

Conclusion

As Erie County continues to work on mitigating and preparing for the impacts of climate change, this equity-centered Community Climate Action Plan will serve as a high-level roadmap to help guide our actions. While addressing the effects of climate change is urgent, not all of the planned actions can be acted on immediately. However, because of the work that has been done on this plan, the County is prepared to pursue the significant federal and state funding that is being made available to address climate change. Addressing climate change impacts is a gradual process that will take well-thought-out steps to achieve success during this time of transition.

The content of this Plan was developed with minimal technical consultant support and relied on the efforts of volunteer stakeholders and County staff. The County wishes to acknowledge the Environmental Management Council (ECEMC) and its Community Climate Change Task Force (Task Force) for their assistance. The current Task Force Chair, Dr. Susan Clark, the current ECEMC Chair, Jason Kulaszewski, as well as the past Chair of both the ECEMC and the Task

Force Anne Bergantz, our Working Group Leads, and our many stakeholder participants who volunteered their leadership and expertise were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. Additionally, the County would like to thank the organizations that participated in this process (see the following Supporting Organizations list).

The following Erie County departments and offices also participated in the creation of this Plan: County Executive Office, Emergency Services, Environment & Planning, Equal Employment Opportunities, Health, Office of Health Equity, Office of People with Disabilities, Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Public Works, Division of Purchase, Senior Services, Social Services, Workforce Investment Board.

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Supporting Organizations

The County is grateful for the support of our many volunteers.

Below is a list of organizations whose staff supported development of the County's Plan.

- Academy for Human Rights
- Barton & Loguidice
- Black Rock Riverside Alliance
- Blue Green Alliance
- Buffalo & Erie County Library
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Buffalo Seminary
- Buffalo Sewer Authority
- Buffalo State Small Business Development Center
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Central Terminal Restoration Corp
- Citizens for Regional Transit
- City of Buffalo
- Community Action Organization of WNY
- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Curbell Inc.
- Daemen University
- Designing to Live Sustainably
- Empire State Development
- Erie County Environmental Management Council
- Erie County Industrial Development Agency
- Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Farmer Pirates
- FeedMore WNY
- GObike Buffalo
- GO Buffalo Niagara
- Grassroots Gardens WNY
- Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
- Greater Buffalo Urban Growers
- Guidehouse
- Home HeadQuarters
- Kidney Foundation of WNY
- Kreher Family Farms
- Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
- LISC WNY
- Massachusetts Avenue Project
- Monarch of Infinite Possibilities
- NAACP
- National Grid
- NeighborWorks Community Partners
- NFTA - Metro
- NOCO
- Northland Workforce Training Center
- Partnership for the Public Good
- Phillips Lytle LLP
- PUSH Buffalo
- Rich Products
- Rural Transit Service
- Russo's Auto Service
- Shared Mobility Inc.
- Sierra Club
- SUNY Erie
- The Buffalo Bisons
- Town of Evans
- Town of Tonawanda
- UB Regional Institute
- University at Buffalo- Students and faculty
- Villanova University
- West Side Promise Neighborhood
- WNY AFL-CIO
- WNY Environmental Alliance
- WNY Foundation
- WNY Homeless Alliance
- WNY Land Conservancy
- WNY STEM HUB
- WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable
- Youth Climate Council

