



Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

4-H Youth Programs | Family & Community Development | Agriculture & Horticulture
Environment & Energy | Nutrition, Health, Safety & Financial Education | Workforce Development

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am often asked, "What does CCE do?"

Well, how much time do you have? It's safe to say that the structure is complicated. The range of programs, projects, and applied research we provide and deliver to local communities and beyond is vast. But to boil it all down: CCE Tompkins builds strong and resilient communities.

Our staff, programs, and partnerships serve all people within and around Tompkins County, across multiple generations and backgrounds. For over 100 years, we have been bridge builders, connecting people and community.

We do this by combining evidence-based research and local experience for far-reaching and well-rounded community education, resources, and services. These are currently concentrated in agriculture and horticulture, nutrition and health, 4-H, family development, and environmental issues.

CCE also contributes to the economic and social health of Tompkins County through service to thousands. We are for and from the places we serve and strive to respond to the needs of the places we live in and love.

What did CCE Tompkins do in 2025? Through our work, we proved something important: our resiliency. By adapting to adversity and holding true to our mission, vision, and values, we delivered on meaningful local outcomes.

CCE Tompkins' impact is a family working to strengthen skills, a municipality planning for the future, an individual seeking to make the best use of limited resources, an entrepreneur seeking land to nurture a future farm, or someone envisioning a new future and career. As you read these stories, know that those affected are your neighbors, families, friends. All part of a great story of a strong and resilient community.

Cynthia Cave-Gaetani
Executive Director

Cover: Our Compost Outreach Coordinator teaches about composting basics in the compost demo site in October 2025; Members of the 4-H Joint Youth Commission "Phenomenal Photographers" summer classes displayed their work; Lansing residents learn about the Non-Pipes Alternatives Program at the Lansing Sustainability Picnic; a family colors together at Tompkins Families' Stronger Together: Social Connections event in April.

Finance Overview

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Tompkins County is thankful for the support of our diverse contributors who empower our services for the communities we serve. In 2025, New York State provided support through County Law 224 allocations (partial “match” to County support), staff fringe benefits, and project funding agreements with numerous statutory departments. Private foundation and business agreements fueled efforts ranging from innovative agriculture, workforce development, health and essential services navigation, nutrition education in elementary schools and much more.

Like most organizations, CCE Tompkins experienced some uncertainty in 2025. County budget cuts and a rapidly changing federal funding environment led to the end of some programs that had been staples for years, and we are fortunate to have other partners and collaborators dedicated to ensure continued support for other beneficial and forward-thinking programs. While the past year’s challenges carry forward, we are charting a path toward growth through expanded work in various areas you’ll read about in these pages.

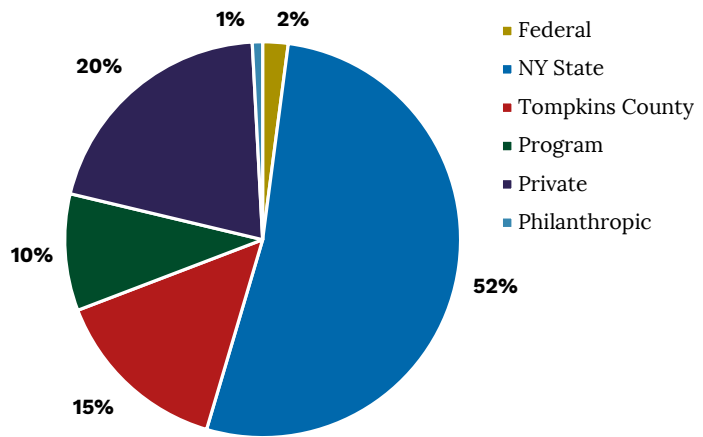
2025 Revenue: \$8,585,870

Our Mission: We put knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability, and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping families and our community thrive in our rapidly changing world.

