

Southern Tier Economic Development Council

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Criteria for Project Evaluation – I recommend to the Council that the criteria be revised from what was stated on November 7th:

- 50 points for sustainable economic development
- 20 points for measurable impact in five years
- 15 points for niches promoting regionalism
- 15 points for vibrant communities and quality of life

to the following criteria:

50 points: Contributes to the reduction of CO₂ equivalent emissions

Rationale: Sustainable* economic development goes hand in hand with a sustainable* environment. Without climate stability, efforts to plan for and implement a sustainable economy are derailed by disaster clean-up efforts and costs.

Definition: *A definition of “sustainability” is needed ... 5 years? 7 generations?

40 points: Promotes vibrant communities and quality of life

Rationale: A vibrant community in which local people have input into their village, town, and region, will generate sustainable revenue. GDP can be replaced by indices of well-being. Linear growth for growth sake and for debt management can be replaced by the community’s meeting its essential needs without long distance imports, thereby reducing fossil fuels in transport, production, and disposal.

10 points: Conducive to measurable impact in five years

Rationale: There needs to be confidence that the above goals will be achievable and it is important that they are moving in the right direction within 5 years. A careful selection of projects is necessary, ensuring that long-term meaningful goals for the community are not sacrificed for short-term economic gain for a few. The measurement tool must be broader than economic gain, including an index of well-being.

Thank you for holding the public comment sessions. May the “public will” be incorporated into the Council’s Five Year Plan, including the evaluation criteria I’ve suggested.