



WNY Regional Sustainability Planning Project



WNY Regional Economic Development Council
May 2, 2013

WNY Regional Sustainability Plan Planning Process

- The Planning Consortium and Working Groups met monthly to develop goals, collect data, and develop strategies and projects.
- Seven working groups for the following focus areas:
 - Energy,
 - Land use and livable communities,
 - Transportation,
 - Agriculture and forestry,
 - Water resources, and
 - Waste management
 - Economic Development*
- Over 270 members of the public attended and provided feedback in public workshops in July and October 2012.
- Tier II GHG analysis was completed for the Region.
- Final WNY Plan is available: www.sustainable-ny.com.



WNY Regional Sustainability Plan Planning Process

- **Planning Goals** set for each focus area
- **Strategies** were developed for each goal.
- **Sustainability Indicators** chosen to establish a baseline and as a tool to measure progress toward achieving goals.
- Measurable **Targets** were set for selected indicators in each focus area.
- Categorized list of **Project Ideas** that are in line with the identified goals and strategies.



Plan Overlap with REDC

- An **Economic Development** working group was convened to oversee the six technical areas that would ensure the priorities of the REDC.
- Projects identified in the Plan were reviewed for consistency with the priorities of the REDC Plan.
- Working closely with the REDC Smart Growth work group for implementation of the Plan.

WNY Region Sustainability Vision Statement

The WNY region seeks to create a future where social and environmental issues are addressed within a framework of a sustainable regional economy. The pursuit of sustainability includes the creation and maintenance of conditions under which our communities utilize the resources we have in the most effective ways to permit social and economic growth while preserving natural resources.

WNY Region Sustainability Common Themes

- GHG Emission Reduction
- Enhancement of the Regional Economy
- Government and Policy Programs
- Consideration of Diverse land Uses
- Conservation of Natural Resources
- Education
- Revitalization of Main Streets
- Economic Viability of Agriculture
- Sustainable Energy Use and Production
- Improve and enhance Air Quality

Energy Summary of Final Goals

- Promote **energy efficiency and conservation efforts** in the most environmentally sound and cost effective way, promoting access to all incomes and business sizes and resulting in real reduction of GHG emissions;
- Increase **renewable energy** generation in WNY;
- **Upgrade existing conventional energy infrastructure** in an economically and environmentally sustainable way; and
- Support **innovative energy projects** that are consistent with goals and economic development.

Energy Strategies

- Promote **energy efficiency** programs in business and industry through establishment of a Green Business Roundtable



Energy Targets

- **Increase** renewable energy generation to 75% by 2025.
- **Increase** the implementation of NYSERDA-funded energy efficiency projects by 34%, or to 250,000 MMBtu by 2015.
- **Double** the number of Climate Smart Communities (18 communities) in WNY by 2015.
- **Reduce** the total regional GHG emissions from a 2010 baseline by 30% by 2020 of 17.5 million MTCO_{2e}.

Land Use and Livable Communities

Summary of Final Goals

- Increase number of municipalities that are developing, adopting and implementing **smart growth** policies
- Develop a mechanism for regional land use planning **assistance and collaboration**
- Focus development in areas with **existing infrastructure**
- Encourage expansion of **location-efficient housing** and improved infrastructure to **existing housing**
- Preserve, protect and enhance **viability of agriculture** including **urban agriculture**.
- Encourage, enhance and coordinate regional **greenway and waterfront** planning to connect the public to natural resources and recreation, while **promoting economic development**

Land Use and Livable Communities Strategies

- Revitalize **main streets and community centers** through redevelopment and adaptive reuse of abandoned, underutilized or historic buildings and brownfield sites by providing municipalities with funding technical assistance and/or streamlining the review process.



Land Use and Livable Communities Targets

- Keep the developed land per capita **constant** through 2017 from the 2011 baseline.
- Have five municipalities per year (one per county) **update their comprehensive plan** and/or zoning code to incorporate smart growth principles over the next five years.
- **Reduce** the proportion of median income spent on transportation and housing to 50% by 2020 and 45% by 2035.

