



One Region Forward

Regional Sustainability
Planning in Action


Citizens for Regional Transit (CRTC)
Quarterly Meeting

January 16, 2020


Collaboration Pays Off

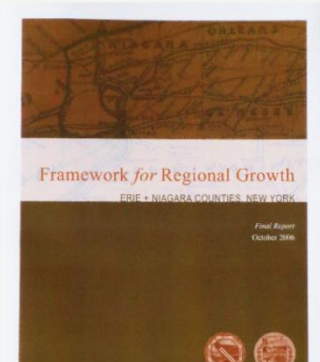
unique opportunity for our region

Public, private sector and nonprofit partners from the Framework for Regional Growth working group worked together to pursue funds from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program.

 Working Group
Erie & Niagara County

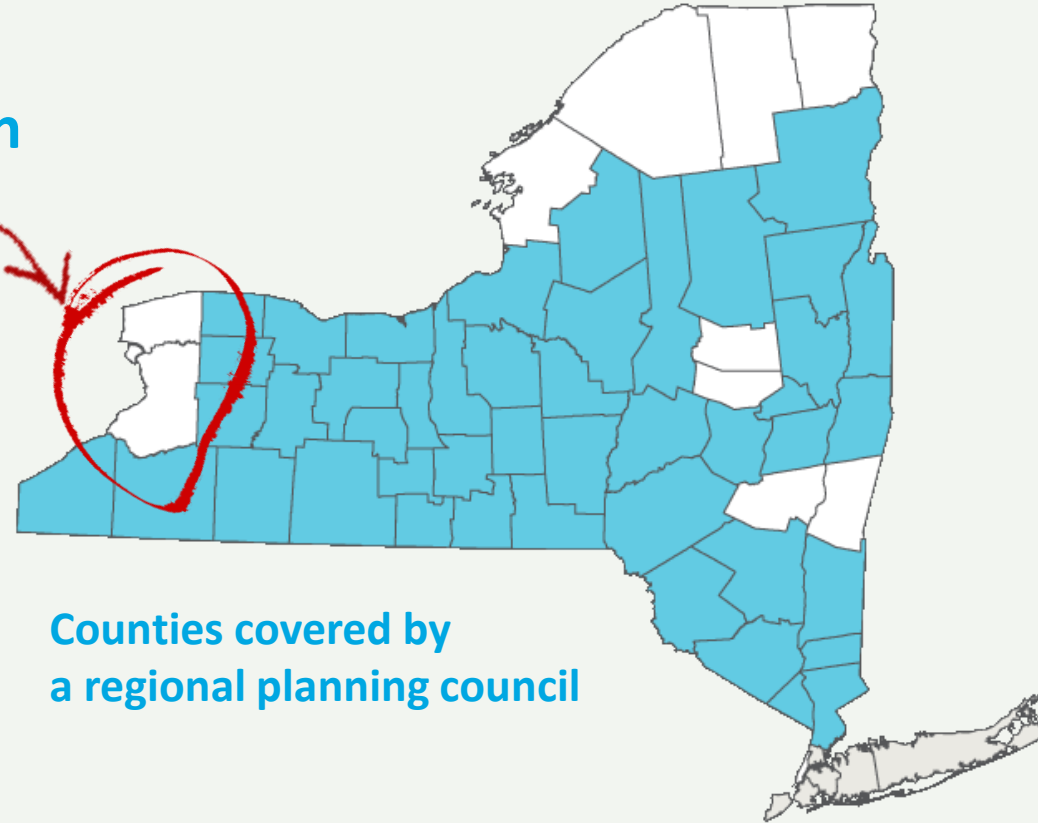


 Federal Program



We are **the only urban region**
in Upstate New York

**without a
regional
planning
council**

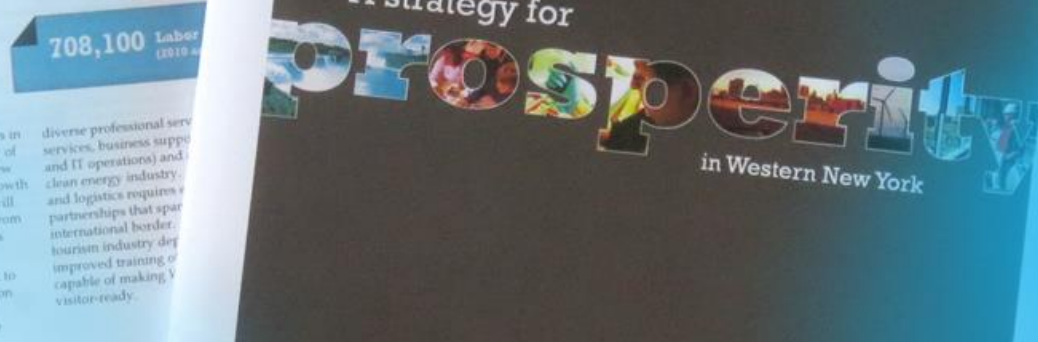
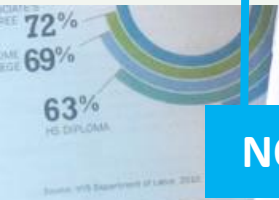


