



CASE STUDY

AdkAction Educates Road Professionals and Municipalities on more Sustainable Road Salt Practices

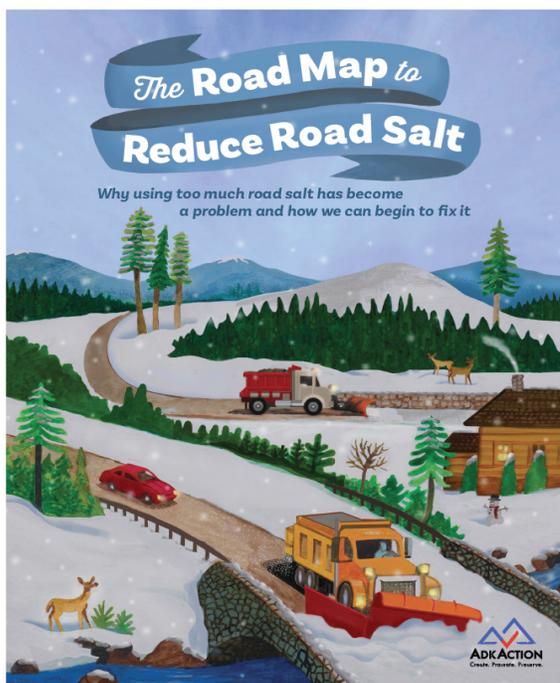
The mission of AdkAction is to create projects that address unmet needs, promote vibrant communities, and preserve the character of the Adirondacks. AdkAction's current projects include preventing road salt pollution, promoting local artists and arts institutions, conserving habitat for monarchs and other pollinators, increasing access to high-speed internet, and organizing Property Assessors Conferences to share best practices.

Challenge

The Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), AdkAction's primary research partner, published a study in 2015 showing that 52% of streams and 77% of lakes within the Adirondack Park have been impacted by runoff from paved roads. Since 1980, roughly 6.5 million tons of road salt have been applied to roadways in the Adirondack Park. The Adirondacks contain about 6,000 miles of streams and 195,000 acres of lakes.

Solution

AdkAction conducted outreach and education targeting public road management professionals (PRMPs), New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT), and the Adirondack municipalities. Peer-reviewed research along with materials outlining negative impacts of road salt were used to educate residents in the Adirondack region. This included local road salt research and best management practices for sustainable salt use compiled in the "Roadmap to Reduce Road Salt" guide.



CHALLENGE

- A study published by the Adirondack Watershed Institute in 2015 shows that 52% of streams and 77% of lakes in the Adirondack Park have been impacted by runoff from paved roads
- Over 190,000 tons of road salt are applied to roadways in the Adirondacks each year

SOLUTION

- AdkAction provided education on local road salt research and best management practices for salt use

RESULTS

- AdkAction and The FUND for Lake George held a summit inviting 102 municipalities to sign a pledge to reduce road salt use
- AdkAction produced a 'Roadmap to Reduce Salt' guide for public road management professionals, NYS DOT, and the Adirondack municipalities



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Results

AdkAction held an Adirondack-wide Salt Summit with over 120 attendees in partnership with The FUND for Lake George. 102 municipalities were invited and asked to sign a pledge to reduce road salt usage. So far, AdkAction received pledges from 10 municipalities. The 2017 Salt Summit provided a forum for all stakeholders to hear from watershed researchers, industry professionals performing equipment demonstrations, and to learn from case studies illustrating areas that have significantly reduced their dependence on road salt. AdkAction distributed pre- and post-surveys and plan to analyze and submit results.

Online media

- [Website](#)
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“NYSP2I fills the funding gap between large and cumbersome state and federal funding programs and small, \$2K - \$5K grant programs. The funding provided by NYSP2I really allows organizations to complete work that is vital to protecting the environment, and the types of programs funded are critical to our maturation as a society living in harmony with nature.”

– Brittany Christenson
Executive Director; AdkAction

NYSP2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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