The time is now for Buffalo Niagara.

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.

Welcome and thank you for participating in the Climate Change Action Working Team

Your participation will help us build the guiding roadmap of this broad-based, collaborative effort to promote more sustainable forms of development in Erie and Niagara counties.

Supported by a multi-year grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities, One Region Forward will develop a regional plan that builds on the work of the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth and the WNY Regional Economic Development Plan A Strategy for Prosperity.

This plan will make our region more competitive by giving us priority status for Federal funding opportunities today and into the future. More importantly, it will allow us to come together to chart a path for a more sustainable future and solve the problems we collectively face, but cannot effectively tackle individually.

But One Region Forward is more than a plan. It will work to promote strong coordination among regional leaders, create a robust community engagement and learning program around moving sustainability to action, develop tools to promote effective implementation, and construct clear measures of our ongoing progress.

You and your fellow Working Team Members and Working Team Contributors will play a leading role in crafting the nuts and bolts of our guiding planning documents. We thank you again and look forward to your continued involvement as we move One Region Forward together.

Sincerely,

Hal Morse
Executive Director
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
The Climate Change Action Working Team will work to identify policies, programs, and projects that can help us prepare and adapt for the disruptive effects of climate change. This work will feed directly into the recommendations of a regional planning document for climate change adaptation. In addition, this group will identify land use, transportation, housing, and development strategies that can be adopted to reduce our region's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the course of six meetings during the remainder of 2013, the working teams will be asked to help us with the following tasks:

1. **Establishing Goals**: We aren't starting from scratch. We have research, a history of planning, and recent participation that suggest what our goals might be. Starting in April, each team will consider a series of draft goals synthesized from ongoing research on regional issues, a review of recent and past plans of regional scope, and citizen feedback to statements of "vision and values" at the Winter 2013 "Community Congress" meetings. Working Teams will confirm, revise, amend, or expand these goals as appropriate. We hope Working Teams will agree on final draft goals by our May meetings.

2. **Frame Strategies for action**: Given the goals we set, what are the broad strategic initiatives we can take to achieve them? Starting with our May meetings, we will ask Working Teams to brainstorm these strategic approaches at a conceptual level — understanding that some participants will want to jump ahead to concrete action steps while others will want to continue to think at the broader level. Working Team chairs and staff support will work to sort it all out and represent the discussion to the members as discrete strategies for action.

3. **Identify Actions and who will act**: Framed by the goals and strategies, and starting with the June meetings, Working Team members will be asked to identify specific policies, programs, or projects to implement the strategies and achieve the goals. This will give members a chance to drill down, not only to specifics of what needs to be done, but also to who will do what and where the resources will come from.

4. **Construct Indicators to measure progress**: Starting in June and continuing into the fall, Working Team members will be asked to advise staff on the construction of performance indicators. This will help us frame baseline measurements over summer and fall, updating Working Teams as they go. Working Team members who want to play a more active role in Indicator development can help through our online Teamwork Site.

Review and refine the plan:

At two more meetings in 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall meetings and revise and refine all of the draft plan material.

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Engaging the Public

Understanding Our Situation

Taking Action

OVERALL PROCESS

WORKING TEAM PROCESS

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

FALL 2013 Council and Community Congress Meetings

JAN

FEB

+2 Additional Meetings

REVIEW & REFINE

At two more meetings in 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall meetings and Community Congress sessions.

2013

2014

DRAFT/FEEDBACK

FINAL DRAFT/FEEDBACK

Regional Visions & Values

Engaging the Public

Governments

Private Sector

Civil Society

Community Council

Regional Visions & Values

Community Congress

Local Gov’t Council

Private Sector Council

How the Community is involved in defining the regional Visions & Values

A collaborative, community driven process to develop a unified vision.

Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Our Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

Document outlining a regional strategy for adopting to the disruptive effects of climate change

Capacity building tools and educational modules that can empower civic leaders and citizens to advance sustainability

DELIVERABLES YOU WILL HELP CREATE...
Get Started as a Working Team Member or Contributor

Visit us online at oneregionforward.org to:

**Recruit Working Team Contributors**
Your friends and colleagues can feed into the work of our Teams by contributing comments and suggestions to this process online. As **Working Team Members and Contributors**, their ideas and input can feed directly into the nuts and bolts planning occurring through our One Region Forward Working Team planning process.

**Provide Feedback on our Regional Vision and Values**
If you did not attend one of our Community Congress meetings in early 2013, we ask you as Working Team members to check the **Regional Vision & Values Feedback Tool** to make your voice heard. This online conversation will be available until May 31, 2013.

**Bring One Region Forward to your Community**
We want to hear from citizens and organizations across Erie and Niagara County to guide the vision and participate in the development of the plan. If you have an organization or group in your community you would like us to give a presentation to, let us know and we will arrange for a member of the One Region Forward project team to come out to your community.

**Feature your work in Sustainability on our website**
If you’re involved in a project or a program that you believe helps define what sustainability means for the future for our region, tell us about it and we will feature it on our website’s interactive map “Sustainability in Action.”

**Help us promote One Region Forward online**
Sharing One Region Forward on your website is an easy and effective way to show your support and involvement with the initiative. Let us know if you are interested and we will be happy to assist you with sharing One Region Forward on your organization, business, or personal website.

**Sign up for eNews and join our online community**
We’re on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. Follow us on social media, or even better, sign up to receive our newsletter and bulletins that will chart the progress of our work, report on major findings, and let you know the dates of upcoming events.

To stay up to date on materials from the Working Team Meetings, please visit us at http://oneregionforward.org/data-tools/resources-documents/

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

**Bart Roberts** at the UB Regional Institute/Urban Design Project at bjr8@buffalo.edu

**Teresa Bosch de Celis** at the UB Regional Institute / Urban Design Project at tboschde@buffalo.edu