Changing the regional conversation on smart growth and collaboration through planning.



NOV 2011

WNY REDC makes **smart growth** a regional priority for economic growth.



Changing the regional conversation on smart growth and collaboration through planning.

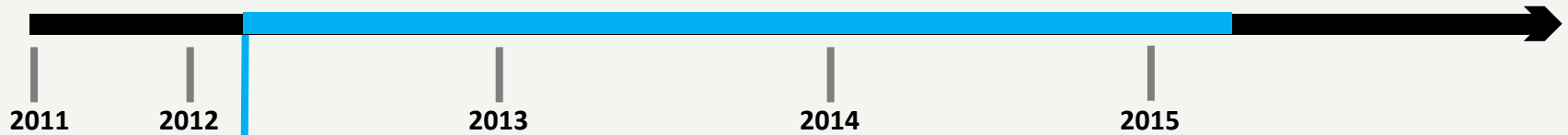


SPRING-FALL 2012

NYSERDA supports **WNY Sustainability Plan** to guide policies, projects, and programs that reduce GHG emissions and advance sustainability.



Changing the regional conversation on smart growth and collaboration through planning.

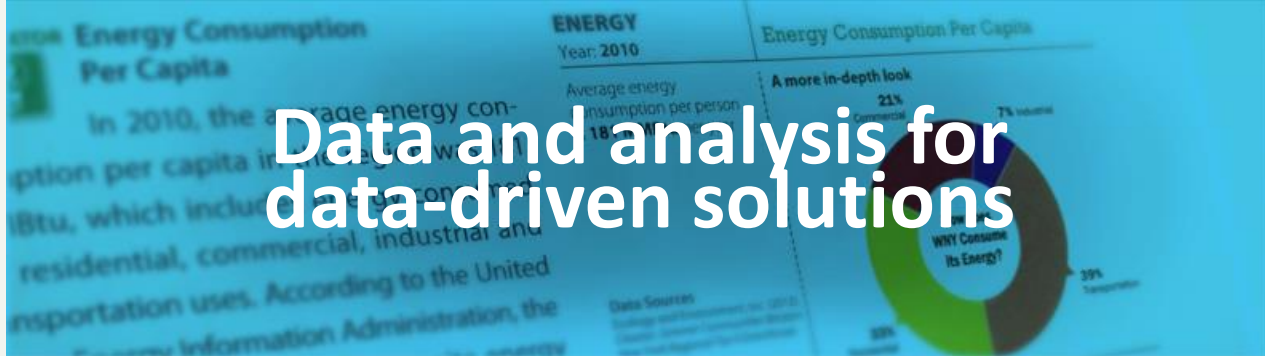


2012-2015



One Region Forward develops a plan and vision for growing Buffalo Niagara toward a sustainable future.

