

MyCoast NY

A Free Tool for
Documenting Storm
Events and
Engaging Residents

Jessica Kuonen, New York Sea Grant
Kristen Hychka, NYS Water Resources Institute
NRCC Webinar
December 18, 2025





www.mycoast.org/ny

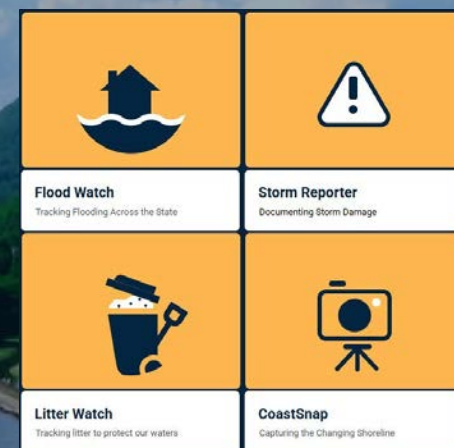
MyCoast:

New York

Help document New York's changing water levels and weather impacts

The MyCoast New York portal is used to collect and analyze photos of changing water levels, shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and water bodies. Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help stakeholders like government agencies, business owners, and residents understand our changing environment and make informed decisions.

***In NY, MyCoast can be used inland and statewide.
Not just for the coast!***



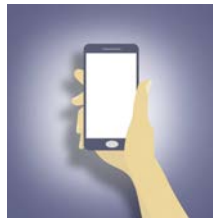
Why document storms and floods?

- Flood risk is increasing
 - Photos complement existing datasets & help validate models
 - Captures impacts and places that flood repeatedly
 - Raise public awareness
 - Engages and empowers communities
-
- “A picture is worth 1,000 words”



How it works

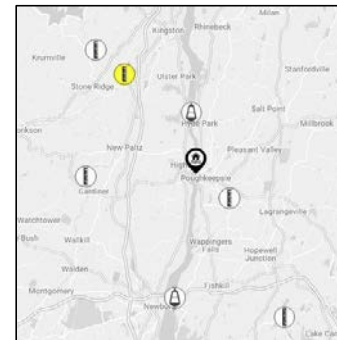
Submit a photo □ creates a “report” □ automatically places photo on a map and links it with nearby environmental conditions based on date, time, and location of photo.



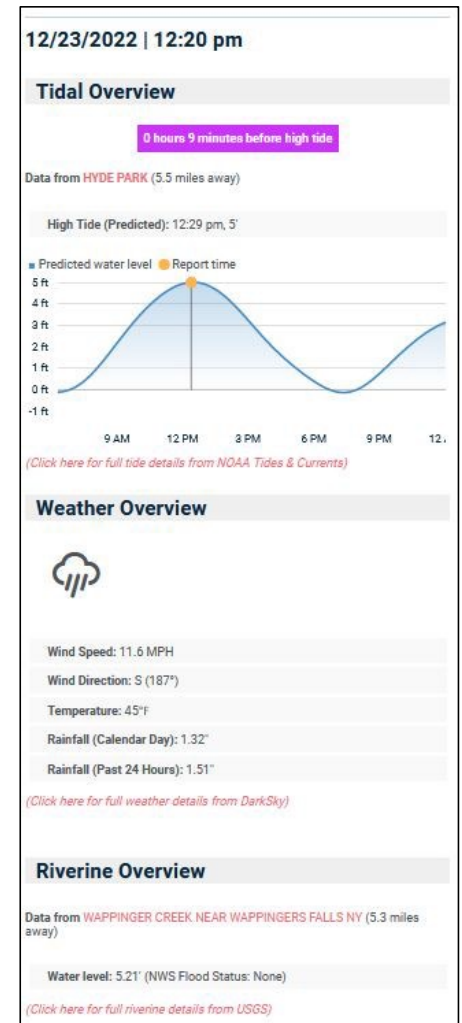
Community member as registered user



Photo



Data



Flood



Storm



Types of Photo Reports

CoastSnap



Litter



Flood Watch: Heavy Rain

<https://mycoast.org/reports/122063>

Guilderland, NY

Albany County

Flood Watch Report by RLT

7/18/2023 5:49 pm



Weather Overview

Wind Speed: 3.3 MPH

Wind Direction: SSW (202°)

Temperature: 70°F

Rainfall (Calendar Day): 0.687"

Rainfall (Past 24 Hours): 1.52"

[\(Click here for full weather details\)](#)

Riverine Overview

Data from **NORMANS KILL AT KARLSFELD NY** (2.5 miles away)

Water level: 13.59' (NWS Flood Status: Not defined)

[\(Click here for full riverine details from USGS\)](#)

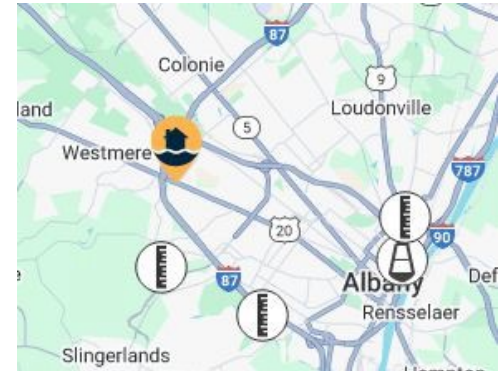
Cause of Flooding:

- Overland flooding (Nearby waterbody)
- Rainfall (Water pooling from direct rainfall)
- Storm drain (Water pooling near a storm drain)

What is Flooded:

- Roads/streets
- Sidewalks
- Parking lots
- Lawns/vegetation

Estimated water depth: 14 inches



Comment:

“Krumkill overflow due to flow exceeding storm drain capacity.”