Action Item Summary

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
INTRODUCTION					
STRATEGY 1: Overarching					
1.1.1: Create an executive level Chief Climate Officer to coordinate the County's climate action efforts across all lines of operation.	Short-Term	Direct	County Executive	N/A	Engagement, Law & Policy
1.1.2: Implement a "Benefits of Climate Action" Policy that will incorporate an assessment of the costs of climate pollution into decision making for larger projects.	Short-Term	Direct	County Executive	N/A	Infrastructure, Law & Policy
CLIMATE RESILIENCY					
STRATEGY 1: Overarching Resilience					
3.1.1: Develop a Heat Emergency Plan to work with partners to create a County program to mitigate impacts to extreme heat conditions.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP, EC-DOH, Senior Services, Emergency Services	UB, NYSDEC	Public Health, Resilience
3.1.2: Advocate for a more resilient electric grid, and support grid resilience initiatives.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Utilities, community-based organizations	Energy, Equity, Infrastructure, Public Health, Resilience
3.1.3: Work with partners to develop coordinated approaches to make our coastal areas more resilient.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYS-DEC, US Army Corps of Engineers, local municipalities	Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health, Resilience
3.1.4: Identify and implement strategies to reduce social vulnerability and isolation, to better support residents during extreme weather events.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Universities, local municipalities, community-based organizations	Equity, Public Health, Resilience
3.1.5: Regularly update and improve climate resilience planning and programs as understanding of climate change evolves.	Long-Term	Direct	DEP	Universities, local municipalities, community-based organizations	Equity, Public Health, Resilience
CONSUMPTION AND WASTE GOAL: Responsible production and consumption of resources and sustainable management of waste.					
STRATEGY 1: Reduction					
5.1.1: Work to reduce single use plastics and other single use products in government contracts and provide commercial entities with single use product reduction methodologies.	Short-Term	Direct	Purchasing	NYSP21, WNY SBR, NYSAR ³ , NYSDEC, Solid Waste Management Boards	Engagement, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.2: Educate community members on the prevalence of food waste and solutions to food waste while promoting programs, such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Food: Too Good to Waste Program and United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Let's Glean Program.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local restaurant associations, local grocery stores, USEPA, USDA, local municipalities, ECEMC, schools	Engagement, Food, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.3: Promote and educate the community and businesses on mindful consumption through campaigns such as Buy in Bulk and Bring Your Own, which aim to decrease food packaging waste.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	USEPA, WNY SBR, NYSP21, NYSAR ³	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Food, Infrastructure, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.4: Encourage municipalities to adopt programs that foster community member waste disposal reduction habits, including potential incentives, such as pay-as-you-throw pricing for municipal garbage.	Long-Term/Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities	Engagement, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.5: Work with external organizations to educate and encourage businesses and municipalities on the benefits of reducing energy usage, toxicity of products, improved packaging, and waste in supply chains.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP, Purchasing	WNY SBR, NYSP21, local municipalities	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.6: Endorse Extended Producer Responsibility state legislation such as Bottle Bill legislation (Senate Bill S1185C, Assembly Bill A10185, Assembly Bill A8668A).	Ongoing	Direct	DEP, County Executive	Statewide organizations, State and County legislatures	Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.7: Encourage commercial entities to track waste, energy, and water data using USEPA tools, such as its ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	USEPA, WNY SBR	Energy, Engagement, Waste & Resource Management
5.1.8: Support community groups whose goals align with creating effective changes in waste reduction practices.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Local and State community action groups	Engagement, Waste & Resource Management