**Together,
we've built a
foundation
for regional
thinking.**



**Broad-based community
engagement**



**Collaboration &
decision-making**

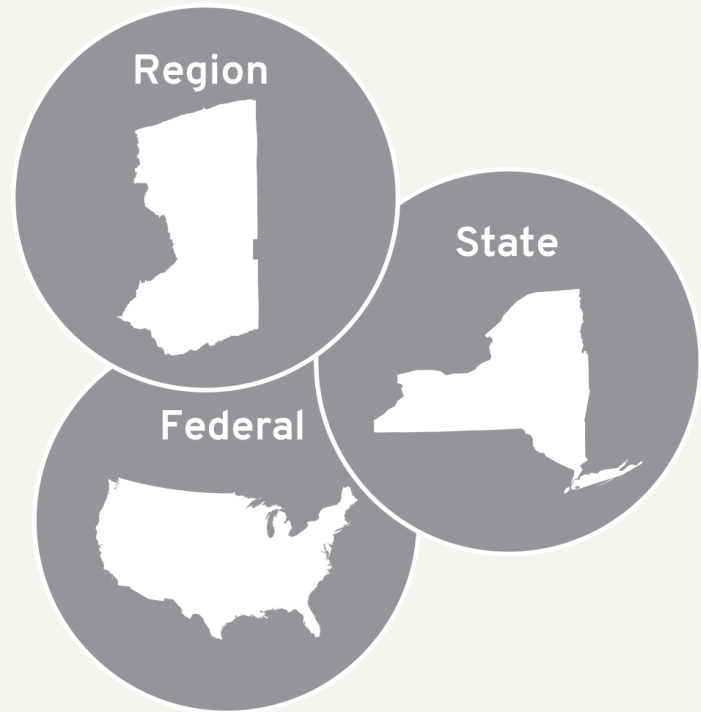


**NYS
investments
are putting
this vision
for a more
sustainable
Buffalo
Niagara
into
motion.**



**What has One
Region Forward
uniquely brought
to the table?**

**Alignment of
regional, state,
and federal
investments with
local priorities.**



**What has One
Region Forward
uniquely brought
to the table?**

**Strategies,
toolkits, and
implementation
approaches
around 5 Big
Ideas.**



What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Metrics to measure how we are doing and if we're moving our region toward a more sustainable future.



One Region Forward Performance Base

Are we keeping the finances of local governments in balance?

HOW IT ALIGNS WITH OUR VALUES
Keeping costs and revenues aligned indicates we are living within our means.



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Total revenues are
0.3%

less than total costs for all local governments.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

=

We'll be making progress if our total governmental revenues **and** costs are in balance.

Are we reducing the miles we travel in cars?

HOW IT ALIGNS WITH OUR VALUES
By driving less, we save time, money and contribute to a cleaner environment.



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

17.9

daily vehicle miles traveled per person.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

↓

We'll be making progress if we **decrease** the daily miles we travel by car.

Are more workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation?

HOW IT ALIGNS WITH OUR VALUES
Travel to work by walking, biking, public transit, and carpooling makes our communities and our environment healthier.



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

18%

of the region's workers commute via alternative modes of transportation.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

↑

We'll be making progress if we **increase** the share of workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation.

Are we building new homes and job centers that are connected by public transit?

HOW IT ALIGNS WITH OUR VALUES
Energy is conserved and our communities become more walkable if we don't have to depend on cars for travel.



WHERE WE ARE TODAY

26%
region's homes

32%
region's jobs

are within areas accessible to transit stops.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

↑

We'll be making progress if we **increase** the share of homes and jobs accessible to transit.

How we are implementing One Region Forward

WHERE CAN WE GO FROM HERE?



WHAT COULD OUR REGION LOOK LIKE?

Thousands of citizens across Buffalo Niagara tested their vision through maps, surveys, in-person feedback at community events and presentations.

What Should We
What Should We
How and When
We Make Char

CITIZENS MAP THEIR FUTURE



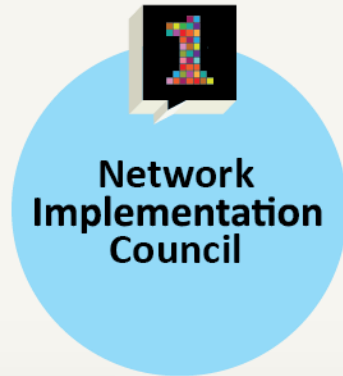
CITIZENS ADD TO THE PLAN

Citizens add to the plan with input on every... through our... mobile or



A NEW WAY TO PLAN FOR
**BUFFALO
NIAGARA**

Supported by a dedicated group focused on achieving the performance we want as a region



Promote implementation of the plan by:

- Measuring progress across metrics
- Community learning and local capacity support
- Facilitate and promote collaboration



MOVING FORWARD 2050



A Vision for
Transportation in
Buffalo Niagara

Moving Forward 2050

Smarter, aligned planning



How we are implementing One Region Forward

<https://www.gbnrtc.org/movingforward2050>

Erie County Comprehensive Plan updates



Smarter, aligned planning



How we are implementing One Region Forward

IDA Policy with One Region Forward

One Region Forward is Buffalo Niagara's nationally recognized sustainable growth plan. It defines key policy strategies and implementation measures for how we can manage our infrastructure, invest in our economy and direct our growth.



BUFFALO NIAGARA PARTNERSHIP

- ▶ Align policies of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency, Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and Buffalo Niagara Partnership with One Region Forward
- ▶ Maintain existing Adaptive Reuse Policy
- ▶ Advance incentive programs to encourage development projects that support sustainability and inclusivity



GROW WHERE WE HAVE ALREADY GROWN

1970 – 2010

Local population
DROPPED
213,000
PEOPLE



URBANIZED LAND

1970 ● 2010 ●



Area of
urbanized land
GREW by
166 sq. MI.



