

Erie County Community Climate Action Plan - Draft Outline December 2020

This is a proposed outline for Erie County's equity-centered climate action plan, which is being planned in the context of New York State's Climate Act – the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. It is anticipated that it will change with input through community engagement. Once the outline is more finalized, members of the County's Climate Change Task Force will begin to draft the chapters, which will also be informed by input from the community and coordinated with County departments.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- Background
 - Erie County Commits to Paris
 - Community Climate Change Task Force
 - NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)
- Baseline Data
 - Erie County Demographics and Description
 - Greenhouse Gas Inventory
 - Assessment of Current Programs
 - Utility Burden and Equity Mapping
- Commitment to Equity
 - Inequity in Erie County
 - Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool
- Erie County Government Levers
 - Role of County government
 - “Power to control” vs. “Power to influence”
- Overarching/Cross-Cutting Issues
 - Education and Outreach
 - Connections to Health
 - Funding
 - Partnerships
 - Integration with other local and regional plans

Climate Justice

- Definition of Climate Justice and Just Transition
- Local Examples
- Priority to look at all aspects of the plan through the lens of equity (impact + benefits analysis)
- Align Initiatives in the plan with goals of CLCPA and Climate Justice
 - Disadvantaged communities definition
 - Targeted reinvestment goals – 40% benefits of spending goal

Commercial Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy – Supply, Distribution, and Buildings

- Decarbonizing the power sector by ramping up renewables and moving away from fossil fuel
 - Large scale renewables
 - Distributed renewables (e.g., rooftop and community solar)
 - Siting, community benefits, and ownership
 - Clean heating, cooling and building electrification
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- Battery technology and storage
- Public power (public ownership and control of local/regional generation/distribution systems) – community solar, microgrids

Transportation

- Implement Transportation policies that reduce single-occupancy vehicles (e.g., road diets) and make our public transit system more attractive, accessible and beneficial to those with and without private vehicles.
 - Complete streets (Accessibility, Pedestrians, Bicycling, Connection to Public Transit)
 - Improve and incentivize use of Public Transportation (e.g., more frequent, more affordable, more competitive, more effective, etc.). Extend Buffalo’s MetroRail.
- Electrification of vehicles
 - Charging infrastructure
 - Equitable access to electric vehicles
 - Support for commercial vehicle electrification

Consumption and Waste Reduction

- Local food production and procurement
- Food Waste and Composting
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Environmental justice

Climate Resiliency

- Vulnerability assessment
- At-risk populations, disparate impact, disadvantaged communities
- Hazard and population specific planning and program development

Nature Based Solutions

- Protection, preservation, repair and healing of land and water
- Increasing tree canopy, green space and parks
- Green Infrastructure
- Agriculture and Forestry

Housing and Neighborhood Resiliency

- Residential energy conservation
 - Housing and energy affordability (NYS goal of less than 6% household energy burden)
 - Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy (ECLIPSE)
 - Tenant and utility ratepayer protections (rent, eviction, split incentives, stranded fossil fuel assets, COVID-19, energy service companies (ESCOS))
 - Healthy, Supportive Housing – indoor air quality, lead, weatherization/energy efficiency, comfort, COVID
 - Decarbonization (new construction/existing buildings)
 - Regulated multifamily affordable housing (5+ units)
 - Naturally occurring single family affordable housing (1-4 units)
 - Market rate housing
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- Codes and standards
- Gentrification and anti-displacement
- Access to capital (redlining/greenlining)

Economic and Workforce Development

- Sustainable development scorecard
- Transit oriented development with affordable housing requirements
- Family sustaining green jobs and career pathways
 - Priority populations and disadvantaged communities
 - Transportation access and equity
- Improve internet access
- Local/Regional manufacturing and supply chains
- Best value contracting, Minority and Women owned Business Enterprise participation, and procurement
- Just transition support for workers, communities, and local governments dependent on fossil fuel industries

Communicating Progress

- Transparency
- Public participation
- Implementation
- Performance Metrics
- Reporting

Conclusion