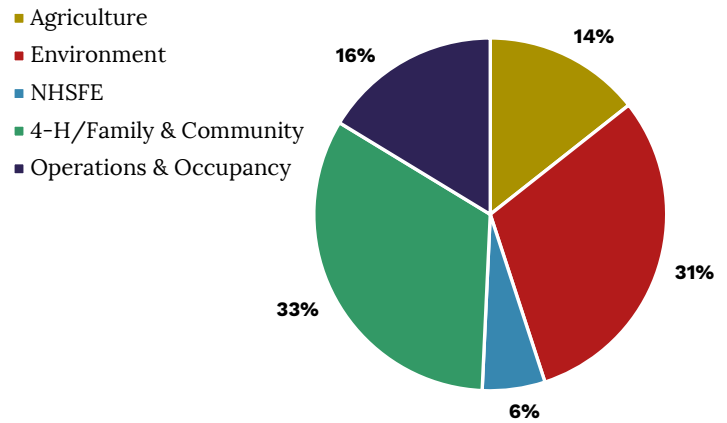
CCE Tompkins is a subordinate governmental agency with an educational mission that operates under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the State of New York. It is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The association is part of the national Cooperative Extension system, an educational partnership between County, State, and Federal governments. As New York’s land grant university, Cornell University administers the system in this state. Each County Extension Association is an independent employer, governed by an elected Board of Directors with general oversight from Cornell University.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for providing equal program and employment opportunities in accordance with applicable laws.

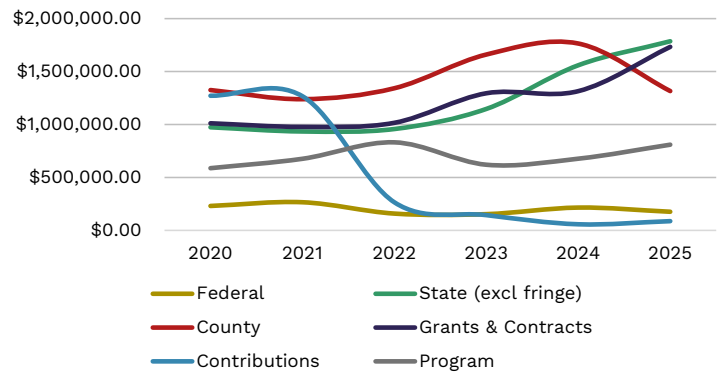
CCE Tompkins 2025 Revenue Sources



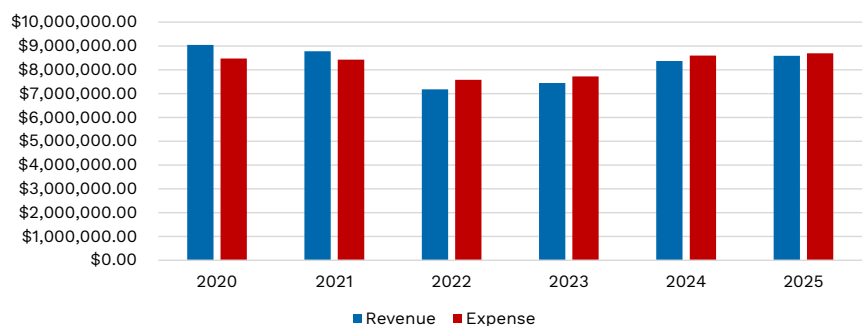
CCE Tompkins 2025 Budget Represented by Issue Area



Revenue Sources over Time



Five Year Comparison



Connecting Agriculture & Energy Project Opportunities

Our Solar & Ag Program supports CCE Associations across NY and works with farmers, developers, local officials, and planners navigating the process of large-scale solar development in their communities.

With support from researchers and faculty at Cornell and other universities, we provide resources on topics including community perception of solar projects, the development process and community benefits, and research on co-siting crops and livestock.

2025 highlights include a webinar series that attracted close to 200 participants; an agrivoltaics track at CCE's Agriculture, Food & Environmental Systems In-Service; and a tour of a local agrivoltaics project.

