One Region Forward: Citizen Planning School
What is Sustainability?

Ryan A. McPherson
Chief Sustainability Officer, University at Buffalo
In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

From The Great Law of The Iroquois Confederacy
This Place

I want a swimming pool in my backyard, not a cesspool! Thanks Hooker!

Please don't let me die.
Democracy at Work

- 89 people at Community Assembly
- 20 budget delegates
- 15 projects on ballot
- 12 polling locations
The Sustainable Business Roundtable
The Challenge
13,950 peer-reviewed climate articles
1991-2012
24 reject global warming
2 Degrees Celsius
565
Gigatons
2,795 Gigatons
Nature bats last...
“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

-Albert Einstein
What is Sustainability Anyway?
What is Sustainability Anyway?
Enough, for all, forever.
The Capacity to Endure

What is Sustainability Anyway?
Resilience

What is Sustainability Anyway?
What is Sustainability Anyway?
Empowerment

Environment

Economy

What is Sustainability Anyway?
What is Sustainability Anyway?
What is Sustainability Anyway?
It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change.

-Charles Darwin
Systems Leadership: The Change Agent Works Across Multiple System Levels To Reduce Risk/Instability and to Facilitation Stable Multi-System Evolution

**Earth Systems**
- Ecosystems and Species
  - Extinction & toxicity
- Climate systems
  - Disturbance
- Atmospheric systems
  - Ozone depletion, pollution
- Oceanic systems
  - Disturbance to sea levels, temperatures, currents, sea life
- Geological and Soil systems
  - Desertification, land pollution, mineral & resource depletion, depletion of soil quality, toxicity
- Hydrological systems
  - Water pollution & scarcity
- Nutrient systems
  - Disturbance of nutrient flows, toxicity

**Infrastructure Systems**
- Energy supply & distribution
- Material supply & disposal
- Food Supply
- Water supply & disposal
- Building construction
- Building operations
- Transportation
- Landscaping
- IT

**Organizational Systems**
- INTERNAL:
  - Leadership
  - Culture
  - Finance & Accounting
  - Management Structures
  - Policy Instruments
  - Information Systems
  - Procurement systems
  - Decision Making Processes
  - Human resources
  - Planning Processes
- EXTERNAL:
  - Community
  - Government/Regulatory
  - Market/Employers
  - Utilities
  - Higher Ed. Associations
  - Media

**Individual System**
- Personality
  - Status
  - Relationships/Alliances
  - Values/Attitudes
  - Life Experience
  - Social Connections
  - Spirituality/Meaning
  - Family/Culture/Community
  - Education/Occupation
  - Skills/Abilities
Change Begins with the Individual
Believe
Contact

Ryan McPherson
Chief Sustainability Officer
ram6@buffalo.edu
www.buffalo.edu/sustainability
Facebook: UB Green
Twitter: @ubgreen

CITIZEN PLANNING SCHOOL
A program of the UB School of Architecture and Planning and One Region Forward to empower citizens to create change.
Wrap Up

Materials available online
oneregionforward.org

Looking ahead to the next session

May 3rd: Building Blocks for Sustainability