**One Region Forward**  
Climate Action Working Group  
Meeting #4  
June 5, 2013

**Working Team Members in attendance:**  
Sean Myers, NBT Solutions LLC  
Terry Yonker, Western New York Environmental Alliance  
Bill Nowak, Buffalo Geothermal Heating and Cooling  
Padma Kasthirirangan, Niagara Wind and Solar  
Lou Paonessa, Niagara Power Project  
Bill Smith, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus  
Thomas Hersey, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning  
Jim Simon, UB Office of Sustainability  
Aliesa Adelman, Wendel Companies

**Facilitators:**  
Lynda Schneekloth, UB Regional Institute  
Himanshu Grover, UB School of Architecture and Planning

**Online Working Team Contributors:**  
Jerry Malczewski

Comments made by Working Team Contributors online after the in-person meetings are reported using purple font. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Working Team Contributor process.

**Welcome & Introductions**  
- Thank you for coming. Good job with the homework. (Bill Smith)  
- Introductions

**Presentation: (see presentation for meeting 4)**  
- This is a presentation about the summary of homework. Feel free to make notes on your handouts and we can collect your thoughts to make additions and changes. (H.Grover)  
The facilitator presented materials about goals and strategies from previous meetings and the summary of homework from meeting #3. The presentation is provided in the accompanying link. Highlights of any discussion are provided below.

**Summary of recommendations:**  
- Engage with existing organizations for implementation. Through the work from Greener Cleaner & NYSERDA there is a lot of information and one of the issues is if it is going to be implemented. We need to keep in mind how to implement the plan. It is a key issue. Smart Growth Group used by NYSERDA for implementation. (T. Hersey)
Connect proposals with who could do this. Connect the dots so we can move forward. Present this and we can show proposals with policies, sources of funding. (H. Grover)

Values & Goals. Primary Goals for CAP

- Great lakes issues.
  - Who owns the land that is being uncovered as the lake shrinks? (L. Schneekloth)
  - Each state works different; it is hard to define a solution. (T. Yonker)
  - Terry – There is some discomfort on the place of Grate Lakes. I see Erie and Niagara Counties that are part of the Great Lakes ecosystem and we should focus on this. Our energy strategies should be focused on this ecosystem as well. (T. Yonker)
  - Should we add Grate Lakes as foundation instead of just part of it? (L. Schneekloth)

- Are the health issues included in our goals? Incorporate those issues. (A. Adelaman)
  - Our goals will relay to the overall goals that may involve all teams like Health issues, but we try to focus more on the climate issue here. We want to make sure that the strategies and goals relay to each other. (L. Schneekloth)

Review and Refine Goals and Strategies

- We put together a series of strategies from previous meetings and homework, and we have combined them into the different goals. Let’s go through them and see if we need to change or add anything to this. (L. Schneekloth)

- Conservation: What are we missing or what changes do we need to make?
  - The last one would fit better in a different category than conservation. (J. Simon)
  - Investment in conservation practices. Make the government more efficient. Start with municipalities and then get to the regional level. Increase the investment by local governments. There are a lot of opportunities out there and we are not taking advantage of it. (T. Hersey)
  - We need better education to know about what is happening. That is to come from a state policy. Many people that claim not to worry about Climate Change is because they don’t know what is really going on. (L. Paonessa)
  - Working with industries to build clean production. Reduce demand – Smart Grid. (A. Adelman)
  - We need innovated concepts. (S. Myers)
  - Public Policy with the utilities reduces disincentives (L. Paonessa)
  - Need neat thinking to research on the impacts (H. Grover)
  - Provide funding with NEPA. (T. Yonker)
    - 15% Energy and 30 miles radius. (L. Paonessa)

- Models for Conservation:
  - Push Green. (S. Myers)
  - PACE programs. (T. Hersey)
  - Green Commons. (B. Smith)
  - Mobility HUB. Buffalo Car share (people can come and learn about all transportation options. Bring alternative transportation options). (B. Smith)
  - Smart Home Buffalo. (B. Smith)
  - We have been using this easy transport turbine (mobile turbine) and taking it to events so people can see and understand how it works. (P. Kasthurirangan)
Mobile Education Modules (T. Yonker)

- Additional strategy (or an Action?) - Identify/prioritize climate impact sensitive geographical areas (e.g. wetlands, forested areas, parks, waterfront locals) for further protective action. Perhaps this strategy should go under the Adaptation goal. (Jerry Malczewski).