Ag Energy NY, developed in 2020, continues to see growth. Outreach is raising awareness about the guidance and consultation resources we provide — including at the annual Clean Energy Hub statewide meeting, during a radio interview with North Country Public Radio, and through a display at the annual CCE In-Service training. Website traffic to AgEnergyNY.org increased nearly 50% in 2025 as farmers become more concerned about energy use, their utility rates and knowledge of resources available.



Agrivoltaics project tour for farmers and elected officials; energy audit being performed at a dairy farm in Erie County.

Finding New Ways to Link Farmers to Farmland

Creative solutions are needed to secure affordable land access for farmers in our region. Last year, we provided **one-on-one assistance to 19 farmers** seeking land in the Ithaca area. This included connecting people to opportunities for buying or leasing, providing information about loan options and lease rates, facilitating connections with legal services and other agriculture services providers, and providing lease templates and review.

We hosted a two-day **Beginning Farmer Land Access Retreat** about topics such as leasing your land to a farmer, reaching more than 100 people. We work with solar companies and beginning farmers to explore incorporating smaller-scaled diversified agriculture onto large-scale solar projects, including the **1,100-acre Yellow Barn Solar project** in Lansing and Groton.

Turning Food Scraps into Productive Compost

Compost Education encourages residents to compost food and yard waste in easy, cost effective, and responsible ways, supporting Tompkins County Recycling & Materials Management.

At 38 events in 2025, Master Composter volunteers spoke to **1,850 people and diverted >16k lbs of food scraps** from the trash. We advised 140 “Rotline” users and reached **700 people through public workshops and classes** at schools, churches, colleges, cooperative housing units, nonprofits, and at CCE Tompkins.

Thanks to a grant from a private foundation, we hired an Outreach Coordinator to increase capacity for public events and to work with **five schools** to restart or strengthen composting systems. The composting program continued to partner with the Ithaca Farmers Market to refine their zero-waste efforts.

Twenty-two beginning farmers attended our two-day Land Access Retreat in October; Master Composters at the Ithaca Heritage Fiesta.



Community Beautification

In 2025, 93 volunteers tallied over a thousand hours during 68 volunteer sessions. The program planted and grew over 3,600 plants, spreading annuals, perennials, and shrubs over dozens of public garden plots. Volunteer collaborations with Open Doors English, the Lansing Center Trail, the Cayuga Bird Club, and Cornell's Alpha Zeta Fraternity gave us the chance to spend time with community organizations while they learned about planting, weeding, pruning, and caring for plants.



Beautification staff also collaborated with the Hammerstone School of Carpentry on a planter box class (pictured). Fourteen women learned how to build basic planter boxes from Hammerstone's talented instructors. The new boxes are being used on West State Street and Cayuga Street to replace the existing old and broken planters. A second round of new planter boxes will be built in April 2026. Beautification staff and volunteers will fill the boxes with spring, summer, and winter displays.

Rural Beautification Grants Awarded across Tompkins County

Danby Town Hall Landscaping: \$1,750

Enfield School Pollinator Garden: \$2,000

Town of Enfield Welcome Signs: \$750

Village of Groton Welcome Signs: \$2500

Dryden Village Hall Planting Area & Flower Containers along Main Street: \$2000

Gardens Growing & Local Learning

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) helped 458 people through the Growline and donated thousands of packets of seeds at four locations — including new seed cabinets at the Groton Public Library and Ulysses Philomathic Library. Overall, **59 MGVs volunteered over 2,300 hours**. This year, two MGVs launched our Native Plant Initiative, focused on community outreach and education around native plants and pollinators. At outreach events, 139 people signed the One Plant Challenge, committing to grow at least one native NY plant in their garden this year.

Horticulture Education had a combined attendance of **almost 700 people in 32 classes**. Food preservation workshops and woods walks continued to be some of the most popular offerings.