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
STRATEGY 2: Diversion					
5.2.1: Encourage compliance with NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Food Waste Law and Good Samaritan Law for business enterprises through outreach and education.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	NYSDEC, WNY SBR, Sheriff's Department, DPW, local service providers, ECDOH	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Food, Funding, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.2: Develop and expand food and yard waste recycling programs at municipal buildings and operations. Train and promote residential and commercial collection programs, including backyard composting.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities, ECEMC, DPW, DSS, local service providers	Engagement, Food, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.3: Develop and enhance local recycling solutions for construction and demolition debris, refrigerant containing appliances, mattresses, textiles, and carpets.	Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP	Waste haulers & recycling companies, local trade organizations	Waste & Resource Management
5.2.4: Support recycling options for multi-family residential buildings, public housing, and commercial entities.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	BOMA, WNY SBR, local municipalities, waste haulers & recycling companies, ECEMC	Equity, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.5: Reduce GHG emissions during the collection and processing of recycling and waste through electrification of fleets and use of efficient routing methods.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	Waste haulers, NYSERDA, local municipalities, NYSDEC	Energy, Equity, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.6: Educate and promote responsible waste management practices, such as the recovery and collection infrastructure, throughout all sectors of Erie County.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	WNY SBR, local municipalities, NYSP21, K-12 schools, BOCES, grocery stores, religious and cultural institutions, DSS, waste management companies, NYSDEC	Engagement, Infrastructure, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.7: Develop local solutions for managing disaster debris.	Medium-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	Emergency Services, local municipalities, ECEMC, NYSAR ³ , NYSP21	Equity, Public Health, Resilience, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.8: Conduct a waste flow study to understand how waste moves throughout the County, local capacities for management, and baselines.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Academic institutions, local municipalities, NYSDEC, NYSAR ³ , NYSP21, waste haulers & recycling companies, UB	Infrastructure, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.9: Promote and expand participation in the HHW collection program and address barriers to participation in existing and emerging programs.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local service providers, ECEMC, local municipalities	Engagement, Equity, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management
5.2.10: Identify changes or opportunities to expand and increase recycling of electronics and other difficult to dispose of products (e.g., fluorescent tubes and refrigerants) in Erie County.	Short-Term	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	NYSDEC, solid waste boards, UB	Funding, Infrastructure, Waste & Resource Management
STRATEGY 3: Reuse					
5.3.1: Identify and disseminate current reuse, repair, resell, and sharing practices and programs in Erie County to determine how they can be supported and enhanced.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Buy nothing-type groups, academic institutions, local donation centers, WNY SBR, local tool libraries, local repair cafes, local municipalities, library system	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Funding, Waste & Resource Management
5.3.2: Promote and encourage repair per the NYS Digital Fair Repair Act.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Chambers of commerce, local repair cafes	Engagement, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
5.3.3: Promote and educate consumers on the benefits of reusable products like refillable containers, product repair, maker spaces, and buying used goods.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP, ECDOH	Local municipalities, WNY SBR, state agencies, The Foundry, library system	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Waste & Resource Management
5.3.4: Encourage businesses to develop reuse and material exchange programs in commercial spaces.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	WNY SBR, NYSDEC	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Waste & Resource Management
TRANSPORTATION GOAL: A safe, equitable, and affordable multi-modal transportation system that enhances mobility and access, phases out fossil fuel dependency, connects communities, supports a resilient supply chain, and decreases GHG emissions.					
STRATEGY 1: Active Transport					
6.1.1: Work with partners to develop procedures and access resources to better implement the County's Complete Streets policy, and promote efforts to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and mobility.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DPW, DEP	GBNRTC, local municipalities, Live Well Erie	Equity, Infrastructure, Law & Policy, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.2: Expand the County's active transportation network, including connecting on-road, park, and trail gaps.	Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DPW, DEP; Planning	GBNRTC, local municipalities	Infrastructure, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.3: Work with local governments to implement the Regional Bicycle Master Plan, including the Shoreline Trail.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	DPW, GBNRTC, local municipalities	Engagement, Infrastructure, Public Health, Transportation