Transportation Summary of Final Goals

- Increase and improve **alternatives to driving alone** through interagency partnerships and cooperative efforts, especially in serving the transportation-disadvantaged.
- Improve regional **fuel efficiency** especially in fleets and through strategic investment and planning to increase the use of **alternative fuels**.
- Prioritize transportation infrastructure projects in line with regional smart growth efforts, especially through **“Complete Streets”** principles.

Transportation Strategies

- ◉ Develop new **alternative transportation programs** through strategic partnerships particularly programs that increase options for under-served populations.

- Example: Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) partnering with Go Bike Buffalo, Buffalo CarShare and the NFTA to increase transit trips, ridesharing and biking.



Transportation Target

- **Reduce** vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) by 3% through 2020.



Agriculture and Forestry Summary of Final Goals

- Strengthen the **economic viability** of agriculture and forestry enterprises.
- Achieve more **efficient uses** of energy inputs and maximize utilization of agricultural and forest industry **by-products for energy production**.
- Increase support from government officials and the public for **protection and continued use of farmland** for agricultural purposes, and to **strengthen business climate** for agriculture and forestry.
- Promote environmentally **sustainable management systems** for the agriculture and forestry sector.

Agriculture and Forestry Strategies

- Establish as **WNY Food Hub** or Agricultural Processing Facility.



Agriculture and Forestry Target

- **Keep constant** the acres of harvested cropland through 2017 from the 2007 baseline.



Water Resources Summary of Final Goals

- Improve **regional water quality** through a focus on identification and management of pollution sources and protection of healthy watersheds.
- **Improve** regional water management systems and increase regional water use **efficiency**.
- Address **regional water quantity** concerns through a focus on flooding, storm water/runoff, infiltration, and regional water use.
- Ensure better **coordination of water management** with land use and conservation planning and decisions regarding where future development occurs, including continued and increased public access.

Water Resources Strategies

- **Educate** the public on the ways that they impact and/or improve the health of local watershed, reduce stress on **water management infrastructure**, and promote water conservation through public education programs and demonstration projects.
 - Example: BN Riverkeeper Stormwater Drain ID programs



Water Resources Strategies

- Identify and implement **green infrastructure practices** (i.e. permeable pavement, raingardens, bio-retention ponds, ect.) that reduce excessive stormwater flows and runoff, which are a leading sources of non-point source pollution.
 - Example: City of Buffalo's Pervious Pavement Project



Water Resources Targets

- **Reduce** stormwater flow and frequency of CSOs by 40% over a period of 20 years.
- **Reduce** the total miles of impaired streams by 20% (156 miles) to 625 miles by 2035.



Waste Management Summary of Final Goals

- Reduce amount of **municipal solid waste (MSW)** that is disposed of (via landfill or incineration). Accomplish this through reducing waste generation and/or increase in recycling
- Maximize the **diversion of organic wastes** from disposal facilities (landfill or incineration) and **beneficial reuse** of organic material.
- Reduce the amount of **construction and demolition (C&D)** waste that is disposed of by reducing waste generation and/or increasing recycling
- Increase the number of **waste transport vehicles** that use **alternative fuels**.

Waste Management Strategies

- Increase **MSW recycling operations** (collection, recovery, and processing) in WNY and the use of recycled MSW materials in goods produced in the region.



Waste Management Targets

- **Reduce** municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal to 0.11 tons per person per year (0.6 pounds per person per day) by 2030.



WNY Regional Sustainability Plan Implementation

- **WNY REDC Smart Growth Work Group will work to ensure implementation of the Plan**
 - Ensure the fluidity of the Plan moving forward.
 - Work to identify and provide direction/assistance for regional projects that meet the strategies of the Plan.
 - Monitor implementation of the Plan through the implementation of projects by individual project proponents.
 - Assess progress toward established sustainability targets.
 - Conduct re-analysis of planning indicators as necessary.
 - Promote consideration of the goals of the Sustainability Plan in REDC decision-making process.

Project Contact Information

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