Flood Watch: Coastal flooding

<https://mycoast.org/reports/144476>

Bethlehem, NY

Albany County

Flood Watch Report by DVL

12/19/2023 10:22 am



Tidal Overview

0 hours 45 minutes after high tide

Data from **TURKEY POINT, HUDSON RIVER** (39.2 miles away)

Water Level (at time of report): 10:22 am, 4'

High Tide (Predicted): 6:34 am, 3.6'

High Tide (Observed): 6:48 am, 5.7'



(Click here for full tide details from NOAA Tides & Currents)

Wind Speed: 16.5 MPH

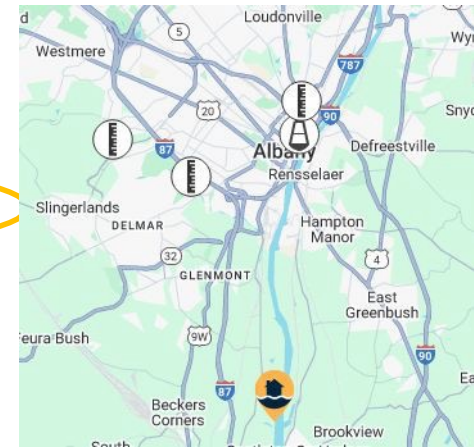
Wind Direction: W (269°)

Temperature: 38°F

Rainfall (Calendar Day): 0"

Rainfall (Past 24 Hours): 0.58"

(Click here for full weather details)



Flood Watch: Coastal flooding (seiche)

<https://mycoast.org/reports/95527>

Angola, NY

Erie County

Flood Watch Report by JP

11/16/2020 9:20 am

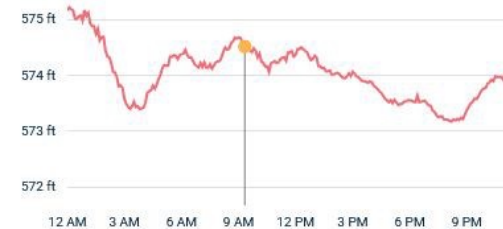


Great Lake Overview

Data from **STURGEON POINT** (5.4 miles away)

Water Level (at time of report): 574.5'

■ Observed ● Report time



Weather Overview



Wind Speed: 17.5 MPH

Wind Direction: W (263°)

Temperature: 42°F

Rainfall (Calendar Day): 0"

Rainfall (Past 24 Hours): 0.27"

([Link here for full weather details](#))

Comment:

"Photo taken after a seiche event showing level of debris pushed by Lake Erie into the park. Muddy Creek is high as well."

Storm Report: Hail (past event)

<https://mycoast.org/reports/125609>

Tully, NY

Onondaga County

Storm Report by CZ

5/26/2011 5:16 pm



Wind Speed: 13.5 MPH

Wind Direction: W (274°)

Temperature: 81°F

Rainfall (Calendar Day): 0"

Rainfall (Past 24 Hours): 0.1"

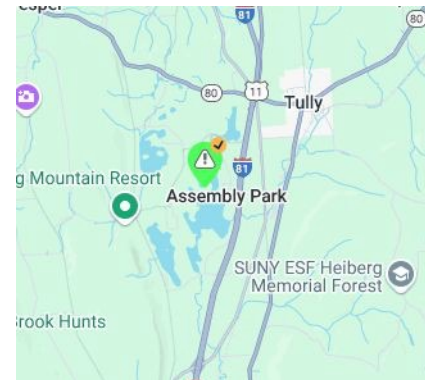
[\(Click here for full weather details\)](#)