Action Item Summary

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
6.1.4(A): Educate County residents about the health and economic benefits of choosing active transport options.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Live Well Erie, GObike Buffalo, GO Buffalo Niagara	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.4(B): Educate all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, on the rules of the road and how to safely interact with each other.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Central Police Services, Sheriff's Dept, GObike Buffalo, County Clerk, DMV	Engagement, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.5: Provide recommendations on projects referred to the County through the 239-M process to improve walkability and bikeability.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities	Infrastructure, Law & Policy, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.6: Address barriers to active transportation through maintenance of sidewalks, paths, and trails; increase access to repair tools and bike racks; and install ADA compliant pedestrian devices.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	Parks, DEP	Local municipalities, GBNRTC, local bike and trail organizations, local school districts, parent-teacher associations, students	Equity, Infrastructure, Public Health, Transportation
6.1.7: Support community campaigns to encourage kids and adults to use active transportation methods to nearby destinations.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Live Well Erie, GObike Buffalo, GO Buffalo Niagara	Engagement, Infrastructure, Public Health, Transportation
STRATEGY 2: Transit					
6.2.1: Support expansion of the County's current light rail system, including connection to East Buffalo and airport.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NFTA, GBNRTC, ECEMC, City of Buffalo, local municipalities	Equity, Funding, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.2.2: Support development of bus rapid transit service throughout the County.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NFTA, GBNRTC, ECEMC, City of Buffalo, local municipalities	Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.2.3: Support expansion of the County's regional hub and corridor transit system, including increased transit frequency and the span of service day.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NFTA, GBNRTC, ECEMC, City of Buffalo, local municipalities	Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.2.4: Develop alternative transportation programs, including microtransit options, that address transportation gaps.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	NFTA, GBNRTC, private sector operators	Equity, Infrastructure, Resilience, Transportation
6.2.5: Expand transit options for rural residents, including the County's Rural Transit Services program.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NFTA, local municipalities, private sector operators, GBNRTC	Equity, Infrastructure, Resilience, Transportation
6.2.6: Educate the community on the benefits of alternative commuting options such as work from home, alternatives to single occupancy vehicles, and public transportation incentives.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	GO Buffalo Niagara, local municipalities	Engagement, Public Health, Transportation
6.2.7: Advocate for the implementation of the NFTA Equitable Transit Oriented Development Plan for Metro Rail in alignment with state and federal initiatives.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	NFTA, GBNRTC, local municipalities	Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.2.8: Identify opportunities to expand programs that make transit more affordable to low- and moderate-income residents.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NFTA, Senior Services, Workforce Investment Board	Equity, Funding, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.2.9: Develop programs which ensure transportation for disadvantaged communities during extreme weather events.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	ECDOH, Senior Services, UB, NFTA, DSS	Equity, Infrastructure, Public Health, Resilience, Transportation
STRATEGY 3: Electric Vehicles					
6.3.1: Foster the development of EV ridesharing and car sharing programs to provide more clean energy options, particularly in disadvantaged communities.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	NYSERDA, GO Buffalo Niagara, ridesharing and taxi companies	Energy, Equity, Transportation
6.3.2 Install public-facing EV charging stations at County facilities.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DPW	NYSEG, National Grid, NYSERDA, GBNRTC	Equity, Energy, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.3.3 Advocate for EV charging infrastructure on real estate development projects, especially for projects with direct County involvement.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	NYSEG, National Grid, NYPA, ECIDA, NYSERDA	Energy, Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.3.4 Participate in the regional planning of EV charging infrastructure and advocate for an equitable EV charging station network.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	GBNRTC, NYSEG, National Grid, Clean Communities of WNY, NYSDOT	Energy, Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.3.5: Expand publicly accessible EV charging stations for all by promoting their siting and installation through private and public programs throughout Erie County.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, NYSERDA, NYSDOT, National Grid, Clean Communities of WNY, NYSEG, NYPA, NYSDEC, NYS Parks, AAA	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
6.3.6: Promote purchasing, replacing, and converting gas and diesel-powered vehicles and fleets, construction equipment, and generators with electric- powered alternatives through federal, state, and utility incentive programs.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	National Grid, NYSERDA, NYSEG, NYSDEC, NYSDOT, Clean Communities of WNY, NYPA, AAA, WNY SBR	Energy, Engagement, Funding, Transportation

