Scenario Planning Workshops

How would you create a more sustainable future for Buffalo Niagara?

Community Congress Fall 2013 Meeting #4
November, 2013, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Starpoint Central High School, Lockport, NY

This Meeting
This summary provides an overview of Meeting #4 of the second set of One Region Forward Community Congress sessions, where citizens worked in groups to map their future vision for Buffalo Niagara.

The Community Congress
Because no plan for sustainable development can succeed without the creative contribution and informed support of our region’s citizens, the Community Congress has been created as a regular forum for all citizens in our region to guide and shape the One Region Forward process.

One Region Forward
One Region Forward is supported by a broad-based collaborative effort of local elected officials, businesses, community groups, and citizens at-large – all working together to move our region towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Who Participated?
10 in attendance
Representatives from 7 different ZIP Codes and 6 different community or civic organizations

Attendees were asked to identify themselves with a local community organization if they choose. The following organizations were represented:

- Niagara County Department of Economic Development
- Pendleton Zoning Board of Appeals
- YMCA Camp Kenan
- Lockport Main Street, Inc.
- WNY Land Conservancy
- Sanborn Farm Museum
What Did They Say?

Mapping a Future Approach to Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Food Access, and Climate Change Action for Our Region.

Participants at this meeting had a hands-on opportunity to show precisely where and how they think Buffalo Niagara should grow between now and the mid-21st century in order to fulfill the region’s shared vision and values. Residents first viewed a brief introductory video about the challenges and opportunities that our region faces, and a presentation about how to engage in scenario planning. They were then asked to indicate on a map of the Erie and Niagara counties what they wanted to keep and change in their neighborhoods, towns, cities, villages, and region.

Working in small groups with large scale maps of Buffalo Niagara, citizens showed graphically where and how they think housing, jobs, transportation infrastructure, food resources, and climate change measures should be established.

Participants were asked to give their map a title and write down the principles and ideas that guided their mapping decisions. Below are the pictures, titles, principles, and comments of the 2 maps that residents created at this Community Congress.

**Starpoint #1**

**TITLE:** Buffalo Niagara- America’s Gateway to Toronto

**DESIGN PRINCIPLES:**

1. Live by where you work.
2. Protect existing farmland and wildlife areas
3. Make ways for people to get around without a car (especially students, from campus to airport).
4. Utilize the waterfront

**NOTES:**

- Suburban strips take up space and fail
- Rivers and canals are an important part of our green infrastructure
- Why spread out more when we have the infrastructure to accommodate all the growth?
- Light rail. Locate homes close to where we work.
- Take advantage of proximity to Toronto and Southern Ontario.
- Keep current farmland and wildlife areas.
Starpoint #2

TITLE: Controlled Sprawl- A Balanced Approach to Development in Erie-Niagara

DESIGN PRINCIPLES:
1. Protect water resources.
2. Save important farmland. Wineries and Ag tourism
3. Controlled sprawl, denser neighborhoods
4. Transportation pathways

NOTES:
- No more dumping
- Rapid transit
- Update Kenmore
- Urban AG
- "Transit North" initiative