

The Performance-base of One Region Forward:

A series of indicators derived from the planning process. As a group, these metrics are intended to help gauge if the region is collectively moving in the direction outlined in the plan.

Are we concentrating new development where we already have infrastructure?

- Definition:** % of Development within Urbanized Areas serviced by a sewer district
- Source:** Parcel Data (NYS ORPS/ Erie Co. DEP, Niagara Co. DED); Developed Land Area (NLCD)
- Methods:** Select from parcels classified as vacant in the previous year those that change to residential, commercial and industrial properties. Then select the parcels that are within sewer districts that also intersect developed land (classified by 2011 land cover data), and divide the acreage of these parcels by the total area of all newly developed parcels to calculate a percentage.
- Frequency:** Measured annually

Are we focusing job growth around our main streets, downtowns and former industrial sites?

- Definition:** % of jobs within identified "Main Street" areas, downtowns, or Brownfield Opportunity Areas
- Source:** LODS Census Block Data from OnTheMap; BOA Boundaries. Downtown boundaries, Main Street boundaries
- Methods:** Using GIS, clip the census block data to the shapes of "Main Streets", downtowns, BOAs. Using the calculated job density per block and the area of the clipped blocks, estimate the number of jobs within these areas and divide by the total number of jobs in the region as given by the OnTheMap data.
- Frequency:** Measured annually. 2-year lag due to data availability

Are we protecting and conserving open space and farmland?

- Definition:** % of Open Space (as of 2011) Conserved from Development
- Source:** Parcel Data (NYS ORPS/ Erie Co. DEP, Niagara Co. DED); Developed Land Area (NLCD)
- Methods:** Calculate the total acreage of parcels that are classified as vacant, public open space or conservation areas that lie outside of areas classified as developed by land cover data. Divide this number by the total acreage of such space ca. 2011 to calculate a percentage.
- Frequency:** Measured annually

Are we increasing public access to our waterfronts?

- Definition:** Linear Miles of Shoreline with Public Access
- Source:** Parcel Data (NYS ORPS/ Erie Co. DEP, Niagara Co. DED); U.S. Geological Survey. (2012). National Hydrography Dataset.
- Methods:** Select all publicly-owned parcels by property class from parcel data. Extract public lands which intersect any major water body. Calculate the length of public shoreline, as well as the total length of major shorelines, using GIS software.
- Frequency:** Measured annually

Are we reducing the miles we travel in cars each day?

- Definition:** Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita
- Source:** Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council; ACS 1-year estimates
- Methods:** Find the total regional vehicle miles traveled from GBNRTC data; divide by the total regional population as given by ACS estimates.
- Frequency:** Measured annually, 1 or 2-year lag due to data availability

Are more workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation?

- Definition:** % of Workers Commuting via Alternative Modes of Transportation
- Source:** U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 1-year estimates
- Methods:** Find from ACS' "Means of transportation to work" (T128) for the Buffalo Niagara Falls metro.
- Frequency:** Measured annually. 2-year lag due to data availability

Are we building new homes and job centers where transit can easily connect them?

- Definition:** % of new development sites built within areas accessible to transit stops
- Source:** Parcel Data (NYS ORPS/ Erie Co. DEP, Niagara Co. DED)
- Methods:** Select from parcels classified as vacant in the previous year those that change to residential, commercial and industrial properties. Divide the number of these parcels that fall within ½ mile of a transit stop (metro or bus) by total number of parcels that were developed.
- Frequency:** Annually

Are we becoming more bike-friendly?

Definition: Linear Miles of Bike Lanes
Source: Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Methods: The length of bike lanes, bike routes and shared road lanes, calculated using GIS software.
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we reducing the number of vacant homes and businesses in our region?

Definition: # of residential addresses determined “undeliverable” by US Postal Service
Source: HUD and US Postal Service
Methods: Download data from <http://www.huduser.org/portal/usps/login.php> for the final quarter of the year being measured. Sum the total number of business addresses and residential addresses within Erie and Niagara county classified as vacant.
Frequency: Measured annually

Is the new housing we build walkable to services and amenities?

Definition: % of Homes built within walking distance to a “Main Street,” downtown or commercial corridor
Source: Parcel Data (NYS ORPS/ Erie Co. DEP, Niagara Co. DED); LODES Census Block Data from OnTheMap
Methods: Percentage of new homes (found comparing parcel data from two consecutive years) built within walking distance (half-mile) of walkable communities (defined as areas with more than 8 housing units and at least 2 jobs per acre), “main streets”, downtowns, and central business districts.
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we building neighborhoods that provide opportunity for all?

Definition: The percentage of income the average family spends on housing and transportation costs
HUD Locational Affordability Portal (ACS 5-yr estimates; LODES Census Block Data from OnTheMap; National Transit Database;
Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey
Using the Location Affordability Portal provided by HUD, find the percentage of income spent by the median-income family on
Methods: housing and transportation.
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we increasing access to healthy food for those most in need?

Definition: # of Households with low car ownership and beyond walking distance to a supermarket
Source: Reference USA; US Census, ACS 5-year estimates
Extract supermarkets and grocery stores from RefUSA by NAICS code. Map vehicle availability by block group using ACS data. Sum the total number of people living in households without a vehicle in block groups that do not lie within 0.4 miles (using network
Methods: analyst) of a supermarket.
Frequency: Annually, with a 2-year lag

Are we preserving our farmland?

Definition: Acres of Land dedicated to farming
Source: Parcel data and USDA-National Agricultural Statistical Service
Methods: The area of land in farms includes all land parcels classified as agricultural for tax assessment purposes.
Frequency: Annually

Are we growing our agricultural economy?

Definition: Annual earnings for jobs in food production sectors
Source: NYS Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
Methods: The total annual wages for all jobs held in the following employment sectors: “Crop Production”, “Animal Production and Aquaculture”, “Support Services for Animal Production”.
Frequency: Annually

Are we conserving energy in our buildings?

Definition: Square Footage of LEED-Certified projects
Source: U.S. Green Building Council, Green Building Information Gateway
Methods: Download report by metro area from <http://www.gbiv.org>
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we increasing the generation of renewable energy?

Definition: Electricity Generated from Renewable Sources
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy. (2012). Reporting programs (Form 923) for all electricity generators. Retrieve data from EIA database for all Erie and Niagara counties. Total all energy production (kWh) of *renewable* sources, and
Methods: divide this by total of all energy produced in the two counties.
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we planning for climate change?

Definition: Climate Smart Communities (Communities with a Climate Action Plan)
Source: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html>
Methods: Surveying local municipalities. Retrieving records from NYS DEC database.
Frequency: Measured annually

Are we building in a way that best prepares for climate change?

Definition: Percent of new development on environmentally-sensitive areas
Source: US Geological Survey, 2011 National Land Cover Dataset; FEMA, Q3 Flood Zone Data; USGS, National Hydrography Dataset
This indicator estimates the percentage of all new development in terms of area occurring on lands with an intrinsically-high ecological value, such as wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas and forestland. The numbers are calculated by totaling the area of
Methods: land developed under each scenario that falls inside of wetlands, floodplains, forests, or within 100 feet of streams.
Frequency: Measured annually