Riverine Overview

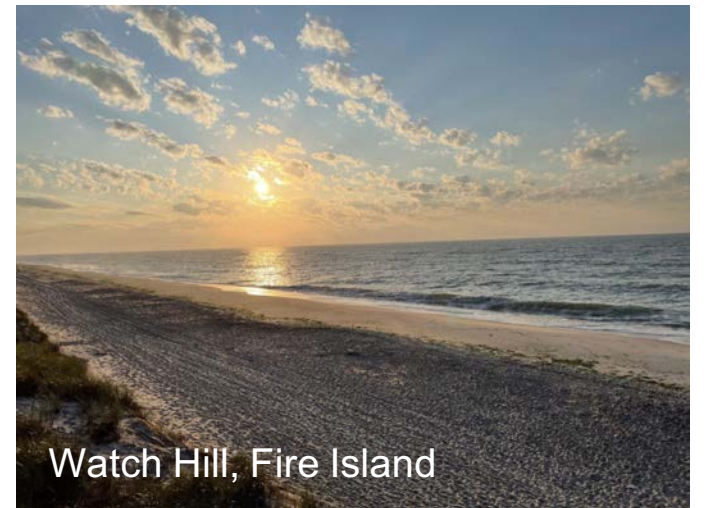
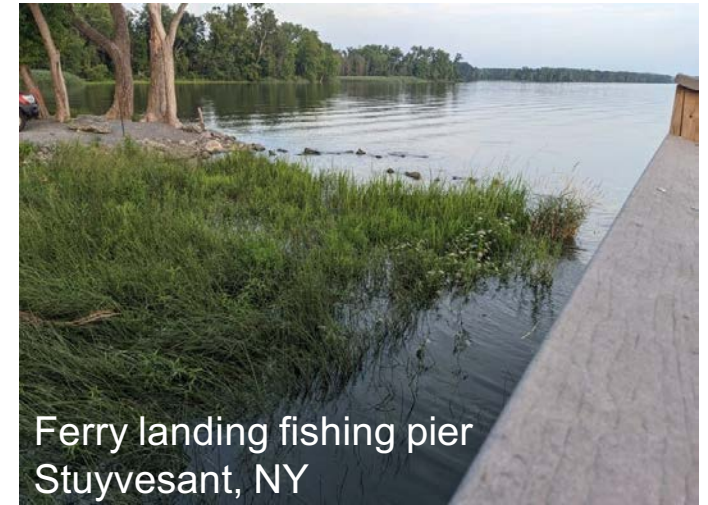
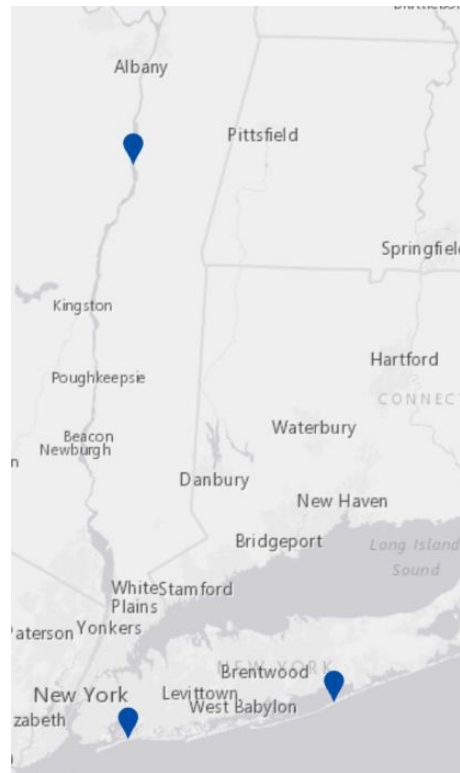
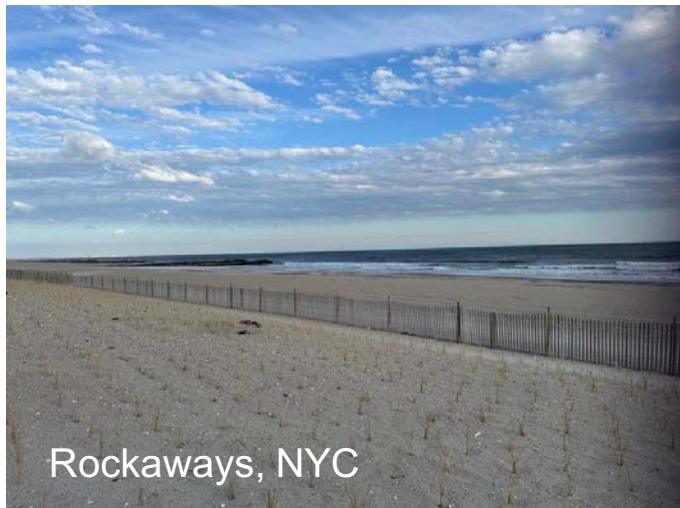
Data from **ONONDAGA CREEK NEAR CARDIFF NY** (8.7 miles away)

Water level: 1.36' (NWS Flood Status: Not defined)

[\(Click here for full riverine details from USGS\)](#)

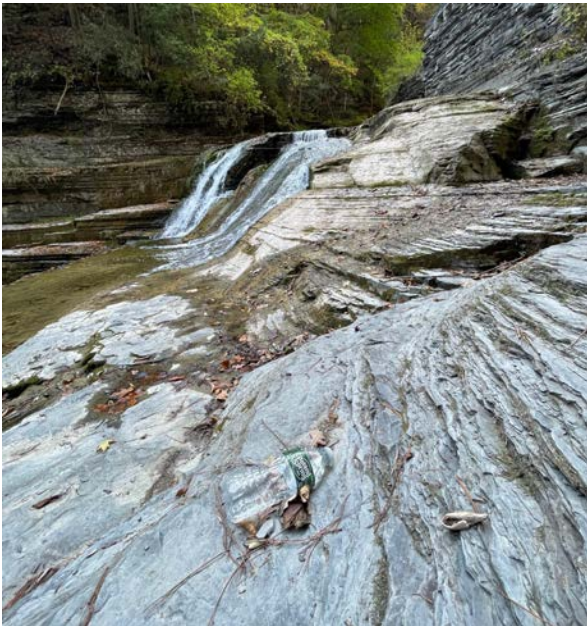


Coast Snap: 3 locations



Litter Watch

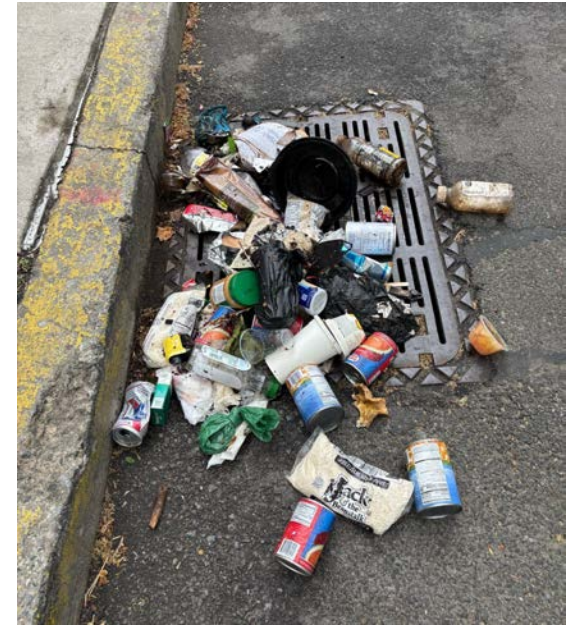
Tracking litter in and near waters across NY.



