A summary of the full plan released February 2015
This document summarizes *A New Way to Plan for Buffalo Niagara*, a regional plan launched under the banner of One Region Forward. Both the larger plan and this abbreviated summary incorporate three years of research, community engagement, partnership building and planning and offer a basic framework for moving the region toward a more sustainable, resilient, prosperous and opportunity-rich future.

The parties that shaped this plan do not, individually, have the power and authority to direct actions beyond their distinct borders or missions. With that in mind, this document is designed as a tool to measure progress against shared community values and recognizes that there are multiple approaches to achieve the regional performance to which we aspire.

Support for this effort was provided by a $2 million grant through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, an interagency collaboration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

A cross-sectional partnership of public, private, and nonprofit organizations provided project oversight for One Region Forward through its 3-year planning and engagement process.

**Project Leadership:** Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (administrative leadership); University at Buffalo Regional Institute (planning, research, and engagement); Buffalo Niagara Partnership (private sector engagement); and Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (grant fiscal administration).

**Additional members of the Steering Committee:** Erie County; Niagara County; City of Buffalo; City of Niagara Falls; Association of Erie County Governments; Niagara County Supervisors Association; New York State Department of Transportation; Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement; VOICE Buffalo; Local Initiatives Support Corporation Buffalo; Western New York Environmental Alliance; Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper; The John R. Oishei Foundation; Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.; Empire State Development, WNY Office; New York State Department of State, Division of Smart Growth; and Niagara Falls Housing Authority.

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in the publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.
Buffalo Niagara is writing a new story about itself – a story about how an old “rust belt” city-region is retooling itself in the 21st century. It is a story of renewing great places and people with fresh ideas, and working together to use our land more wisely, get around more efficiently, create great places to live, ensure a healthy food supply, and meet the challenges of climate change and a transforming energy economy.

Thousands of citizens in Buffalo Niagara in a variety of organizations – governments, companies, advocacy groups, neighborhood associations and more – have been working on these issues for years. One Region Forward brings those efforts into sharper focus and seeks to make better, faster progress on all that needs to be done.

We have some very serious resources for action. The Western New York Regional Economic Development Council and Governor Cuomo’s Buffalo Billion Investment Development Plan are focusing state investments toward supporting existing communities, Main Streets, downtowns, transit-oriented development and former industrial sites. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s Cleaner, Greener Communities program offers significant funding for projects that support regional sustainability. Our Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, is aligning its allocation of state and federal transportation funding with the tenets of One Region Forward.

Perhaps even more important than the resources aligning for implementation is the incredible partnerships and capacity we have built through this planning process. More than ever before, we are working together towards a common vision for Buffalo Niagara.
COMMUNITY VALUES DRIVE THE FUTURE OF PLANNING IN BUFFALO NIAGARA

It takes community values and vision, coordination of efforts from the past and those now underway, community involvement, ideas on policies and innovative programs, and action steps to make the plan a reality.
A Collaborative Effort
Building on the Planning Already Underway
Listening to the Community
Learning from the Data

5 Big Ideas to Shape Our Strategies
Moving Forward Together

Our Values...will continue to guide how we move forward and make decisions that affect everyone across the region.

Our Values...and how they compare with the current path we’re on.

Our Values...shape and inform the ideas and strategies.

5,000+ citizens...continued to be expressed, sharpened and refined by many.

...and how they compare with the current path we’re on.

64 Municipalities and the Data to Understand Our Choices As a Region
The choices we make today and their impacts on our future

5 Big Ideas Developed to get us closer to realizing our regional vision

COUNTLESS NUMBERS WHO CAN SEE THE WORK CONTINUE

Engaged in a multitude of ways to share their vision and add their voice to the conversation.

The choices we make today and their impacts on our future

It will take all of us to make sure our values matter for our region’s future.

Municipalities and the Data to Understand Our Choices As a Region
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WHAT DO WE SAY WE VALUE?