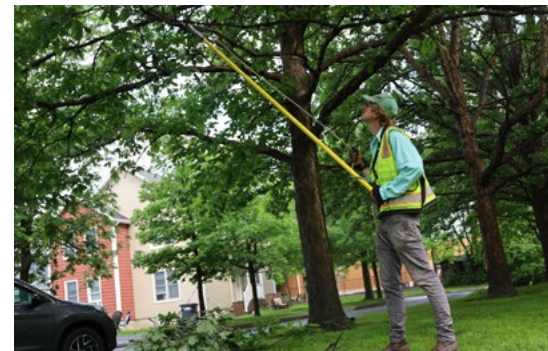
Open Farm Day returned in 2025 with tours of five farms across the eastern half of the county. These showed mixed vegetables, agroforestry, fiber, and two approaches to dairy farming, highlighting the diversity of farming in Tompkins County. Over **250 visitors** joined in, with the majority of those visiting more than one farm.

Our online CSA Guide got **472 views** over the season, connecting consumers directly with local farms. We serve as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) pick-up location, keep lists of U-pick sites and local food vendors, and answer public inquiries about local food.

The Citizen Pruners program marked its second year pruning street trees and removing invasive species in forest patches in Ulysses and Trumansburg. Volunteers from Ithaca's long-running Citizen Pruners group helped sharpen the skills of the slate of new pruners. Combined, volunteers in both areas **cared for hundreds of trees and put in 200+ hours of labor**.

The 2025 **Garden Fair and Plant Sale** included 42 vendors and information booths, with combined sales for local small businesses more than \$70,000. The Master Gardener Volunteer Program was the largest vendor present, selling hundreds of plants harvested from their own gardens.

Seed to Supper also returned as a budget-friendly beginner vegetable gardening class held in partnership with the Lansing Library.



Food Culture *Learning & Sharing*

We manage two licensed **Teaching and Commercial Kitchens**, providing **over 1,000 hours per year** of below-market rate rental space to 14-20 small food businesses from Tompkins County. This includes managing and cleaning the spaces to ensure code compliance, contributing cleaning and cooking supplies, and providing guidance on business formation and licensure. Vendors come from diverse communities and prepare wide-ranging foods including Thai, Chinese, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, and Korean food, as well as gluten-free and vegan baking.

Our commercial kitchen also hosts nutritional and culinary vocational classes taught by Tompkins Cortland Community College and Unity House.

CCE Tompkins has developed a 10-lesson curriculum on the **Foods of the African Diaspora**, offered at Beverly J. Martin (BJM) Elementary School in 2025 and expanding to Southside Community Center and Enfield Elementary in 2026. In 2025 we taught classes to **80 third grade students**.

The curriculum traces the food adaptations of African Americans from West Africa to the Caribbean, Southern United States and then, through the Great Migration, to the American West and North. It provides instruction on cultural and food history, as well as recipes and tastings, and emphasizes the historic connection between African Americans and the land and their history of adaptation and resilience.

Building on this success, CCE Tompkins is planning a **Healthy Foods of the World** curriculum. The program will include a series of classes in five separate areas: Foods of the African Diaspora, Tastings of Asia, Indigenous Food Approaches, Alimentos de América Latina, and Hearty Foods of the Northern Climates.



Above: BJM students in the Foods of the African Diaspora class.
Right: CCE educators lead a program and conversation at Probation; Dryden families learn to make food together in EFNEP's Happy Meals Happy Families program.

Social Resource Navigators *Supporting Community Access to Health Resources*

Health and well-being rely on many factors outside of clinical health care, such as access to safe housing, nutritious food, and reliable transportation. In 2022, CCE Tompkins' Social Resource Navigator (SRN) Program began employing pre-health Cornell undergrads to reach out to patients of Cayuga Medical Associates primary care offices who screen positive for these social needs, connecting these individuals with community resources.

In 2025, the program expanded in both staffing and infrastructure to deepen engagement and reach. This includes **two full-time Social Care Navigators** in addition to part-time student roles. All team members were trained and integrated directly into Cayuga Health's Electronic Medical Record system. This change facilitates greater coordination between the health system and the Navigators, because the Navigator team no longer needs to rely on manual referrals from healthcare providers to begin outreach to patients who have self-reported needs. Instead, the team accesses a daily report of patients who have reported needs. **In the last 2 months of 2025, after digital interfaces**

with Cayuga Health IT were completed, our resource navigators reached out to 750 patients.

