towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Alden Community Meeting
Alden, NY
May 30, 2013
The time is now...

We’re working together to build a more sustainable region.

Our many efforts to grow our economy and build livable communities are coming into alignment.
We have an opportunity to carry this momentum toward a prosperous future and move the region forward.
Collaboration Pays Off

Public, private sector and nonprofit partners from the Framework for Regional Growth working group worked together to pursue funds from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program.
Collaboration And Coordination

Leveraging innovative Federal and State programs to implement local policies and strategies
A plan that Makes Buffalo Niagara Competitive and Sustainable

Agreeing upon where we want to go as a region
How we’ll get there
And how we’ll know we’re on the right path
More
than just a plan

#oneregionfwd
Building, Engaging and Doing

Developing online tools and technical assistance to support decision-making

Public education and engagement

Implement and learn while we plan

Keep the collaboration going
5 Focus Areas

Land Use and Development
Transportation and Mobility
Housing and Neighborhoods
Food Access and Justice
Climate Change Action
A regional plan for sustainable development

Part of a continuous, coordinated, collaborative regional enterprise

+ **Erie Niagara Regional Framework**
+ **Strategy for Prosperity (REDC)**
+ “Buffalo Billion”
+ GBNRTC 2050
+ **Queen City in the 21st Century**
+ **Building UB: the Campus Plan**

+ Priorities for State and Federal funding
+ Coordinated planning decisions
+ Everyone behind a single strategy
Population Change, 1970 - 2010

WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Alden
Buffalo Niagara

TOTAL POPULATION

-16%

POPULATION UNDER 18

-48% -47%

POPULATION 65 AND OVER

34% 33%

Social Explorer Tables (SE), Census 1970, Census 2010, Census Bureau; Social Explorer

#oneregionfwd
Average Size of Households, Average Size of Homes

**Avg. People per Household**
- **Alden**
  - 1970: 3.7
  - 2010: 3.2
- **Buffalo Niagara**
  - 1970: 2.5
  - 2010: 2.3

**Avg. Size of Homes**
- **Avg. Size of Homes Built (sq.ft.)**
  - 1970’s: 1698 sq. ft.
  - 2010’s: 1755 sq. ft.
- 2010’s: 2301 sq. ft.

Social Explorer Tables (SE), Census 1970, Census 2010, Census Bureau; Social Explorer
New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS). 2010 Real Property Data - Erie and Niagara Counties.
### Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Alden</th>
<th>Bflo Niag</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Housing Units</strong></td>
<td>3,658</td>
<td>519,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Yr Built</strong></td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Structures Built 1990 or later</strong></td>
<td>502</td>
<td>59,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of Structures Built 1990 or later</strong></td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Structures Built 1939 or earlier</strong></td>
<td>901</td>
<td>173,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of Structures Built 1939 or earlier</strong></td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Industry: Workers and Jobs

WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

WORKERS

in Alden:
- Manufacturing: 12%
- Retail: 11%
- Education: 12%
- Health Care & Social Services: 13%

in Buffalo Niagara:
- Manufacturing: 10%
- Retail: 11%
- Education: 11%
- Health Care & Social Services: 15%

JOBS

in Alden:
- Manufacturing: 11%
- Retail: 7%
- Education: 11%
- Health Care & Social Services: 11%

in Buffalo Niagara:
- Manufacturing: 10%
- Retail: 12%
- Education: 12%
- Health Care & Social Services: 15%

Agriculture & Farms

Farms in Alden account for 5.3% of the region’s total
81 farms in Alden

There are 7.5 times more farms per capita in Alden as compared to the Buffalo Niagara region

Alden: 7.5 farms for every 1,000 people
Buffalo Niagara: 1 farm for every 1,000 people
Planning in Alden

Comprehensive Plan

2010
Average for Buffalo Niagara: 1997

Zoning

2009
Average for Buffalo Niagara: 1984
One Region Forward challenges us to decide what kind of change we desire.

What do you want your community to look like for future generations?
What does sustainability mean for our region and how are we defining it for Buffalo Niagara?

What does sustainability look like in Royalton?
We are already creating a practice of sustainable development...

- Hamlin Park Rain Barrels
- Net Zero Energy House
- Village of Hamburg Main Street
- Promised Land Community
- Supported Agriculture
- Niagara County Brownfields Program
What if a hundred local farms -- instead of three or four -- provided fresh produce to dining tables in our cities and suburbs?

What would be the **impact** on nutrition and energy use?
What if thousands of acres of old industrial lands were more quickly cleaned up and made ready for redevelopment?

What would be the impact on public health and our economy?
What if dozens of neighborhoods -- instead of one or two -- used rain barrels and other mechanisms to capture stormwater on site?

What would be the impact on infrastructure costs and water quality?
What if **thousands of homes** in our region -- not just a few -- produced as much energy as they consume?

What would be the **impact** on family budgets and on our carbon footprint?
What if all of our urban commercial districts, village centers, and suburban strips were safe, comfortable, and interesting for bikes and pedestrians?

What would be the impact on energy consumption and our quality of life?
Where We Have Been

One Region Forward will provide a way for broad community leadership, elected officials, the business community, our dense network of community-based organizations, and concerned citizens from city, suburb, village, and rural areas to participate in a conversation that will drive planning and action.
Where We Have Been

Informing decisions and development of the plan through evidence and analysis

Research & Planning

Not starting from scratch

Baseline Assessment

What the Data Tells Us

160+ plans in Erie and Niagara Counties
Where We Have Been

Concerned citizens, community leaders, representatives from our business community, and our region’s elected officials weigh in.

Drafting the Regional Vision & Values

What Our Plans Tell Us → Draft Values Based on Plans → Testing Values With the Region

160+ plans in Erie and Niagara Counties → 10 DRAFT VISION & Values → REGIONAL VISION & VALUES

Local Gov’t. Council → Private Sector Council → Community Congress
Where We Are Today

Building off of the foundation so far and collaborating to inform the work that will feed directly into the plan

Continuing to engage our public and collect feedback on vision and values online

Forming Working Teams of subject matter experts and local decision-makers to create the road map

Performing policy analysis and best practice research on collaborating regionally around sustainable development
Where We Are Going

SPRING 2012 – WINTER 2015

Keeping the collaboration going through Research, Planning and Education

Chart a Roadmap for a sustainable future – where we want to go, how we get there, and metrics that tell us if we’re moving in the right direction

Launch a Citizen Planning School that can build community-level capacity to promote sustainability at our local levels

Create tools and capacity-building opportunities to support smarter decisions by our civic and business leaders
Visit oneregionforward.org to:

Be a Working Team Contributor
As a Working Team Contributor, your ideas and input can feed directly into the nuts and bolts of the planning occurring through One Region Forward’s Working Team process. Sign up online to be a Contributor.

Provide Feedback on our Regional Vision and Values
Citizens across Erie and Niagara Counties are providing feedback on vision and value statements derived from over 160+ plans. Provide your feedback by May 31, 2013.
Visit oneregionforward.org to:

Bring One Region Forward to your community
Schedule one of our expert staff members, board members or community partners to present to your group or company.

Feature your work in sustainability on our website
If you’re involved in a project or program that helps define Sustainability for our region, tell us about it, and we’ll feature it on our website’s interactive map.

Help us promote One Region Forward online
Show your support and involvement with the initiative by sharing One Region Forward on your website. Contact us and we’ll help you

Sign up for eNews and join our online community
Follow us on social media, or sign up for eNews to keep up-to-date with what’s happening at One Region Forward