Embedded in Buffalo Niagara Partnership's advocacy agenda



How we are implementing One Region Forward



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

NYSERDA

*Clean Energy
Communities
Program*

Capacity support for local communities



How we are implementing One Region Forward

Citizen Planning School 5 years running



Empowered citizens



How we are implementing One Region Forward

Mapping Metrics

City of North Tonawanda

Population: **17,107** (81% of adults age 16+)
Employment Rate: **8.7%**
People in Poverty: **3,726 (11.9%)**
Households receiving public assistance to buy food: **1,823 (13.1%)**
Households without vehicle: **1,051 (7.5%)**

Household Incomes

US Census, ACS 5-yr estimates (2009-2013)



Zoom to

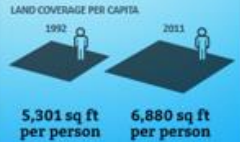
Plan Library

Data Stories

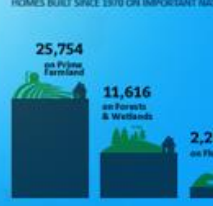


Source: US Census Bureau, 2014. Based on housing density found from historical parcel data, 1975 Dept. of Taxation and Finance, Real Property Services, 2012. Derivative of developed land from satellite imagery. © Geological Survey, 1995 National Land Cover Dataset, 1987, 1993, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2019 (Chapel Hill, NC).

We consume 30% more developed land per person than 20 years ago.



We build homes on land that could protect.

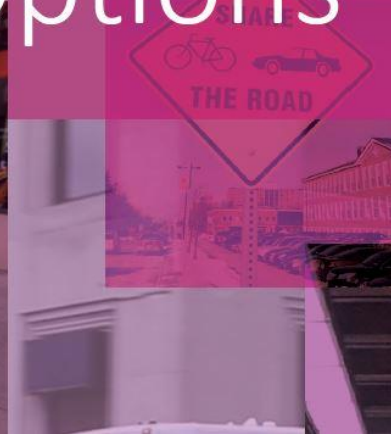


Tools and Resources



How we are implementing One Region Forward

Connect Our
Places by
Expanding and
Diversifying Our
Transportation
Options



WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Develop a regional “hub and corridor” transportation system.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

- High Quality Transit
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- Joint Development as Value Capture Strategy
- Complete Street
- Corridor Makeovers
- Bicycle Infrastructure and Incentives
- Innovative Parking Programs & Management
- Establish Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)
- Embrace Emerging Technologies

What if public transit was extended where there is demand?



WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Create innovative financing mechanisms.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

- Advocate for Highway Trust Reform
- Advocate for Increased State Investment
- Develop Options for Regional Financing

What if more employers offered alternatives to driving?



WHAT WE COULD DO DIFFERENTLY

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Create a Buffalo Niagara International Trade Gateway.

Recommended Strategies & Actions

- Advance International Trade Gateway Organization
- Build Physical Infrastructure for Trade
- Advance Pre-Clearance & Other Key Policy Initiatives
- Research Key Issues in Logistics

What if all our village centers were more pedestrian friendly?



What has One Region Forward uniquely brought to the table?

Metrics to measure how we are doing and if we're moving our region toward a more sustainable future.





<http://www.oneregionforward.org/measuring-progress/>

1RF REPORT CARD - 2018

Transportation and Mobility

Are we reducing the miles we travel in cars?



Are more workers commuting via alternative modes of transportation?



Are we building new homes and job centers that are connected by public transit?



Are we becoming more bike-friendly?



1RF REPORT CARD - 2018

Housing and Neighborhoods

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



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



Are we less burdened by the costs of housing and transportation?



Are we reducing concentrated poverty?



1RF REPORT CARD - 2018

Land Use and Development

Are we concentrating new development where we already have infrastructure?



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



Are we conserving natural, open spaces?



Are we increasing public access to our waterfronts?



Is our regional economy becoming more competitive?



Are we keeping the finances of local governments in balance?





The parties that shaped this plan do not, individually, have the power and authority to direct actions beyond their distinct borders or missions. With that in mind, this document is designed as a **tool to measure progress against shared community values** and recognizes that there are multiple approaches to achieve the regional performance to which we aspire.

**Community
Organizations**

*Moving sustainability principles,
projects and programs forward*

**Advocacy
Groups**



**Local
Governments**

**State and
Regional
Agencies**

**Anchor
Institutions**



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