The program also offers in-person navigation services to justice-involved Tompkins County residents through a partnership with the Probation and Community Justice Department.

CCE Tompkins is one of a network of organizations connecting Medicaid members with new health-related social needs services established by New York through the 1115 Medicaid waiver. Examples of services include rent payment for up to 6 months or home-delivered food boxes. **Thousands of dollars of Medicaid-funded food vouchers and boxes** are being distributed to Tompkins residents as a direct result of our navigators.

CCE Tompkins is also a member of Tompkins County's local Community Health & Resource Network (CH&RN), which seeks to improve coordination of care among local health care providers and community-based organizations through shared referral processes.

Life Skills in Day Reporting

The Nutrition, Health Safety, & Financial Education program has a long affiliation with Tompkins County Probation. Their Day Reporting program is an alternative to incarceration that offers educational opportunities on weekdays to individuals who qualify.

Our educators provide classes on Interactive Journaling, Emotional Regulation, Financial Literacy, and Nutrition. In 2025, at the request of the Probation Director, we expanded our Emotional Regulation program to include those in the general probation population. These programs run for 6-7 consecutive weeks allowing a more focused and community-building approach.

We are also providing support to clients on probation through our navigation program. This has helped many of our clients to connect with services and receive (for example) up to 12 months of food paid for through the 1115 Medicaid waiver program.

We are exploring how to provide further support to clients around job application and interviewing skills and hope to start offering that service in 2026.

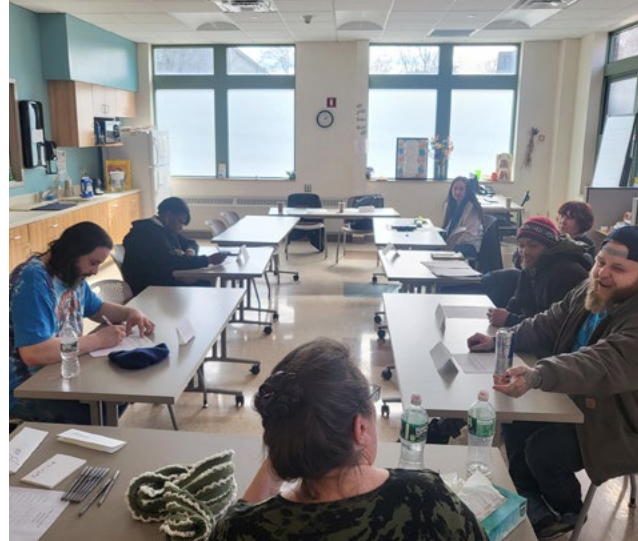
Building Healthy Nutrition Habits in Tompkins County

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), also known as Building Healthy Habits, collaborated to deliver regular, hands-on, grassroots nutrition education for CCE Tompkins' Strengthening Families programs, Dryden Elementary School, Hasbrouck Housing, and local organizations Open Doors English and The Learning Web.

Through these partnerships, EFNEP worked with 117 families – a total of 401 family members and 108 youth.

Nutrition educators also led classes for youth groups at Beverly J. Martin Elementary, Dryden Elementary, Groton Public Library, Groton Rural Youth Services Summer Camp, Enfield Summer Camp and at the CCE Tompkins education center. Two of these groups included both parents and kids cooking and learning about nutrition together.

Participants in EFNEP take a series of at least six sessions that include cooking and interactive activities on nutrition, food resource management, food safety, and physical activity. They complete pre/post surveys that ask questions on their family's behaviors around the above-mentioned topics. These surveys showed improvements in cooking skills, dietary quality, and food resource management, as well as food security.



SNAP & Medicaid Work/Community Service Requirements

Due to new federal laws there are impending changes to eligibility criteria for Medicaid and SNAP benefits. Specifically, the new work, education, and community service requirements for SNAP and Medicaid recipients will impact Tompkins County residents. There are reasons to think both the social and economic cost will be significant but exactly how, and to what extent, is not yet clear.

