

Adirondack Almanack  
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BLOG ENTRY

## Adirondack Council Releases 2009 State of the Park Report

The Adirondack Council has released its annual State of the Park Report, what it calls "a comprehensive review of how the actions and decisions of local, state and federal officials have helped or harmed the ecology and beauty of the Adirondack Park over the past year." Attorney General Andrew Cuomo received high praise; Governor David Paterson received a split rating. Several Adirondack towns also are being praised for efforts to protect the environment. "There was a time when it seemed like environmental organizations only argued with local government officials in the Adirondacks—those days are over," Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal said in a press release accompanying the report.

Highlights this year include plaudits for Attorney General Andrew Cuomo for his work against weak Bush Administration air pollution standards and for investigating bribery by wind power companies.

Governor David Paterson received what the Council calls a "lukewarm review." Paterson was praised for his proposal to curb carbon dioxide emissions and for signing the new Bigger Better Bottle Bill, but lost points for attempting to stop tax payments to municipalities for Forest Preserve lands and for raiding the Environmental Protection Fund.

The Essex County towns of Elizabethtown, Moriah, Jay and Wilmington are praised for regulating outdoor wood boilers. The Town of Inlet in Fulton County won praise for passing a local law requiring the inspection of existing septic systems when residential and commercial properties change hands.

The entire 18-page report (the 24th annual edition) is available online.

Posted by John Warren