



Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership



2017 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant

Plattsburgh Power: History and Action for the Future

Project Summary

The Friends of the Saranac River Trail received a 2017 CVNHP Local Heritage Grant to raise awareness and appreciation for Plattsburgh, New York’s energy infrastructure and its extraordinary history among residents. Plattsburgh is a member of the New York Preference Power Program, which delivers low-cost Niagara Hydropower to 47 municipal electric utilities and four rural electric cooperatives in the state. The agreement covers a specific allocation of power, and if that is exceeded, the City of Plattsburgh must purchase much higher-priced power on the open market. The Plattsburgh Power project honors this program by informing residents when the City is nearing its allotment of low-cost preference power and risks paying higher prices. Knowing when the City nears its cap of inexpensive power can help people reduce consumption and thereby reduce electric rates for all residents.

The project uses students from SUNY Plattsburgh who attain one credit of college credit for their effort as they receive professional trainings and develop important skills to assist residents to reduce energy consumption and costs. In addition to this behavioral component, our project trains students to deliver 20-minute presentations on the history of Plattsburgh's unique power infrastructure and how the City’s inexpensive preference power from renewable resources has influenced the City’s development.

The project includes research, preparation of materials for presentations, and the presentations themselves. Support was provided by Sunrise Rotary, Mountain Lake PBS (for media training), and City of Plattsburgh (distribution of fliers in utility bills and use

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The Friends of the Saranac River Trail partnered with SUNY-Plattsburgh to train students to give presentations on Plattsburgh’s power history and conservation.

NEIWPC Code	PO12214
Date Complete:	06/30/17
Grant Amount:	\$2,500.00
Non-federal Match:	\$5,000.00
Total Amount:	\$7,500.00