Mitigation. What are we missing or what changes do we need to make?
- Main category is to promote renewable energy (L. Schneekloth)
- Carbon offsets. (H. Grover)
  - About Carbon offsets. There is a lack of education on how to do it. We don’t have enough people educated to know how to do that. Schools are starting to do it but at the regional level it is rare and there should be a way to educate more people and teach how to benefit from it. (A. Adelman)
  - Education in teaching how to use carbon Offsets (T. Hersey)
  - Is there an initiative to make entities to get involve and help them get offsets? (S. Myers)
  - Research on new and better technologies. Use more student involvement. Center at UB. (T. Hersey)
  - Use of natural gas can be 95% efficient. We’ll be using it for a long time. There are ways to frack gas without including the use of water. (T. Yonker)
    - They use propaine to frack. (L. Schneekloth)
  - Use of natural gas is going to continue. Not everyone is going to switch the use of electricity. Start thinking on new ways of home heating options.
  - I agree on the strategies but there are things that they don’t move fast. A lot of these will take lot of time so we need to have stuff that makes changes thinking short term. We cannot really say fracking is bad and cannot happen, because it is still going to be happening. We should focus a little more on short term possibilities, not just related to fracking but for all the strategies. (A. Adelman)
  - We are moving from the Green Energy Act. The scale of Energy production: RFP (big) and FiT (Smaller). Why don’t we have the state of NY to be involved on projects?. We need to think big to be able to make big changes. (T. Yonker)
  - Is there another way to get natural gas than fracking? (B. Smith)
  - Biodigestions Waste to energy? May be a possibility that for short term options. (A. Adelman)
  - Looking at organic “waste”. (T. Yonker)
  - Add composting to the organic waste idea. (T. Yonker)
  - Solar panel costs have gone down so much. The NYS solar agency is trying to get legislation to make the permit process easier for them, and other renewal energies. We need legislation to facilitate installation of renewals. (B. Nowak)

Adaptation. What are we missing or what changes do we need to make?
- Climate Action Plan. (H. Grover)
- GHG reductions. (A. Adelman)
o As far as government involvement to create adaptation we need a lot more involvement. (T. Hersey)

o We are talking about projections and predictions in the future to be able to plan for adaptation. We need to invest on the infrastructure that can accommodate new population. Invest adequate to what we will need. (T. Hersey)

o Risk Assessments and management should be included. (A. Adelman)

o Funding by EPA. Look for projects. (T. Hersey)

o Educate people and get them to be proactive and plan for the future. (S. Myers)

o Grate Lake adaptation is starting to be taking care of. (T. Yonker)

o Join education institutions and foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Education and research needed. Encouraging the creation of solutions to prevent future risks. (J. Simon)

o Talking about transportation and how Buffalo could get denser. Adaptation should include transportation and helping new ways of moving around. (B. Smith)

o The issues are to know how the changes are going to be. How much is going to grow and when makes it really hard to plan ahead. (T. Hersey)

o Agriculture is a key factor for adaptation and thinking about conserving water in this area, something we never thought we will need to do in this area (L. Schneekloth)

Other discussion

- Himanshu Grover: We are going to create a table with the 5 Goals for CAP we have been talking about and the list of strategies. Please make sure you give us your suggestions/chances on each of them. We will be sending this table out to all members that you can fill out and send back to us. This is a new homework for all members, and we will create a new document with your feedback.

Wealth Creation.

- Additional strategy (or an Action?) - Identify "venture capital funds"/pools of investable money to support private sector efforts that support the strategies across all our goals (Jerry Malczewski).

Education.

- Add new strategies or addendums to above:
  1. Integrate CAP strategies/actions into local government/municipality plans and policies.
  2. Public service announcements/advertising strategies
  3. Utilize the emerging MOOC online education platforms (Jerry Malczewski).

Great Lakes.

- These strategies/actions belong under the other goals (Jerry Malczewski).