

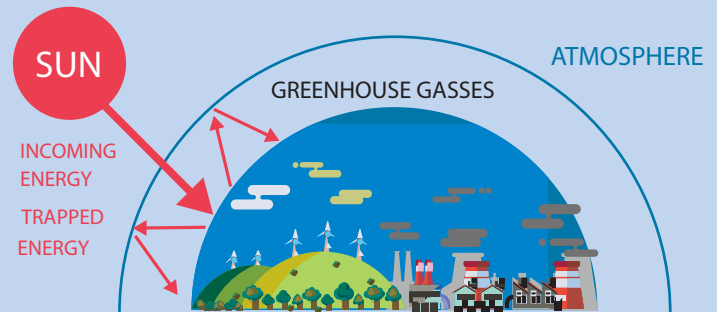
# CLIMATE CHANGE

## It's happening. It's local.

What is Erie County doing about it? [www.erie.gov/climateaction](http://www.erie.gov/climateaction)

### What's the problem?

Increased greenhouse gases are warming our planet. This is significantly changing our climate here in Western New York, and individuals and communities experience climate change impacts differently.



### How does a changing climate affect our region?

Although not always visible, the effects of climate change can be felt right here in Western New York. Changes in our climate are already bringing bigger storms to our area, dangerous heat waves, increased flooding, wind events, insect population and disease. These changes impact our jobs, our health and our beautiful environment.



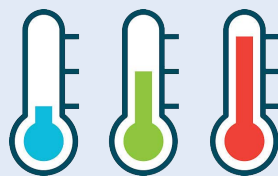
#### Flooding

Increase in rainfall, snowmelt and average precipitation. Severe storms will intensify.



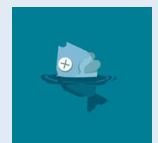
#### Increased Heat

Average temperature will increase 3-5 degrees Fahrenheit by the middle of the century. Warmer temperatures mean less ice coverage, resulting in more lake effect snow. Additionally, more frequent heat waves are expected.



#### Invasive Species & Vector Borne Disease

Mosquitos, ticks, lyme disease, and algal blooms will become worse as the climate warms.



***Let's work together to make a difference!***



# What is the risk for our region in the future?

## Environment

More harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.



Higher risk of invasive species in Lake Erie.



More frequent severe storms and flooding.



## Economy

Increased rainfall and flooding poses greater risk to homes and infrastructure.



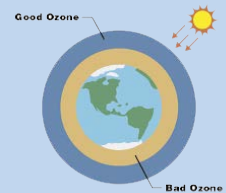
A changing environment may have a negative impact on our jobs and businesses.



## Health

Increase in vector and food-borne illness.

Health impacts from extreme weather.



Increased risk for people with asthma and heart disease due to poorer air quality and more ozone action days.



Erie County is committed to creating an **equity-centered** Climate Action Plan that addresses the uneven negative impacts on historically disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Creating and implementing initiatives that help our most vulnerable residents will benefit the entire community.

# Why act now on climate change?

Increasing regional mobility options reduces pollution and improves quality of life.



Transitioning to a clean energy economy promotes innovation and green jobs.



Building green makes our homes, businesses, and workplaces healthier and reduces utility costs.



Preparing for climate change makes us more resilient to extreme weather events.



Conserving resources and reducing waste saves money now and in the future.



Addressing climate change has benefits for our health outcomes, environment, and economy.



**Get Involved! [www.erie.gov/climateaction/participate](http://www.erie.gov/climateaction/participate)**

# What is Erie County doing to act now?

Erie County is committed to acting on climate change.  
Some projects we've led to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include:

## Transportation

Through NYSDOT's Charge Ready NY program, the County has added 10 new charging locations throughout the County. These new locations include numerous parks, County-owned golf courses, and ECC campuses. The County is also looking at developing high-speed charging infrastructure.



Erie County has been advocating for increased federal aid directed toward the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA)'s Metro Rail Expansion project.

Erie County actively participated in the development of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Bicycle Master Plan. The Plan includes goals and objectives to help create more bike-able communities in our region.



## Energy

Low and moderate income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on energy bills, and are often unable to take advantage of the cost savings from renewable energy alternatives. Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy (ECLIPSE) is developing a program to address these impacts for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligible families, focusing on bulk energy and green-energy purchasing, access to community solar, and energy efficiency and resiliency improvements.



Erie County partnered with the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable to offer solar power to its member businesses and their employees, including Erie County employees. The campaign was completed in February 2018, with 185 kilowatts of solar energy installed on employee homes, resulting in 66 tons of avoided GHG emissions annually.

## Environment

Erie County has continued to take a leadership role in the preservation and enhancement of the environment along the Buffalo River. This former industrialized corridor has seen much improvement with regard to water quality and habitat restoration. This work included the remediation, restoration, and revitalization of three Erie County natural habitat park sites: Thomas F. Higgins (Bailey Peninsula), Red Jacket, and Seneca Bluffs.

Erie County Parks began implementing low-mow and no-mow areas, as outlined in the county Parks Master Plan Update, and is also considering a partnership with The Nature Conservancy's Working Woodland project, which can provide a resource to create a forest management plan.



## Climate Action Plan:

Erie County created a Climate Action and Sustainability Plan for internal operations, which was adopted by the Legislature in February, 2019. [www.erie.gov/CASP](http://www.erie.gov/CASP)

**This plan has six focus areas:** Transportation, Buildings and Energy, Waste Management and Recycling, Land Management, Water, and Purchasing.

# How can each of us act?

Simple choices in our daily lives can make a difference.

## Speak up

Advocate for climate action and clean energy at the local, state, and national level.

Get involved as we plan for our community climate action and be part of the solution!



## Plant and protect plants

A healthy tree canopy helps mitigate climate change and provide other benefits to our communities, such as keeping our air and water clean.



## Buy wisely and recycle more

Buy products that are long-lasting, reusable, and energy efficient. Also, know what can and can't be recycled.



## Reduce energy use

Use LED lightbulbs and turn off those lights and appliances while not in use!



## Choose clean energy

Choose clean energy supply with renewable content for your electricity.



## Change up your commute

Public transit, carpooling, biking, or walking helps reduce emissions from transportation, a large and growing portion of global emissions.



## Want to learn more? Visit:

- Erie County Climate Action - [www.erie.gov/climateaction](http://www.erie.gov/climateaction)
- Erie County Department of Environment and Planning - [www.erie.gov/sustainability](http://www.erie.gov/sustainability)
- Erie County Climate Action and Sustainability Plan for Internal Operations - [www.erie.gov/CASP](http://www.erie.gov/CASP)
- Erie County Commits to Paris Report - [www.erie.gov/Paris](http://www.erie.gov/Paris)
- Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy - [www.erie.gov/ECLIPSE](http://www.erie.gov/ECLIPSE)
- Live Well Erie - [www.erie.gov/livewellerie](http://www.erie.gov/livewellerie)
- Erie County Climate Vulnerability Assessment - [www.erie.gov/cva](http://www.erie.gov/cva)
- New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act - [www.climate.ny.gov](http://www.climate.ny.gov)
- American Public Health Association "How Climate Change Affects Your Health" - <https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/how-climate-change-affects-your-health>
- Climate Health Connect's "Climate Change 101: Climate Science Basics" report - <https://climatehealthconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Climate101.pdf>
- The 2018 International Panel on Climate Change Report - [www.ipcc.ch/sr15/](http://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/)