Robert H. Treman State Park



Hudson River

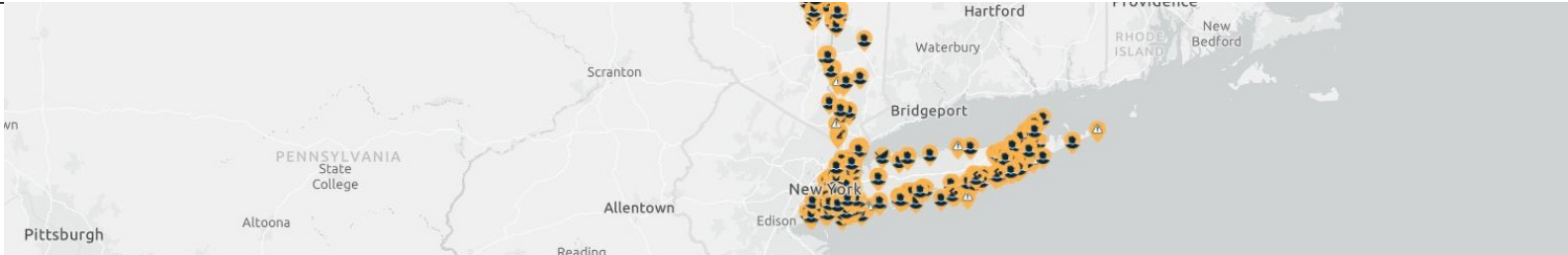


Brooklyn, NYC

Search
reports
on
website
(not
app)



NY MyCoastFlood WatchStorm ReporterCoastSnapLitter WatchSearch ReportsDownload AppMy AccountMore...



