towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Wheatfield Community Center
Wheatfield, NY
May 23, 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.

#oneregionfwd
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

Coordination of Planning in the Region  Aligned at State Level  Leveraging Federal Support

160+ plans in Erie and Niagara Counties
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

#oneregionfwd
More than just a plan
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
Population Change, 1970 -2010

What the data tells us:

- **Total Population**: Wheatfield Buffalo Niagara 25%
- **Population Under 18**: -16%
- **Population 65 and Over**: 251%
- **Population 65 and Over**: 33%

Social Explorer Tables (SE), Census 1970, Census 2010, Census Bureau; Social Explorer
Average Size of Households, Average Size of Homes

Avg. People per Household

- Wheatfield
- Buffalo Niagara

Avg. Size of Homes

Avg. Size of Homes Built (sq.ft.)

1970’s: 1625, 1755
2010’s: 2171, 2301

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>Wheatfield</th>
<th>Bflo Niag</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Housing Units</td>
<td>7,370</td>
<td>519,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median Yr Built</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Structures Built</td>
<td>3,289</td>
<td>59,436</td>
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<td>% of Structures Built</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
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<td>1990 or later</td>
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<td># of Structures Built</td>
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<td>173,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939 or earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Structures Built</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
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<td>1939 or earlier</td>
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Housing Types and Changing Demographics

**Wheatfield**
- 74% of building permits issued from 2000-2010 were for single-family homes
- 30% of single-family homes are occupied by families with children

**Buffalo Niagara**
- 75% of building permits issued from 2000-2010 were for single-family homes
- 28% of single-family homes are occupied by families with children

Social Explorer Tables (SE), Census 2010, Census Bureau; Social Explorer
Industry: Workers and Jobs

**Workers**
- Wheatfield: 14% Manufacturing, 12% Retail, 13% Education
- Buffalo Niagara: 10% Manufacturing, 11% Retail, 15% Education

**Jobs**
- Wheatfield: 27% Manufacturing, 6% Retail, 7% Education
- Buffalo Niagara: 10% Manufacturing, 12% Retail, 15% Education

Farms in Wheatfield account for 2.5% of the region’s total

45 farms in Wheatfield

There are 2.5 times more farms per capita in Wheatfield as compared to the Buffalo Niagara region

Wheatfield: 2.5 farms for every 1,000 people
Buffalo Niagara: 1 farm for every 1,000 people
Planning in Wheatfield

Comprehensive Plan
2004
Average for Buffalo Niagara: 1997

Zoning
1988
Average for Buffalo Niagara: 1984

TOWN OF WHEATFIELD
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted
January 2004
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?

#oneregionfwd
What does sustainability mean for our region and how are we defining it for Buffalo Niagara?

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

Hamlin Park Rain Barrels

Net Zero Energy House

Promised Land Community Supported Agriculture

Niagara County Brownfields Program

Village of Hamburg Main Street
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

Local Gov’t. Council Private Sector Council Community Congress

REGIONAL VISION & VALUES
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

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*