There is an ongoing public conversation in Buffalo Niagara about where we want to go as a region. The plans we have made in the recent past, and the tens of thousands of citizens who participated in their formation, are an important part of that conversation.

WHAT DO OUR PLANS TELL US ABOUT OUR VISION AND VALUES?

A Competitive, creative, equitable economy

Build where we already have infrastructure

Make it easier for people to get around

Repair, renew and redesign housing for a changing population

Protect farm land, parks and natural areas

Use less energy and promote green energy

Restore and protect water and natural resources

Embrace culture and heritage

Invest in and connect our parks

Foster collaboration, transparency and diverse perspectives

Visit us online to read the full statements and how they were developed: www.oneregionforward.org/values

WHERE ARE WE?

Our values can be found in our plans.

Tens of thousands of citizens have guided local plans in our region over many years.

Over 160 plans across Buffalo Niagara reveal common themes and values we share.

Concerned citizens, community leaders, representatives from our business community, and our region’s elected officials were afforded an opportunity to weigh in on the initial regional vision online and in-person.

Plan Library available online at: www.oneregionforward.org/plan-library
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Trends over the past decades show a disconnect between what we value as a region and what’s been happening. For instance, while we desire as a region to build where infrastructure already exists, we’re using more land today for few people, necessitating the creation of new roads that are costly to maintain and increasing automobile dependence.

We have less people, but use more land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGE IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPED LAND, 1970-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We commute to work by car more and take transit less.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUTING MODES, 1970 VS 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drive Alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We drive more than twice as far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED DAILY PER CAPITA, 1970 VS 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We build new homes and roads, empty our cities, lose farmland, increase our infrastructure costs and tax burden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% CHANGE IN TOTAL HOUSING UNITS VS. % CHANGE IN VACANT HOUSING UNITS, 1970-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>204%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACRES OF FARMLAND 1969 VS 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMLAND LOST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN JUST THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, WE’VE ADDED...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>525 MILES</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW ROADS</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SPEND AN AVERAGE OF</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0.75</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Visit us online to learn more and see data sources and methodology notes: www.oneregionforward.org/what-the-data-tells-us

If our actions don’t match our values, what can we do about it?

One Region Forward presents a range of tools to support informed decisions around what the region values. These include alternative futures on how we develop our land and transportation systems, five big ideas and dozens of strategies that we can collaborate around, a dedicated cross-sector group of organizations committing to support implementation of this plan, and a series of performance measures that can tell us if we are making progress in achieving the regional performance to which we aspire.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WHERE CAN WE GO FROM HERE?

Over the past 40 years, our region has continued to spread out, even as we lost population.

Land that has experienced development in some form is shown in grey

WHERE WE MIGHT BE HEADING

The Business As Usual approach assumes the trends of the past will continue. Projecting trends out 40 years offers a scenario of what our future might look like if we continue on our current path.

It could mean that new jobs and new homes would continue to grow on rural land while homes in first-ring suburbs as well as cities would be abandoned.

PROJECTING TRENDS

One Region Forward’s research team used Envision Tomorrow, a scenario planning tool, to evaluate the impacts of different land use decisions, incorporating myriad regional data sources and spatial regression to project future possibilities. The “do nothing” scenario assumes an unaltered projection of the region’s development patterns from 1990 to 2010 out to the year 2050, with modest growth in jobs and homes. It shows how conducting business as usual will play out over future years, in terms of new development, transportation investments, green space protection and fiscal return on investment.

Citizen-driven visions for the future embedded in alternative scenarios offer a comparison for what our future could look like if we deviate from our current path.

Visit us online to learn more: www.oneregionforward.org/business-as-usual

WHAT COULD OUR REGION LOOK LIKE?

Thousands of citizens across Buffalo Niagara tested their values through maps, surveys, in-person feedback at community events and presentations.

What Should We Keep?
What Should We Change?
How and Where Should We Make Change?

