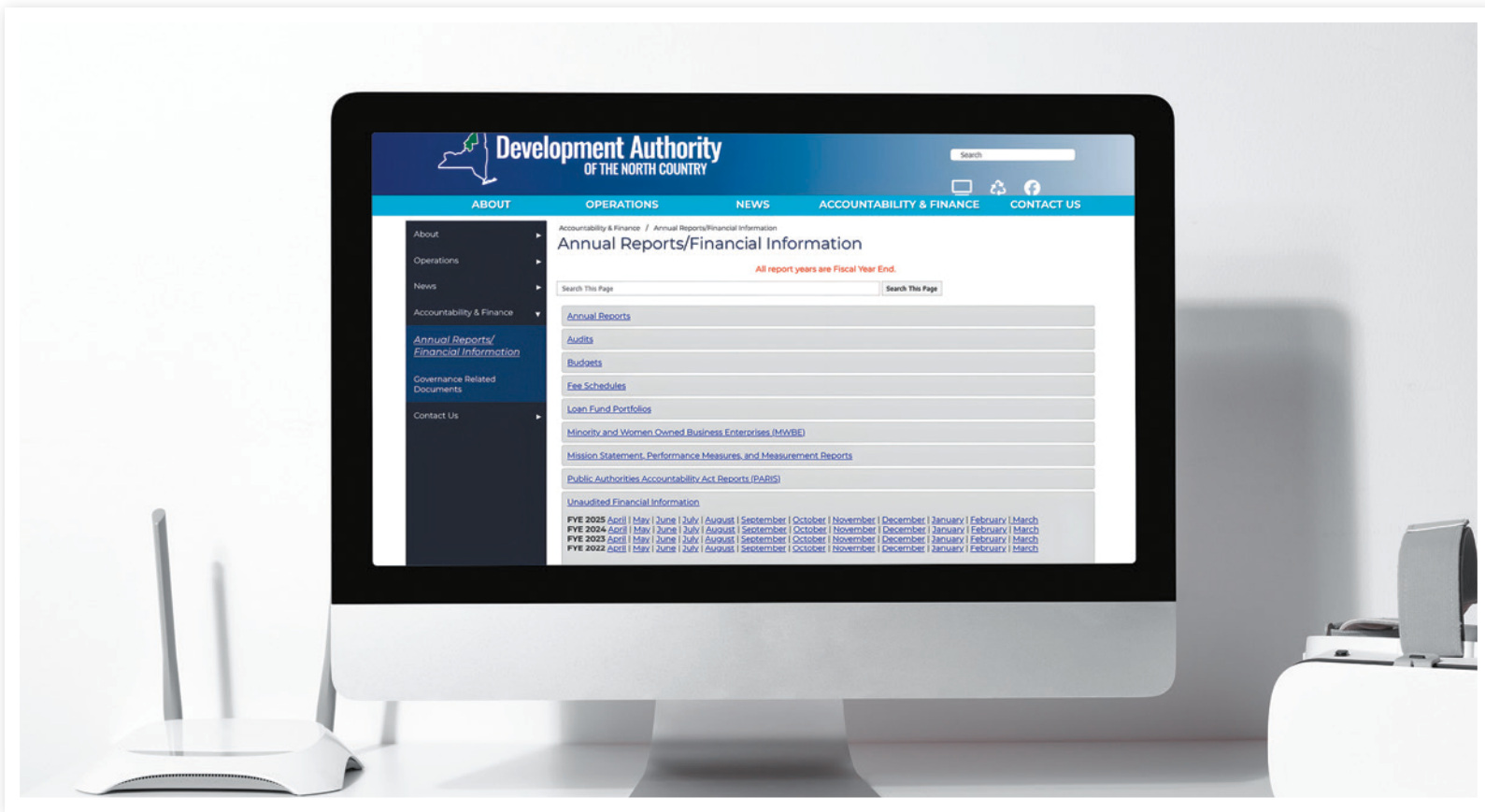
The ever-changing landscape of telecommunications makes it critical for the North Country to keep pace in order to not find itself on the wrong side of the digital divide. The Authority continues to work with its county partners and its industry partners to keep pace with changes, challenges and needs.

Telecommunications highlights over the last fiscal year include:

- The Authority worked with its county partners to develop broadband strategies and seek funding to help improve broadband access for residents. A total of \$352,000 in Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) planning grants was received to help with this effort. The planning portion of the grant is complete and the Authority is implementing construction for 13 municipal projects in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. Two projects are complete and 11 are in process and expected to be complete by the end of 2025.
- Significant progress was made on the \$14.5 million National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant to expand middle-mile broadband capacity in northern New York. The Authority has been working on "make ready" activities with grant partner, National Grid. "Make ready" is the process of making a utility pole ready for the Authority to attach fiber optic cable. There are approximately 9,000 poles that are part of this project, which includes 350 miles of fiber build that will cover over 2,400 unserved homes. Construction, the process of attaching the fiber to the poles, is expected to begin later this year. The Development Authority itself does not provide internet, voice or cable services, but the backbone that it builds connects communities and allows Internet Service Providers to offer those services.
- Engineering and the "make ready" process is underway for the \$3.1 million NBRC Catalyst Grant, which will provide last-mile connectivity to 208 unserved customers in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. The grant includes 54 miles of fiber construction plus the installation of wireless service in Lewis County. The projects will complement the NTIA project as many of the builds provide extensions from the new NTIA project segments. Construction is expected to get underway in 2025.
- Hamilton County contracted with the Authority to construct fiber to two new public emergency towers in Hamilton County. All make-ready applications have been submitted.
- An additional 20 cell towers were upgraded from 1 Gbps to 10 Gbps, providing more bandwidth for end users.
- The Authority's ethernet bandwidth in an additional 12 Central Offices was upgraded to 100 Gbps. This brings the total to 27 of the 32 Central Offices that have been upgraded. The upgrades are required due to cell tower upgrades to 10 Gbps which require additional core network capacity.



FINANCIALS



All of our financial information, including audits, budgets and reports to the Public Authority Reporting Information System (PARIS), are available online.

For complete information on the operations of the Development Authority of the North Country, please visit our website at www.danc.org.



**DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE NORTH COUNTRY**

317 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601
315-661-3200 • danc.org