**WNY Regional Council Initiative Criteria – Scoring System**

Draft from Criteria Committee – September 30, 2011

The Committee is proposing a scoring system which the Council will use to prioritize Council strategies, projects, actions and policies for funding and inclusion in the Strategic Plan Implementation agenda. (These would include the projects and actions recommended to the Council from the working groups.) The Council adopted at the September 6, 2011 Council meeting eight **Priority Project Selection Criteria** that will be used to evaluate projects and other actions central to the strategic plan.

1. Creates Jobs
2. Maximizes Financial Return
3. Inclusive
4. Oriented to Young Adults
5. Promotes Smart Growth
6. Builds upon Strengths (leveraging Natural Resources, fresh water, renewable energy, agriculture, architecture)
7. Regional (impact beyond municipal borders)
8. Improves Region’s Image

The Criteria Committee recommends the following scoring system:

Core Criteria plus Additional Criteria Met

**Jobs and Investment criteria are considered “deal breakers”** whose impact must be met in order to qualify for funding.

If the Jobs and Investment criteria are not met, the initiative will not be considered further.

If the core criteria are met, then projects are ranked according to all criteria using the following impact system.

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| **Priority Initiative Selection Criteria Scoring** | **Measure/Impact** |
| 1. Creates/Retains Jobs |  |
| # of new jobs directly created over 5 years | # jobs |
| # of jobs directly retained (with explanation of risk) over 5 years | # jobs |
| Average annual wage of jobs created/retained | $ wage |
| IMPLAN Multiplier Impact | # jobs |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Maximizes Return on Investment |  |
| New Investment in construction (excluding state $) | $ |
| New investment in Research & Development (excluding state$) | $ |
| New investment in equipment (excluding state $) | $ |
| New investment in training (excluding state $) | $ |
| New investment in infrastructure (excluding state $) | $ |
| New investment (other), specify (excluding state $) | $ |
| Number of new visitors attracted to region and/or increased visitor spending | # visitors |
| Ratio of public/private dollars invested | ratio |
| % & value of product/service exported outside the region | % and $ |
| % & value of purchases within region | % and $ |
| Implementable (readiness) | Explain financial commitments, status of required approvals |
| 1. Inclusive (reflects & promotes diversity and/or reduces disparities within the region) |  |
| Increase in number of underrepresented\* populations and veterans in workforce | # |
| 1. Promotes Smart Growth |  |
| Located in developed areas or areas designated for concentrated infill development | Yes/No |
| Protects, preserves & enhances region’s resources including agriculture land, forests, water, air quality, recreation and open space, and significant historic resources | Yes/No |
| Reuses developed land & buildings | Yes/No |
| Promotes sustainability by using renewable energy or reducing energy consumption | Yes/No |
| 1. Oriented to Young Adults |  |
| Increase in number of 18-35 year olds moving into or staying in the region over 5 years | # |
| 1. Build upon Strengths |  |
| Enhances region’s natural resources (fresh water, renewable energy, agriculture and architecture) | Yes/No |
| Enhances target industries (logistics, tourism, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, professional services, higher education, life & health Sciences | Yes/No |
| 1. Regional |  |
| Impact in 3 or more counties in region (i.e., jobs created/retained in 3 or more counties, investment in 3 or more counties, increase visitors in 3 or more counties, workforce residing in 3 or more counties) | Yes/No  Specify how & where |
| 1. Improves Region’s Image |  |
| # of out of region positive news stories generated in next 5 years | # |
|  |  |

**\*** The Western New York REDC will identify individuals that are typically underrepresented and underserved in the Western New York region. Underrepresented groups may include, but are not limited to:

* Racial or ethnic minority groups
* People with disabilities
* Low-income and working poor
* Immigrants
* Veterans
* Members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community
* Females