CITIZENS MAP THEIR FUTURE

Held across the region to imagine what our region should look like.

115 MAPS

CITIZENS ADD TO THE CONVERSATION

Citizens were engaged on every level, wherever they were - in their neighborhoods, through social media, multimedia and interactive tools, and on their mobile devices.
HOW SHOULD WE MOVE FORWARD?

Over 18 months of work gathering citizen input — through maps, conversations, surveys and face-to-face feedback — shared values and common priorities began to take shape. Taken together, they represent a rejection of the “business as usual” scenario.

SHARED VALUES & PRIORITIES

Grow where we’ve already grown

Most of the maps expressed a strong desire to preserve, revitalize and re-purpose existing places rather than creating entirely new places. Many specifically wrote about “limiting sprawl”, “rebuilding infrastructure”, and “focusing development.”

Build and protect walkable communities

In general, participants prioritized compact, mixed-use and walkable neighborhoods over more spread out, homogeneous places.

Better connect our region by diversifying our transportation options

Making connections was one of the most predominant themes expressed across the 115 maps. Participants drew and wrote about making new connections or improving existing ones with specific suggestions about linking to universities, the airport to downtown, Buffalo to Niagara Falls, urban centers to one another, and doing it “without cars.”

Protect farm land, parks and natural areas

Farmland, open space, parks, waterfront, and other natural areas were themes woven into almost every map.

Maintain fiscally sound local governments

In conversations with the business community, elected leaders, and citizens at large, the issue of reducing our region’s tax burden while maintaining and improving quality public services was paramount. A close reading of many of the maps also revealed this intent, especially in the comments people wrote about where and how they imagined new development and infrastructure.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID

“We can’t afford new taxes for new roads and infrastructure.”

“People working closer to where they live.”

“Prevent suburban sprawl from eating up more green space.”

“Take advantage of existing infrastructure.”

“Protect farmers and our farmland and reclaim where possible.”

Visit us online to read how the priorities were defined by citizens across our region:
www.oneregionforward.org/scenario-feedback
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WHERE SHOULD WE GO FROM HERE?

Scenarios tell a story of how choices we make today will impact our region in the future.

There is no “one size, fits all.” These scenarios aren’t meant to be either-or choices.

The three alternative scenarios, as well as the “business as usual” scenario, tell a story of how our region may change over time based on where Buffalo Niagara is today and the choices we might make about how we use our land and invest our resources. They are not intended to be either-or choices, as we know land use decisions are made at the local level in our state and region.

In essence, there is not one scenario or singular map that will define our future. Various actions and approaches can move us toward our values and the performance we want as a region, understanding that certain approaches may work in some communities, but not in others.

As each local community reflects on their own land use and zoning codes, they can look to our shared regional values, the three alternative scenarios, and how each aligns with where we want to go as a region to help inform how they implement planning and policy in their local jurisdiction.

Explore alternative futures

Visit us online to read more about the scenarios:
www.oneregionforward.org/scenarios

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SCENARIO?

Trends of the past continue. New jobs and homes continue to grow on rural land while homes in first-ring suburbs and central cities are abandoned. This sprawling development is harder to serve by public transit, growing dependence on the automobile. The cost to build and maintain news roads and other infrastructure exceeds new tax revenue generated.

Business As Usual

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SCENARIO?

Our region would see some outward growth of new jobs and homes, however, these would take on a much denser, mixed-use form. Abandonment would still be an issue for central cities and older suburbs, and job access would remain auto dependent. Less farmland and open space are lost to development, while tax revenue generated through growth comes closer to covering the cost of extending services.

Sprawling Smarter

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SCENARIO?

Our region would see new jobs and homes concentrated in our city, town, and village centers. Neighborhoods would be more walkable, and improved transit would connect these places better. A great deal of farmland and open space would be protected for agriculture and “environmental services.” Tax revenue related to new growth more than covers that cost of new services, creating positive fiscal impacts.