Filter Reports

All Report Types

All Counties

All Communities

All Localities

Start date

End date

☐ Update live with new reports

Download These Reports

Queens County, NY

CoastSnap | December 15, 2025 at 1:29 pm



Queens County, NY

Flood Watch | December 6, 2025 at 8:46 am

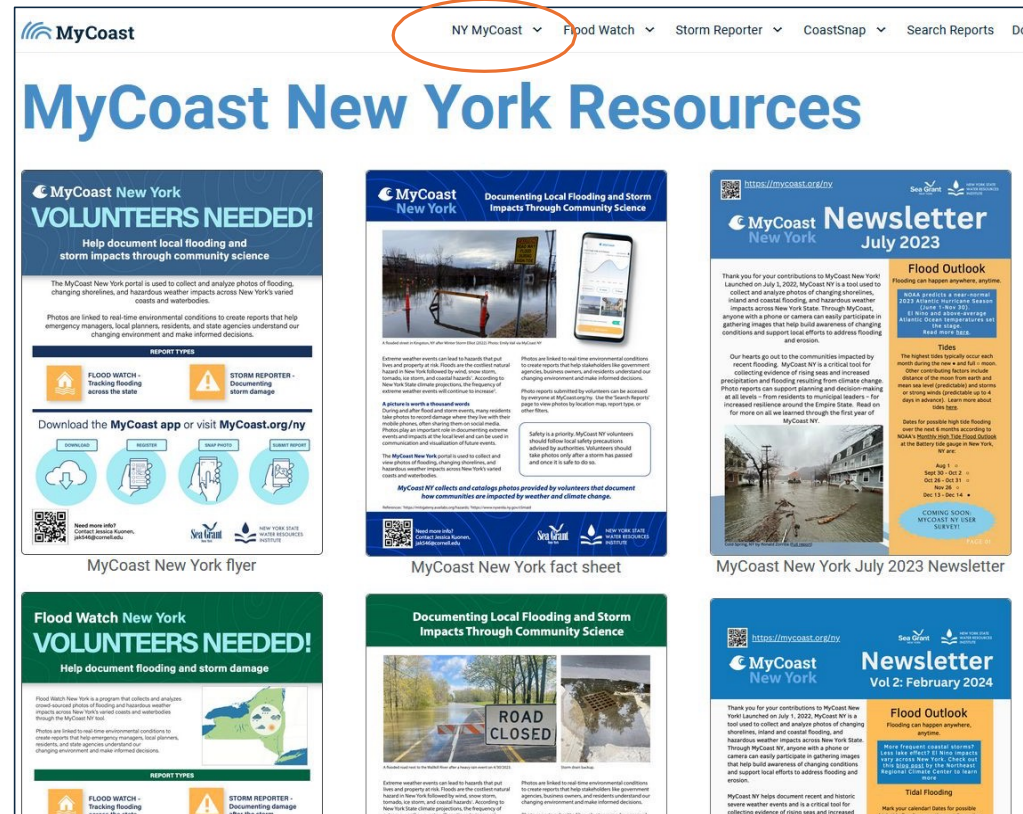


Queens County, NY

Flood Watch | December 4, 2025 at 7:06 am

Resources on website

- Flyer
- Factsheets
- Newsletters
- Recordings

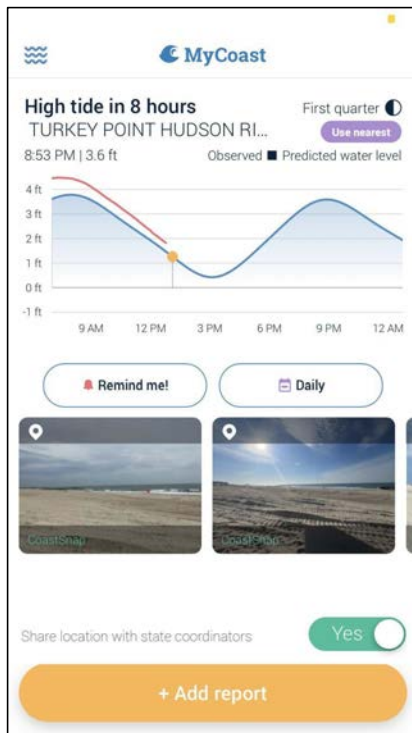


Become a MyCoast NY volunteer

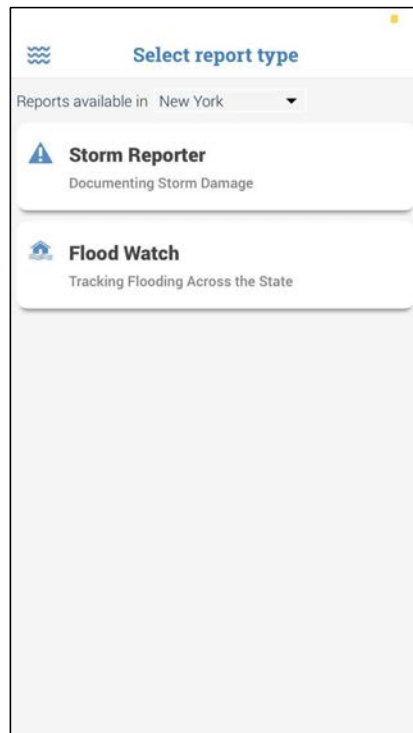
1. Download the MyCoast app or visit MyCoast.org/ny
2. Register
3. Select or snap photo
4. Submit photo report



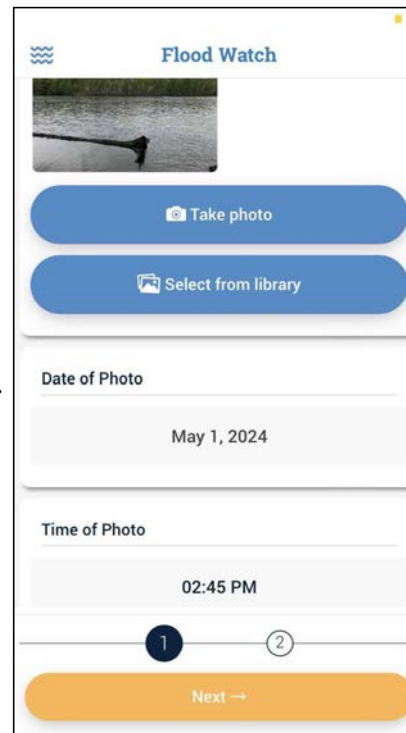
How to upload a photo in the app



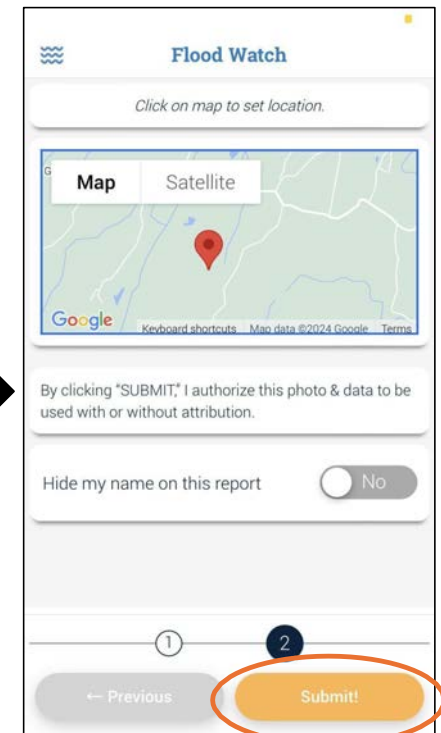
Select: **+ Add Report**



Select: Report type



**Upload/take photo,
check date/time, add
additional info, Next** □

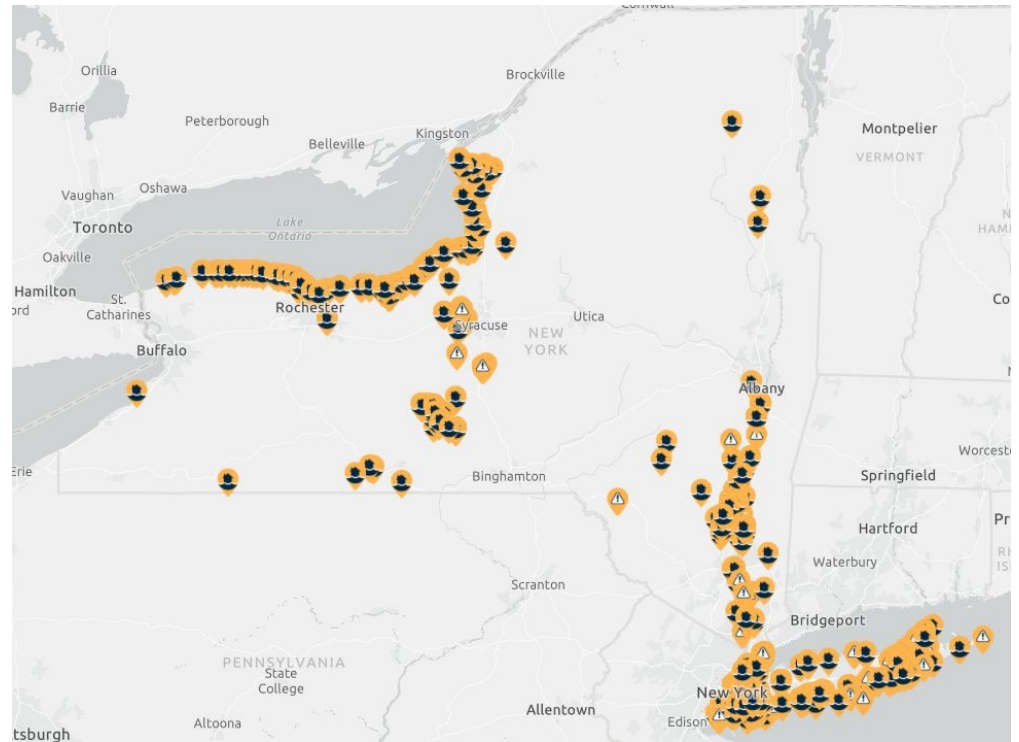


Check location, **Submit!**

By the numbers

Active 3.5 years

- **3,010 photo reports**
 - 1692 Flood Watch
 - 155 Storm Reporter
 - 1066 Coast Snap
 - 97 Litter Watch
- **1162 registered users**
 - 34% have uploaded a report
- **32 NY counties**
 - Queens, Suffolk, Bronx, Monroe, Dutchess



