towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

WNY Higher Education Network in Sustainability

July 8, 2013
What will life in Buffalo Niagara look like in fifty years?
What kind of community will our children’s children live in?
Where will they live?
How will they get around?
Will there be good jobs?
Will there be nice parks?
Will there be clean water?
Where will our food come from?
Understanding the current trends in our region will inform how we’ll answer these questions.
From 1970
Developed land grew by 78%... 
...while population shrunk by 16%. 

to 2010
Since 1990, we’ve added 525+ miles of new roads.
525+ miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lane Miles added Since 1990</th>
<th>Maintenance Cost Per Lane Mile</th>
<th>Total Cost of New Lane Miles of Roads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>$25,328</td>
<td>$25,667,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niagara</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$16,166</td>
<td>$491,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$26,000,000,000+ added annual tax burden
In 1973, vehicles miles travelled daily per capita was 8.25
In 2010, vehicles miles travelled daily per capita was **17.89**

**An increase of 117%**
We have 55,000 more households today than we did in 1970.
But we’ve built more than 150,000 new homes.
In 1970 there were 15,214 vacant dwellings

50+ vacant units per sq. mile
In 2010 there were 45,475 vacant dwellings.

Vacant dwellings more than tripled in 40 years.

50+ vacant units per sq. mile
315 square miles of land in Buffalo Niagara is classified as "Prime Farmland".
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But only 21 percent of this fertile land is used for agriculture.
Since **1970**, annual temperatures (avg.) across the Northeast have warmed by almost 2°F.

Plants are flowering earlier

Extreme heat in summer is becoming more frequent
The decisions we make today
will have impacts on our region tomorrow
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.
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.
Planning for the Coordination of Federal Dollars

Regions with Federally recognized regional plans will receive priority status for Federal dollars in housing, transportation, economic development, and environmental improvements.
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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
Collaboration and Coordination
A plan that makes Buffalo Niagara competitive and sustainable

5 Focus Areas
- Land Use and Development
- Transportation and Mobility
- Housing and Neighborhoods
- Food Access and Justice
- Climate Change Action
More than just a plan

Partnering for the Future

Education & Engagement

Research & Planning

Tool Construction

ONE REGION FORWARD
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.

Forging Partnerships

- Steering Committee
- Local Gov’t. Council
- Private Sector Council
- Community Congress
- Working Teams
Where We Have Been

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Broad-based Community Engagement
Where We Have Been
Informing decisions and development of the plan through evidence and analysis

Research & Planning

160+ plans in Erie and Niagara Counties
Not starting from scratch
Baseline Assessment

What the Data Tells Us
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
- Convening 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

Vision

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

Goals

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 onegionforward.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.
Attend our Community Congress Meeting
Mid-November 2013

Review Revised Vision and Values
The revised vision and values crafted by citizens across Erie and Niagara Counties and derived from over 160+ plans will be presented to the community.

Provide Feedback on Preliminary Implementation Strategies
Strategies developed by Working Team Members and Contributors will be presented in draft form for feedback from the broader community.

Community-Driven Scenario Planning for our Future
Citizens across Erie and Niagara Counties will get to see what our region may look like in the future if we keep doing what we are doing now, and weigh in policy and development priorities that may get us to different outcomes.