A Region of Villages

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SCENARIO?

Our region would see nearly all new jobs and homes concentrated in our core cities. Transit would serve this denser development much better. More existing homes would be rehabbed than abandoned, and our former industrial sites would be reused as employment centers, while almost all existing open space is preserved. This scenario creates the most positive fiscal impacts, with new tax revenues exceeding new costs.

Back to the City

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HOW DO OUR CHOICES PLAY OUT?

DIFFERENT SCENARIOS HAVE DIFFERENT IMPACTS

**Will we** grow where we’ve already grown?

**Will we** build walkable, livable communities and preserve those that are vibrant and working?

**Will we** better connect our region by diversifying transportation options?

**Will we** protect farmland, parks and natural areas?

**Will our** local governments be more fiscally sound?

**WHAT % OF ALL NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ON LAND ALREADY DEVELOPED?**

**WHAT % OF ALL NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE WALKABLE TO SERVICES AND AMENITIES?**

**WHAT % OF NEW DEVELOPMENT WILL BE BUILT WITH ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT?**

**WHAT % OF FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE WILL WE PRESERVE AND ENHANCE?**

**WHAT KIND OF FISCAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT WOULD NEW DEVELOPMENT HAVE?**

**Business As Usual**

**Sprawling Smarter**

**A Region of Villages**

**Back to the City**
WHAT COULD WE DO DIFFERENTLY?

Five overarching, value-driven ideas, along with dozens of potential strategies and actions for achieving sustainability, were developed by working teams comprised of subject-matter experts. Strategies are intended not to be prescriptive, but to offer research-driven possibilities that communities can tailor to their own needs and situation, including what is already being done. Indeed, smaller-scale examples show there is much momentum to build upon, with what-if questions spurring thinking about possibilities.

Create Great Places and a Thriving Economy through Efficient Land Use

How we use our land and how that impacts the quality of housing and neighborhoods, the efficiency of transportation, energy consumption, and even our food system are at the heart of sustainability for Buffalo Niagara.

SELECT STRATEGIES
- Develop a land use pattern that supports what our region values.
- Manage the cost of public services.
- Redesign revenue-raising structures to promote land use goals.
- Establish mechanisms to manage brownfields and declining neighborhoods.
- Promote a more compact pattern of development.

Connect Our Places by Expanding and Diversifying Our Transportation Options

Transportation is the thing that connects anything in our region with everything else. It’s how we get to work, school, shopping, health care, recreational opportunities and more and it is how we get home again.

SELECT STRATEGIES
- Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system.
- Create innovative financing mechanisms.
- Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway.

SELECT EXAMPLES OF MOMENTUM TO BUILD ON

- What if thousands of acres of old industrial lands were cleaned up and made ready for redevelopment?
- What if more employers offered alternatives to driving?
- Efforts have been strong in Niagara County and the City of Buffalo, where Solar City will build its largest manufacturing facility in the Western Hemisphere and the Niagara County Brownfields Program has secured millions for cleanup efforts.
- Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus is committed to offering alternative ways to commute to its growing downtown hub, through options such as bicycle sharing and related support services and incentives.

Visit us online to see more examples of sustainability in action across our region: www.oneregionforward.org/sustainability-in-action

Visit us online to learn more and see who participated: www.oneregionforward.org/working-teams
Provide Housing Choices in Neighborhoods that are Great Places to Live

Creating and maintaining quality housing and great neighborhoods are central to making Buffalo Niagara better for everyone.

SELECT STRATEGIES
- Provide data and analytical resources for informed decision-making for housing and neighborhoods.
- Anticipate, accommodate and embrace demographic shifts.
- Pursue specific asset-based strategies for redevelopment.
- Improve the housing support delivery system.

Strengthen Our Food Systems for a Healthier Population and Economy

Food is a self-evidently central element in making a sustainable way of life. How we grow, process and distribute food has profound implications for land use, transportation, energy, health and environmental quality.