Our team members are working with Cornell University faculty and students as one part of the various county-wide efforts intended to support our local community with these coming changes. Our team members are also on the Tompkins County working group that is trying to mitigate the negative impact of these new eligibility requirements. With the assistance of our Cornell partners and solutions focused analyses, our team is looking to support the important role that this working group is taking on.

4-H YOUTH AND FAMILY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT >>

Exploration & Unforgettable Experiences in 4-H Youth Programs

Our 4-H members, volunteers, and staff continue to provide programs that promote discovery, friendship, exploration, learning, and fun. 4-H staff and 128 volunteers spent 2025 building on the strengths of our programs while thinking creatively about how to support and encourage youth in a changing world.

Four collaborative programs carry forward this mission: **4-H Clubs, Primitive Pursuits/Ithaca Forest Preschool, Rural Youth Services, and Urban Outreach.**



4-H Clubs provide a place where young people explore their interests with friends and realize their potential. In 2025, **146 youth participated in 4-H Clubs** focused on training and caring for animals, plant science, public speaking, photography, baking, and more.

While many 4-H youth and their animals feature in the county 4-H Youth Fair and NY State Fair, there hasn't been participation in other statewide events in several years. Last year, **Tompkins 4-H was able to send two youth members to the State Teen Action Retreat and 4-H Capital Days.** They made new friends, brought back fresh ideas for programs, and enthusiastically recommended the experience to others who plan to go in the future.

Primitive Pursuits gives kids ages 3-17 outdoor education, fun, and friendship. In 2025, over **1,000 youth attended our nature immersion camps** — in addition to 108 in Ithaca Forest Preschool and 95 in the homeschool program — learning to identify plants and



animal tracks, making crafts out of natural materials, fire building, hiking, and more. Primitive Pursuits also welcomed 196 youth during school break days and 70 in weekend teen programs.

Through a special opportunity, Primitive Pursuits welcomed Ithaca High School's **Working to Improve Schools and Education (WISE)** program, hosting a field trip for 27 students. Participants split into groups to build fires, collaborate to construct a debris shelter, and maintain trails. Students and teachers alike shared that they hope this experience will continue regularly.

Rural Youth Services (RYS) coordinates afterschool, school break, and summer camp programs in towns and village throughout Tompkins County. RYS programs in 2025 served **1,106 Tompkins County youth.**

Standout RYS moments from 2025: sledding in Danby and Lansing, hiking along Dryden Lake, meeting hawks from the Cornell Raptor Club during Enfield Summer Camp, grilling in Groton, and building bridges in Newfield.

RYS Summer Olympics was an opportunity for youth from across the county to make friends, play games, and cooperate. Focusing on sportsmanship rather than winning or losing, youth gained points not only from winning events, but by cheering others on and working as a team.



Urban Outreach saw participation from **70 youth in the City of Ithaca** (Belle Sherman Elementary and Dewitt Middle Schools) in 2025. In free afterschool programs, members joined in science education, art projects, cooking challenges, archery, and other confidence-building lessons.

Over the summer, Urban Outreach Horse Camp gave youth a chance to learn about horse riding, grooming, and care. Many had never been up close with animals of that size before, and the experience emphasized the importance of trust, communication, and approaching new experiences with curiosity and confidence.

From top: the Junior Iron Chef contest during the summer 4-H Youth Fair; Lansing RYS builds a boat out of cardboard; Primitive Pursuits youth learning to use an atlatl for archery.

Supporting Parents & Caregivers through Connection, Skills Sharing, and Fun

The Family & Community Development (F&CD) team provides a variety of workshops and programs — most offered free with support from the County Department of Social Services and the NY State Office of Children & Family Services. Over the course of several weeks, parents and caregivers build knowledge and confidence while learning skills to help their families thrive.

- **P.S. It Works!** teaches five crucial communications skills: Encouragement, Can Do, Shared Decision Making, Self-Control, and Respecting Feelings. The new **2 Gen version of the series** invites youth ages 6-10 to join their parents in learning these skills.
- **Thriving with Your Spirited Child** provides resources and tools for dealing effectively with spirited children's temperamental traits.
- **Parenting Styles** explores child development (ages and stages), environmental and cultural influences, and parenting styles.

