Agenda

Introductions and “The Question”

Review of Process and the Climate Working Team’s Scope and Charge

Review/Identify Key CLIMATE issues

Goal Setting Discussion

Next Steps
Anticipated Key Outputs of Working Team

A Vision / Goals: What is our vision of life in Erie Niagara in 60 years? What issues must be addressed to mitigate and adapt to climate change?

Scoping/ Capacity Analysis / Response Plan: What do we need to know? What are “Action Areas” to reach identified goals? What is possible? What are priorities?

Integration and Implementation Action: What policies, programs, and projects do we recommend be adopted by various stakeholders and across the various community types?
Deliverable

A PLAN outlining how to adapt and mitigate impacts of climate change in Erie and Niagara in the short term and over the next 60 years.

• To be integrated into a broader regional planning document;

• To be a foundation for curricular modules and scenarios for how various users may help implement the proposed actions
Who will implement our recommendations?

- Local municipalities, county governments, state or regional agencies (i.e. NFTA)
- Community Based Organizations and private citizens
- Private sector actors or businesses (developers, business decision-makers)
- Collaborative partnerships across these groups
Working Team Process and Timeline
Communication through meetings / workshops / online knowledge sharing

6 Meetings/4 Tasks

2013

1 Establishing Goals
2 Frame Strategies
3 Identify Actions
4 Construct Indicators

FALL 2013
Council and Community Congress Meetings

+2 Additional Meetings

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

FINAL DRAFT/FEEDBACK
REGIONAL VISION & VALUES

#oneregionfwd
What are the two most critical issues we, as a region, need to address right now to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change? In two sentences?
Some Metrics

Global Average Temperature

Global Average Sea Level

Northern Hemisphere Snow Cover

Rising Northeast Temperatures

FIGURE 1: Changes in Regional Average Summer Temperature

Source: NECIA / UCS (see: www.climatechoices.org/ne/)
The Changing Face of Winter

Historic Area (1961–1990)
Late-century Area (2070–2099)

Source: NECIA / UCS (see: www.climatechoices.org/ne/)
Energy-related CO2 emissions in the Northeast compared with the major carbon-emitting nations of the world

Note: U.S. emissions include the Northeast

From Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast Assessment report
Heat Waves and Temperature Extremes: 
*Buffalo, New York*
Climate change in Great Lakes: Decline of Fresh Waters Sources
Our Shared Future?

- Prevalence of oppressive heat & humidity;
- Reduced productivity of natural systems and environmental services: biodiversity, forests, wetlands, fisheries, water – distribution and abundance;
- Endangered food security (drought, floods, pests, temperature, etc);
- Expanded geography of disease and invasive species;
- Damage from severe storms, floods, droughts, wildfires;
- Escalating costs: disaster cleanups; expenditures on engineered environments; fuel costs.
The Options

- All Damages (AD)
- Mitigation (M)
- Proactive Adaptation (PA)
- Reactive Adaptation (RA)
- Accepting Residual Damages (RD)
Start Planning for Climate Change

Now

- Climate Change is already here. Some effects are already upon us, and others are coming soon.

- We need to adopt critical mitigation measures NOW.

- Proactive adaptation is usually more effective and always less expensive than reactive adaptation.

- Planned adaptation can provide immediate benefits and expand the regional economy.
Planning for Climate Change Management in Buffalo Niagara Region
Goal Setting, a starting point

Do they align with our region’s vision?  
Are they current/relevant?  
Are they long term/resilient?  
Are they attainable? 
What’s missing?  
What shouldn’t be there?

Draft goals

160+ plans in Erie and Niagara Counties

10 DRAFT VISION & Values

CLIMATE ACTION
Draft Goals: Climate Change

- Plan, design, develop and manage our region for **energy efficiency and conservation** to reduce our carbon footprint to mitigate the advance of climate change.

- **Invest in renewable energy production**, especially from wind, solar, hydro-electric, and geothermal sources.

- Anticipate and prepare to **adapt** to the already-inevitable impacts of climate change now under way.
Climate Change Action Working Team

Get Started as a Working Team Member at www.oneregionforward.org

Recruit a Working Team Contributor

Provide Online Feedback on Our Regional Vision and Values
TeamWork Site: https://oneregionforward.teamworkpm.net
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Climate Change Action Working Team

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

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