SELECT STRATEGIES
- Make the region’s food system a Buffalo Niagara policy priority.
- Improve access to healthy food for disadvantaged populations.
- Promote farming and community gardens.
- Strengthen regional farm to table links.
- Promote sustainable agricultural methods.

Conserve Our Energy Promote Renewables and Prepare for the Impacts of Climate Change

Global climate change will be the dominant local issue of the 21st century.

SELECT STRATEGIES
- Work for greater energy efficiency and conservation in our buildings and transportation system.
- Promote renewables locally.
- Make renewable energy growth an economic development priority.
- Plan now to prepare the region for climate change impacts and anticipate adaptive responses.

People for United Sustainable Housing (PUSH) has pushed neighborhood regeneration on Buffalo’s West Side through community engagement, housing weatherization, green energy promotion and housing renovation.

Community supported agriculture (CSA) — otherwise known as farm share-programs — are one way farmers in the region are broadening their access to local markets. CSA subscribers pay an annual fee to receive a weekly box of local produce throughout the growing season.

Home weatherization and energy efficiency are being achieved in selected locales through a partnership between NYSERDA and 18 community-based nonprofits. The program seeks to lower homeowner costs while creating living wage green sector jobs locally.

Visit us online to see more examples of sustainability in action across our region:
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### HOW WILL WE KNOW WE’RE MAKING PROGRESS?

How will we know if our collective efforts are working?

There is no single barometer that can tell us that, but if we commit to continue asking the question, we can reflect on our performance as a region. Through its partnership with the UB Regional Institute, One Region Forward will commit to measuring the indicators on the following pages over time. The numbers aren’t the only way we will measure progress, but they offer an objective way for us to continue the conversation about the future we seek to create for Buffalo Niagara.

### MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

**MEASURING OUR PROGRESS WILL TELL US IF OUR ACTIONS ARE MOVING US TOWARD OUR VALUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TODAY</th>
<th>FUTURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are we building less new infrastructure...</td>
<td>Are we conserving natural, open spaces?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conserving more natural open space...</td>
<td>693 square miles of open space are conserved from development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving less...</td>
<td>Are we focusing job growth around our main streets, downtowns and former industrial sites?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creating a healthier environment...</td>
<td>26% of all regional jobs are in downtowns, Brownfield Opportunity areas, or near main streets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saving more taxpayer money...</td>
<td>Are we reducing the miles we travel?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.9 daily vehicle miles traveled per person.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Are we increasing public access to our waterfronts?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83.5 linear miles of shoreline with public access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we becoming more bike-friendly?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>153 linear miles of dedicated bike paths, shared bike lanes and multi-use/recreational trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we concentrating new development where we already have infrastructure?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68% of all developed land is within the urbanized area and serviced by a sewer district.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we reducing the number of vacant homes and businesses in our region?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26% of region’s homes are within areas accessible to transit stops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32% of region’s jobs are within areas accessible to transit stops.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we building new homes and job centers that are connected by public transit?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we increasing alternative modes of transportation?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18% of the region’s workers commute via alternative modes of transportation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we conserving natural, open spaces?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23,924 residential vacancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,796 commercial vacancies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is the new housing we build walkable to services and amenities?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5% of new homes built since 2000 were built within walking distance to a main street, downtown or transit corridor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are we less burdened by the costs of housing and transportation?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On average, 53% of household income (for median-income families) is spent on housing and transportation costs.</td>
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</table>
HOW CAN WE MOVE OUR VALUES FORWARD?

Everyone can and must play a part.
Many actors, ranging from nonprofits, foundations or philanthropic organizations, local governments, citizens, county and regional entities, the business community, and academic institutions can and must play a part in moving One Region Forward.

A strong network dedicated to promoting coordination and collaboration.

