

# *Eco-Commercial Parks: Possibilities and Potential*

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# What is an Eco-Park?

An eco-industrial park is a community of manufacturing and service businesses working together to improve environmental and economic performance through collaboration in managing environmental and resource issues, including energy, resources, water, and materials.

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‘Eco-parks support collaborative partnerships between businesses, local governments, and the wider community with the goal of improving the economic performance of the participating companies while minimizing their environmental impact.’

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~cushman/courses/engs171/EIPs.pdf>

Eco-park stakeholders work together to incorporate the following features:

- ▶ ***Targeted economic development strategy***
- ▶ ***By-product synergy***: Businesses cycle material and energy (waste of one = product for another)

# Eco-park features - continued

- ▶ ***Ecological design:*** Green buildings minimize resource use and fit into the natural surroundings.
- ▶ ***Green infrastructure:*** Traditional infrastructure is replaced

# Eco-park features - continued

- ▶ ***Energy Efficiencies:*** Efficient energy usage cuts costs and reduces environmental impact.
  
- ▶ ***Networking services:*** Businesses share services.

# Benefits of Eco-Industrial Parks

## Monetary benefits to companies:

- ▶ Decreased production costs
- ▶ Decreased operation costs
- ▶ Decrease energy consumption and needs

# Benefits of Eco-Industrial Parks

## Environmental benefits:

- ▶ Decreased demand on natural resources
- ▶ Decreased energy usage
- ▶ Decreased waste

# Benefits of Eco-Industrial Parks

## Societal benefits:

- ▶ Better local economy ..... more jobs
- ▶ Cleaner air, cleaner water .... better community health
- ▶ Decrease demand on sewer system, landfill etc.

# Eco- Parks - Quick Takeaways

- ▶ **Eco- parks in the US are at capacity or expanding capacity.**
- ▶ **They are a good fit for areas with limited ability to increase energy capacity.**

## Eco- Parks - Quick Takeaways - cont.

- ▶ **Companies are interested in intentional and sustainable design features of eco-parks.**
- ▶ **Eco-industrial parks are very attractive to companies that want space consistent with their image and reflective of their commitment to sustainability.**

## Eco- Parks - Quick Takeaways - cont

- ▶ **There are no eco-industrial parks in New York State.**
- ▶ **First eco-park in NY will generate positive press and maximize the park's exposure**