In 2025, these interactive series served 123 participants.

Home visits through **Facilitated Parenting Time** and the **Strengthening Families Program** provided personalized advising and guided skill-building to increase resilience and reduce risk factors. Last year, our staff supported seven families with 100+ hours of direct coaching.

Parents Apart® is a four-hour workshop for parents to help their children adjust to divorce and/or separation. Workshops included 59 participants in 2025.

Parenting Education in the Jail is an in-person series held in collaboration with Alternatives to Incarceration/ Probation/Day Reporting and the Tompkins County Jail; 87 individuals participated last year.

Additionally, F&CD staff held 44 **Healthy Family Relationships** workshops as part of Tompkins County Day Reporting Program, Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), with 111 people in attendance in 2025.

The **Family Playgroup** is a free series for parents/

caregivers and children ages 0-4. During six two-hour sessions, families join together for songs, movement, bilingual story time, nutrition lessons that include making a nutritious snack, and open play. Six series in 2025 included 104 families (237 individuals).

Similarly, **Open Play** started in 2025 to provide a safe play space during the colder months. Seventeen sessions welcomed 45 families (95 individuals).

The Coalition for Families aims to create family-centered services, enhance collaboration between agencies, and explore policy issues. Each meeting includes a hybrid presentation that brings together community members and professionals; topics in 2025 included Winter Blues and Mental Health, Compassion Resilience, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Teens & Screens.

“I liked how the skills are applicable to parental and non-parental situations...focusing on your family, your children, yourself, and use with other people.

- Parenting Class Participant

Stronger Together with Tompkins Families

Five Protective Factors support and strengthen all families: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.

They also provide the themes for our Stronger Together community events. Those who attend can participate in games, crafts, story time, a healthy meal, and educational activities led by our family and community development staff in collaboration with Extension nutrition, gardening, environment, and 4-H youth programs.

In 2025, 97 families (almost 300 individuals) – speaking 15 primary languages other than English – joined us for four Stronger Together programs.

Local youth playing parachute during October's Stronger Together event; a Coalition for Families meeting featuring a speaker from the Tompkins County Mental Health Association; the Strengthening Families program takes a break to cheer on a passing train.



Clean Energy Education *across Tompkins County*

The Energy & Climate Change team offers resources that can help individuals and municipalities learn and act to reduce energy consumption, use energy resources more efficiently, and move away from fossil fuel use.

In public: The **Earth Day Festival**, co-hosted with the City of Ithaca, brought together 40+ local organizations and 900 residents to explore everyday actions that support a sustainable, vibrant planet.



Above: CCE Tompkins at a Utility Clinic hosted by the Public Utility Law Project; Right: Regional Clean Energy Hub staff.

The PowerHouse, our mobile tiny home, provides hands-on education on home energy use, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. It travels around the region to county fairs, schools, libraries and community festivals. Last year, **5,248 people visited the PowerHouse at 23 events.**

In our communities: A Community Educator collaborated with **five congregations** in Tompkins County to help define their climate action goals and encourage their members to take steps, big and small.

In the office: We are supporting local organizations who want to create "**Sustainabulletins**": displays celebrating local champions in your organization or office. These highlight climate actions community members are taking and inspire others to do the same.

Online: Among our collection of online resources, the DIY at Home Winter Guide is a booklet created to help energy educators share simple steps residents can take to make their homes comfortable and energy efficient. Through cost estimates and how-to videos we make a case for energy-saving investments. The series will continue in 2026 at **Energy.CCETompkins.org.**

Smart Energy Choices *Supporting the Southern Tier*

Smart Energy Choices, the Regional Clean Energy Hub for the Southern Tier, helps community members and organizations learn about and take advantage of programs that reduce energy use and costs and facilitate a transition to renewable energy.