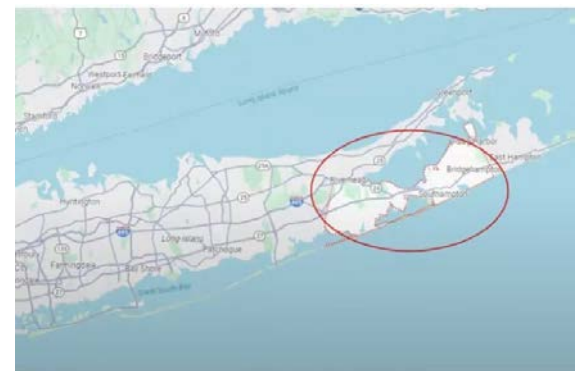
MyCoast and Emergency Management

“Free Force Multiplier”

Example: Ryan J. Murphy, Southampton Emergency Manager

- Emergency Operation Center uses MyCoast for field reporting
- Successes:
 - Monitors floods and storms in real time
 - Stores in one organized place
 - Reports damages from staff and crowdsourced reports
 - Organizes to a state/county/municipality/site

Is a cost-free force multiplier, with an estimated cost savings of \$100,000 annually.



Emergency Management

Using MyCoast



Before an Event

Prior to the occurrence of an event, **historical data** submitted through MyCoast helps identify spatial patterns, thereby highlighting **high-risk areas**. This information allows municipalities to develop more **targeted disaster preparedness plans** and take steps to reduce these impacts.

During an Event

MyCoast users can upload disaster reports through the app or portal as a hazard unfolds. In some municipalities, this information informs **real-time emergency management**.

Your safety comes first! Please only report impacts when it is safe to do so.

After an Event

Following a disaster, reports collected help document impacts and trends. This information supports municipalities' **post-disaster analysis** and helps to build **future resiliency**.

Download the MyCoast mobile app or visit the online portal at **MyCoast.org/NY**.

Increasing MyCoast Use in Tompkins County

- Goals:

- Increase records in database
- Increase use of data by decision makers
- Engage community
 - Identify problems
 - Envisioning and planning solutions

- Connecting with the public and municipal staff:

- Photos of past flood events
- Potential uses for the MyCoast database



Tompkins County MyCoast Outreach

**Tabling &
Storytelling
Events**
General Public

Presentations
Municipal Groups

Tompkins County MyCoast Outreach



Historic Photos



Photo Title: "Flood Meadow St at Old Elmira Rd."

Photo Date: 1956

Source: New York Heritage Digital Collections



Photo Title: "Truck delivering milk on Buffalo St."

Date: 1935

Source: New York Heritage Digital Collections

MyCoast County Package

- Fact Sheets & Guidance
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - Social Media Guidance & Templates
 - Using Historic Photos
- Data Visualizations
- How to Videos

Emergency Management with MyCoast

MyCoast is a community-driven, scientific database of records of the effects of environmental hazards, with an emphasis on flood events, storm events, and changing coastlines.

Hazard Mitigation Planning with MyCoast

What is MyCoast?

MyCoast is a community-driven, scientific database that documents the effects of environmental hazards, with an emphasis on flood events, storm events, and changing coastlines.

What is Hazard Mitigation Planning?

Hazard Mitigation Planning, or HMP, is a series of actions taken to reduce or eliminate risk to life and property from hazardous events.

The process begins with identifying hazards and describing their impacts, leading to the development and implementation of strategies to reduce those impacts.



Find out more about HMP by visiting FEMA at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/hazard-mitigation-planning>.



1 Prepare 2 Respond 3 Recover



Southamptton, Suffolk County, NY by Peconic Baykeeper

posed to staff's informal updates sent via
nely responses by emergency
punities to hamlets.
the National Weather Service.