The networked approach to implementation seeks to do just that, by aligning and coordinating local planning, targeting how we make public and private investments across the region, promoting collaborative partnerships, informing and engaging citizens and decision-makers, and finding ways to build capacity and technical support to assist efforts at the local level.

A commitment to measure progress.
We know implementation must be results-driven. The One Region Forward performance base has been developed to gauge if our collective efforts are successful in creating the prosperous and sustainable 21st century region we want.

A dedicated group of organizations working to promote implementation.
The One Region Forward Implementation Council will take on these major tasks:
- Establish annual working agendas
- Issue annual progress reports
- Collaborate to launch and support programs that get the plan done

**WHERE WE ARE TODAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55,954 households without a vehicle and beyond a walking distance to a supermarket.</td>
<td>↓</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE PRESERVING OUR FARMLAND?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>397.1 square miles of land dedicated to farming.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE GROWING OUR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$292.3 million in total annual earnings for jobs in food production and manufacturing.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE CONSERVING ENERGY IN OUR BUILDINGS?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.942 million square feet of projects in the region are LEED-Certified.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE INCREASING GENERATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84.7% of all locally-generated energy comes from renewable sources.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<th>ARE WE PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Climate Smart Communities (e.g. municipalities and counties with a Climate Action Plan) exist in the region.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARE WE BUILDING IN A WAY THAT BEST PREPARES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43.6% of all developed land is currently on environmentally sensitive areas.</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<th>ARE WE REDUCING CONCENTRATED POVERTY?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.8% of the region’s residents live in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty.</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>IS OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY BECOMING MORE COMPETITIVE?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28,128 firms are located in the region.</td>
<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<th>ARE WE KEEPING THE FINANCES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BALANCE?</th>
<th>WHERE WE WANT TO GO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues are less than total costs for all local governments.</td>
<td>=</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The documents below offer additional, supporting material for sustainable planning and action, particularly in the areas of food access and justice, climate change, housing and neighborhood development, and development-related tax generation. The five big ideas, strategies and action steps developed as part of One Region Forward draw from these studies which were conducted concurrently.

Visit us online to read and download these documents:
www.oneregionforward.org/

Growing Together
Food Access and Justice Strategy Document
Growing Together offers further detail on recommended strategies and information regarding food access and food justice for Buffalo Niagara. The document was created by a team from the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning’s Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, led by Dr. Samina Raja.

Resilient Buffalo Niagara
Climate Change Strategy Document
Resilient Buffalo Niagara is a research-driven strategy document that offers guidance on how the region can better prepare for the predictable -- and many unpredictable -- impacts of climate change here in Buffalo Niagara. Faculty and students from the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning authored this document under the direction of Dr. Himanshu Grover.

Complete Communities for a Changing Region
Housing and Neighborhoods Strategy Document
Complete Communities is a planning and policy document that provides greater detail on housing-related recommendations and outlines best practices to consider in Buffalo Niagara. The plan was created by UB Regional Institute in partnership with Make Communities, LLC.

Fair Housing Equity Assessment
A team of equity stakeholders worked with One Region Forward to craft the Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA), a document intended to advise how issues of equity and opportunity should be considered comprehensively in regional decision-making. UB Regional Institute authored this document in partnership with Make Communities, LLC.

The Dollars & Sense of Development Patterns
The Buffalo Niagara Regional Report
To help understand how productive various forms of development in Buffalo Niagara are regarding tax production, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership invited Joe Minicozzi and Urban3 to perform this study for our region.

VISIT US ONLINE AND FOLLOW US THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

oneregionforward.org

One Region Forward is supported by an information rich, interactive website. A tool unto itself, the site documents and facilitates the broad base of community engagement and learning for the initiative, features best practices locally and from around the world, catalogs tools and resources for implementation, offers online mapping resources, and shows how citizens, communities, businesses, and others from across Buffalo Niagara are defining sustainability for the region.

<----------------- View and download the full plan
www.oneregionforward.org/the-plan/>