Community Energy Advisors connect with diverse community members and provide personalized advising online and over the phone, with a focus on low and moderate-income residents. CCE Tompkins administers the \$3.8 million, 4-year NYSERDA contract, serving Tompkins and seven other counties in the region. Learn more at **SmartEnergyChoices.org.**

In 2025, staff based in Tompkins County:

- Reached **1,414** people with educational information
- Provided **223** people with personalized advising and follow-up
- Supported **46** high-impact actions (such as home insulation, heat pump installation, etc.)



Clean Energy Communities *Municipal Successes throughout Tompkins*

Our Clean Energy Communities (CEC) team assisted over 40 grant-driven municipal clean energy projects across the eight-county Southern Tier. This includes cost-saving solar installations at the Cayuga Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant and Enfield Town Hall, battery electric vehicles for the Towns of Ulysses and Dryden, and municipal building upgrades in Caroline and Danby. Read about the Clean Energy Communities program at **SouthernTierCEC.org.**

All told in 2025, our CEC Coordinators assisted with over \$1 million in projects in Tompkins County alone, and over \$3 million in projects region-wide.



Thriving Futures Public Art Celebrates Sustainability

The Thriving Futures Mural Initiative is a collaborative project of CCE Smart Energy Choices and Ithaca Murals, supporting artists' visions for a green and thriving future for our communities. During 2025, artists engaged in discussions with each other and community members about what a thriving future would look like, where people and the environment are healthy and there is clean, affordable energy for all. As a result, **18 new murals were painted in public spaces throughout the 8-county Southern Tier region.**

"Bloom" by Margalo, at 196 Main Street in Groton, NY; "Flourishing" by Elle Yatsuk at 202 State Street in Binghamton, NY. See also "Rising Ahead" by Bethany Parisi at 720 West Green Street in Ithaca on page 4.

Energy Warriors Green Career Pathways

Energy Warriors is a green workforce development program that provides training for individuals experiencing barriers to employment to enter the growing green job sector, including heat pump and solar installers, insulation technicians, and reuse specialists, among others. The training is grounded in the nationally-recognized Roots of Success curriculum.

Program graduates go on to gainful employment in green jobs or to pursue advanced degrees related to environmental topics. Recent program graduates are now working for USC Builds (part of Southworks), Fingerlakes ReUse, and Halco Energy's Home Energy Advising team. Another founded his own food business and secured a spot with the Ithaca Farmers Market.

Highlights in 2025:

- 15 Energy Warriors participated in 12-week cohorts, completing the Roots of Success Environmental Specialist Pre-Apprenticeship, OSHA-10, and Building Science Principles certificate
- Program staff taught 32 middle school students the environmental literacy curriculum at New Roots Charter School
- We began planning an expansion to CCE Chemung County, including hiring a Program Manager and beginning contracting for \$1.45 million of workforce development funding over the next 2 years



Energy Warriors trainees learning to use tools for sheet metal and HVAC work and touring the SouthWorks housing project to learn about local careers related to building retrofits.

The Lansing Non-Pipes Alternatives Program is a multi-year portfolio of projects to reduce natural gas demand and avoid the construction of new natural gas pipelines in the area. By this September, the program had reduced natural gas demand by 222 therms, enough to serve about 200 households.


Our Lansing Community Sustainability Picnic brought together ten local organizations to chat about sustainability over food prepared on induction cooktops!

Extension recently started researching and partnering on **programs that support resilience, adaptation, and mitigation strategies** in the face of climate-driven disasters and environmental stressors.

Working with Extension Nationwide, we are developing strategies for clean air and water, food security, housing, safety during extreme events, mental health, community resilience, access to nature, and equity in decision-making.

Until 2025, CCE Tompkins supported the NYS Climate Smart Communities program, providing assistance to local governments for reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

In 2025, The Town of Dryden qualified for Silver status (the highest level). The Village of Lansing achieved Bronze and was able to leverage their success through NY's Consolidated Funding Application — securing nearly \$600K in funding for sidewalk installations.



All of our 4-H youth programs — not just Primitive Pursuits — use the scenic environment of 4-H Acres to give youth outdoor time, connection with their peers, and lifelong memories.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

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