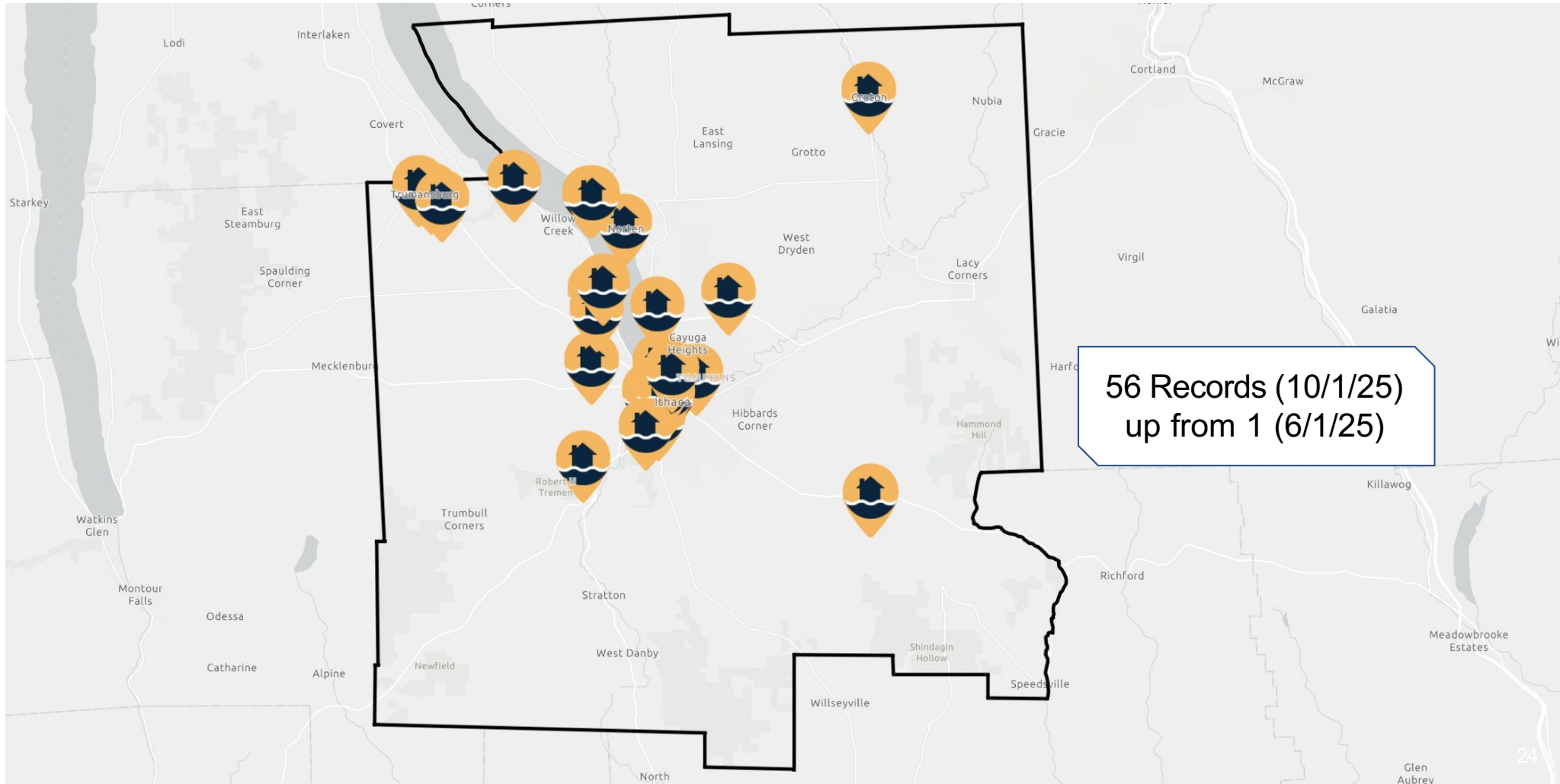
MyCoast: Providing Hyper-local Data to HMPs

- HMPs commonly rely on records of national emergency and disaster declarations in identifying occurrences and losses from past hazardous events. These declarations are often **county-wide and lack detailed locational information**.
- However, **smaller events are consequential**, and MyCoast can help to document both the impacts and extent of **localized events**.
- MyCoast can **add data** in regions that traditional models disregard or where they significantly underperform, such as headwaters.
- MyCoast can help to **identify specific, local causes** of flooding impacts, such as clogged culverts or storm drain overflow, which can facilitate timely interventions.

Visit www.mycoast.org/ny or contact Jessica Kuonen, jak546@cornell.edu, for more info.

