



Our Vision

The Coalition's purpose is to ensure that the County's primary objective in making airport policy is to operate the airport in a manner fully consistent with the protection of: public health, the environment and preservation of the quality of life in Westchester County.

The Coalition exists to protect the Kensico Reservoir and Blind Brook watersheds, surrounding communities and Westchester. We invite you to join us!

Executive Summary

Westchester County owns and oversees operation of the county airport, which lies adjacent to the Kensico Reservoir, the source of drinking water for 9 million people in Westchester and New York City. Ever mindful of this, county airport use must be moderated, contained and managed to minimize environmental impacts and to put residents' needs first---whether public health, natural resources or quality of life. We call on the County to realign county airport use to reflect the loud, clear and consistent expression of Westchester residents' desires at numerous public forums, as well as County Board of Legislators Resolution 245-2003 (attached).

The county airport's detrimental environmental impacts have clearly surpassed the reasonable expectations of residents, as demonstrated by the public's vehement criticism of increased noise pollution. The county airport is now the third busiest in New York State. The County needs to acknowledge that recent airport policies have had a negative impact upon surrounding communities. County policy should, at a minimum, restore the quality of life for those suffering from these negative impacts.

We do not advocate closing or crippling the county airport. What we do advocate is for the County's longstanding policy against expansion to once again guide airport operations and planning. This means more than simply avoiding new construction or other changes that directly increase flights.

Every operational decision at the county airport, especially those having long term consequences, must be made only after careful consideration of how it fits into a broader airport policy and a determination of any short and long-term impact on aircraft operations and the environment. The County's ultimate goal should be for the county airport to have no greater impact on air, water or noise pollution than surrounding land uses.

Failure to adhere to these strategies could result in catastrophic financial and health impacts---an intolerable burden upon County taxpayers and residents.

The Coalition is a watchdog organization— organizing allies and elected officials to keep the public and media informed about changes in county airport operations.

What are the Coalition's Goals?

1. We oppose expansion of the county airport's capacity for air traffic in any form, in keeping with Westchester County Board of Legislators Resolution 245-2003.
2. The County must use its power to secure relief for residents from worsening environmental impacts, including noise, air and water pollution.
3. The County must scrutinize each and every aspect of county airport operations to ensure that health, environmental and quality of life concerns are addressed.
4. The County must maximize its control over county airport capacity and development, including any remedies available under federal and state law.
5. Better ways must be found to involve all airport stakeholders, particularly community organizations and environmental representatives, in airport planning and policy-making, such as task forces, public forums and regular meetings with County personnel. The County's Airport Advisory Board should not be the exclusive avenue for the public to express its opinion. Nevertheless, the County should act in partnership with the Board-- seek out and act on its input, share information with it, and ensure that its makeup faithfully reflects the interests of county residents and surrounding communities in accordance with its enabling legislation.
6. The County must seek the services of a credible legal professional to support the implementation of a policy which prioritizes the protection of public health, the environment and the traveling public.
7. The County must incorporate these principles and values into clear goals, strategies and commitments for (a) the Airport Master Plan revision in progress; (b) the Terminal Use Agreement; and (c) capital projects at the county airport.

Organizations Comprising the Coalition (as of 10/19)

- Citizens for a Responsible County Airport
- Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC)
- Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group
- National Quiet Skies Coalition
- Purchase Environmental Protective Association (PEPA)
- Westchester for Change
- Usonia, Doral Greens, BelleFair and King Merritt homeowner associations
- WESPAC Foundation
- Indivisible Scarsdale
- The Quiet Coalition

JOIN THE COALITION NOW! PROTECT THE KENSICO RESERVOIR and BLIND BROOK WATERSHEDS, SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY!

Go to www.coalition-to-prevent-westchester-airport-expansion.org (2/19)