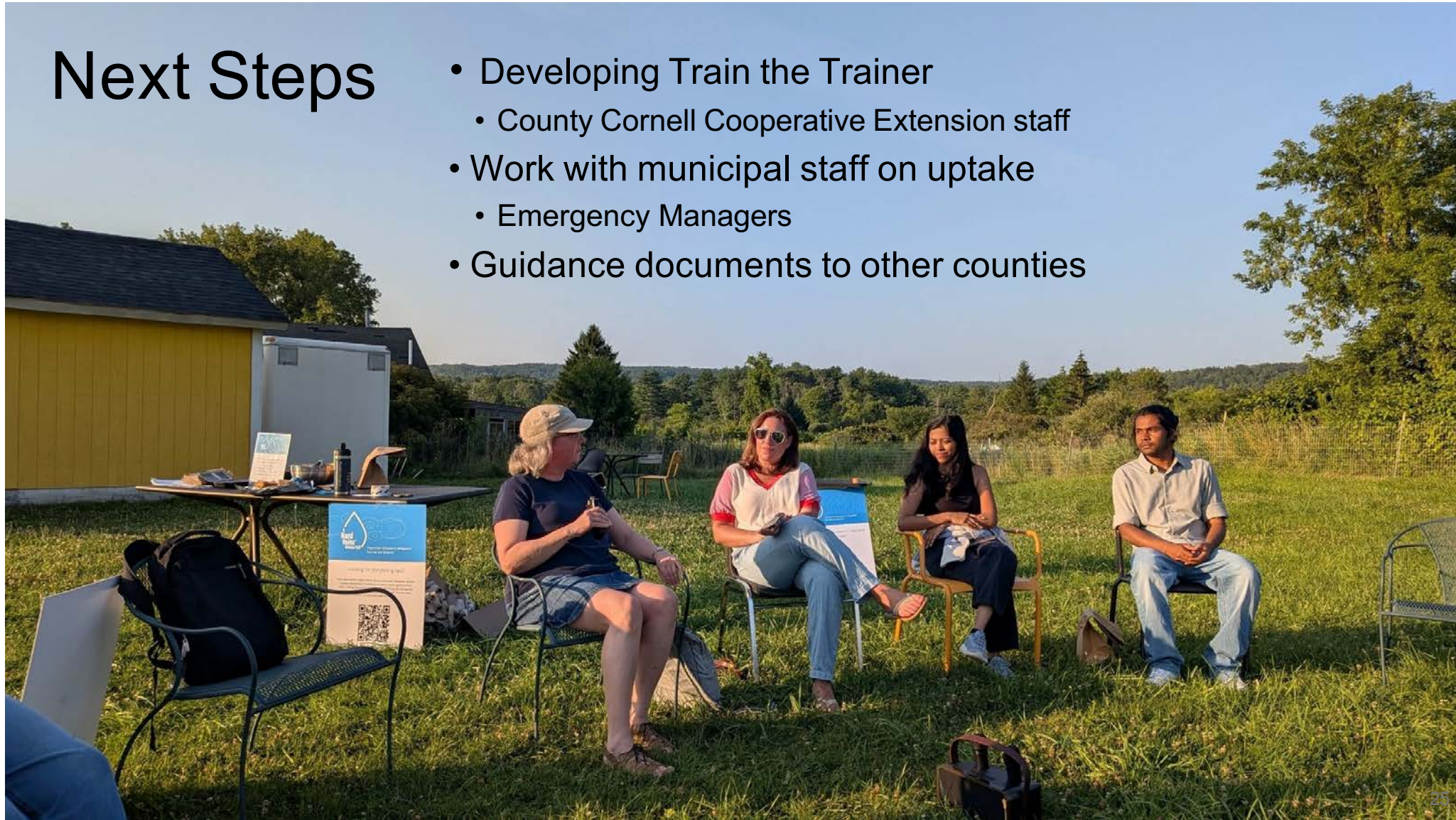


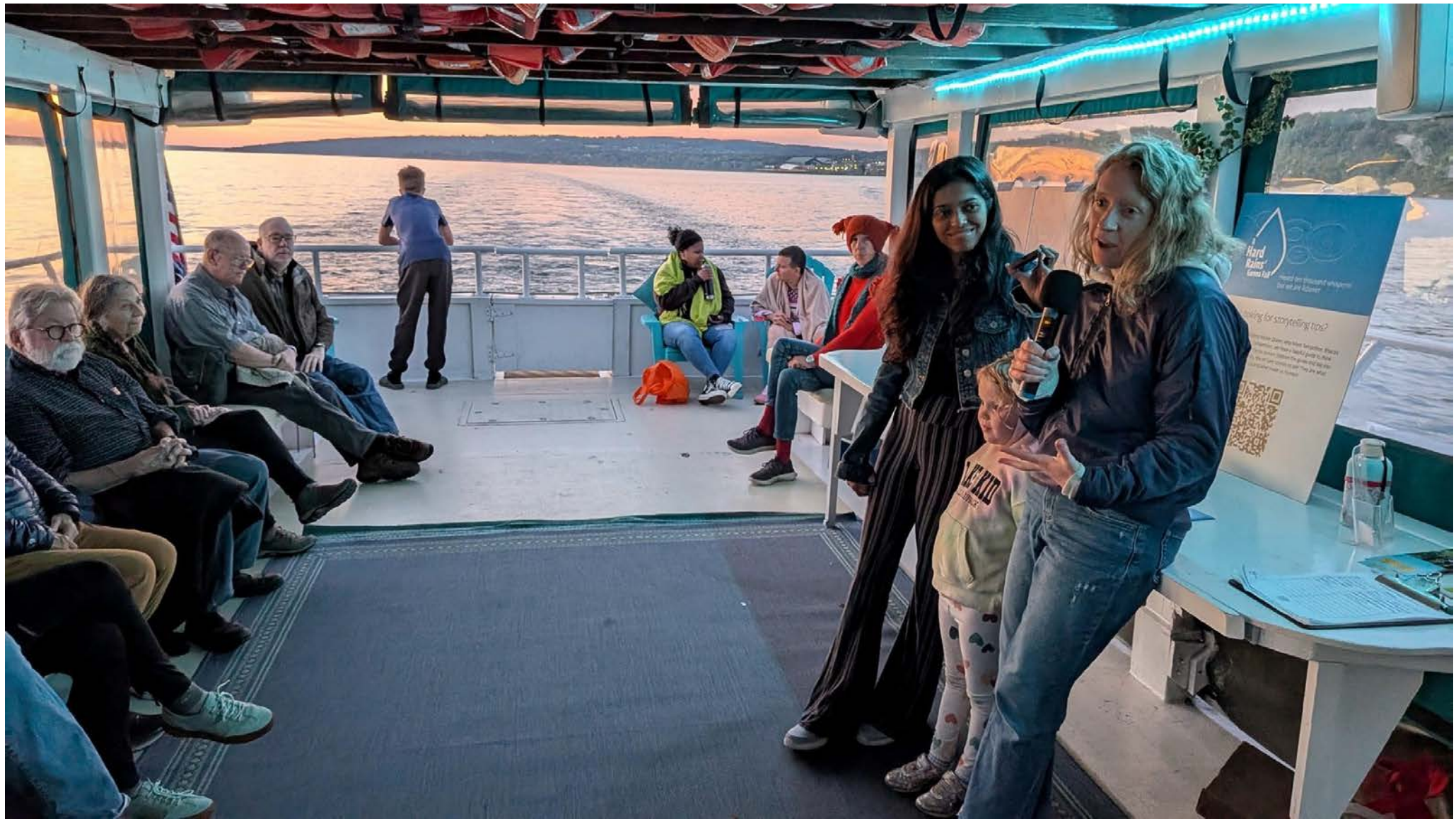
TOMPKINS COUNTY



Next Steps

- Developing Train the Trainer
 - County Cornell Cooperative Extension staff
- Work with municipal staff on uptake
 - Emergency Managers
- Guidance documents to other counties





Thank you!

Jess Kuonen
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Kristen Hychka
NYS Water Resources Institute
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<https://mycoast.org/ny>