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
6.3.7: Work with partners to promote and educate about the use of EVs, installation of home chargers, tax incentives, rebates, and trade-in programs to foster the equitable and affordable adoption of EVs.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	NYSEG, National Grid, NYSEERDA, NYSDTF, GBNRTC, Niagara Frontier Auto Dealers Association, ECEMC	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding, Transportation
6.3.8: Continue to promote low and zero-emission fleet vehicles and the use of alternate fuels by municipalities and businesses throughout Erie County.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, universities, school districts, ECEMC, Association of Governments, WNY SBR	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Transportation
6.3.9: Consider the inclusion of conduit and other features that allow for the eventual inclusion of EV charging stations in the design criteria for publicly accessible parking lots, construction projects, CDBG-funded projects, 239-M review projects, and other County projects.	Ongoing	Indirect	DPW	DSM, local municipalities, highway departments	Energy, Funding, Infrastructure, Law & Policy, Transportation
STRATEGY 4: Transportation Resilience					
6.4.1: Incorporate changes in seasonal and extreme events into how the County designs and builds transportation infrastructure.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Direct	DPW	Local municipalities, NYSDOT, NFTA	Infrastructure, Resilience, Transportation
6.4.2: Work with partners to make sure that streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit stops are accessible during weather events, including snow and rain.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Direct/ Indirect	DPW	Local municipalities, NYSDOT, NFTA, National Guard, GOBike Buffalo, PPG	Engagement, Equity, Resilience, Transportation
6.4.3: Implement high-priority transportation freight infrastructure projects that serve to increase the efficiency and diversity of our freight network.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	GBNRTC, International Trade Gateway Organization	Economy & Workforce, Infrastructure, Resilience, Transportation
6.4.4: Work with food and goods distributors and freight operators to assure that the community has access to food and supplies during disruptive storms.	Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	NYSDOT, local municipalities	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food, Infrastructure, Public Health, Resilience, Transportation
HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCY GOAL: Zero-emission homes and neighborhoods that promote health and protect residents from extreme weather.					
STRATEGY 1: Efficiency & Conservation					
7.1.1: Engage and alert the public about access to free or low-cost energy assessments offered by New York State.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	PUSH Buffalo, WNY Clean Energy Hub, HOCN	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding
7.1.2: Leverage CDBG and other resources available to the County and residents to increase support for energy efficiency and weatherization improvements.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	NYSEERDA, WAP	Energy, Equity, Funding, Resilience
7.1.3: Educate homeowners on energy and cost savings from weatherization and upgrades to energy efficient technologies, including heat pumps.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	PUSH Buffalo, WAP, WNY Clean Energy Hub, HOCN, ECEMC	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding
7.1.4: Work with programs including WAP, HEAP, and Empower to improve resilience and energy efficiency outcomes, including creating incentives for homeowners and renters for energy conservation.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	DSS, NYSEERDA, WAP	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding, Law & Policy, Resilience
7.1.5: Investigate opportunities to develop a weatherization program through the Erie County ECLIPSE program.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	DSS, WAP, PUSH Buffalo, HOCN	Energy, Equity, Law & Policy, Resilience
7.1.6: Support rules for retailers requiring minimum efficiency standards for appliances and equipment that can be sold in the County.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	State initiatives, environmental advocacy groups	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Law & Policy
7.1.7: Support local benchmarking and disclosure programs that help renters and home buyers identify energy-efficient properties.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	City of Buffalo Rental Registry Program, Office of GIS, local municipalities	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Equity
STRATEGY 2: Electrification & Renewable Energy					
7.2.1: Create a County-wide community energy program that utilizes 100% clean energy that prioritizes disadvantaged community residents as first adopters.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSEERDA	Energy, Equity
7.2.2: Encourage responsible community solar project development on agricultural land to make clean, renewable energy more accessible to rural communities without losing our most productive farmland.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSEERDA, solar developers, community-based organizations	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems
7.2.3: Advocate for expanded state utility (NYSEERDA, National Grid, NYSEG) programs to help homeowners and residents electrify new and existing buildings (including appliances) and to install residential renewable energy systems.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSEERDA, utilities	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Law & Policy
7.2.4: Look for opportunities for ECLIPSE to subsidize electric heating and cooling technologies and home weatherization, especially for disadvantaged communities.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSEERDA, utilities	Energy, Equity, Funding

Action Item Summary

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
7.2.5: Provide homeowners and landlords access to affordable capital, such as low-interest loans, to make the switch to fully electric residential solar systems with energy storage.	Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP	Private banks and State Green Bank	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding
7.2.6: Work to assure that energy and housing costs are affordable for the County's low- and moderate-income residents.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSERDA, WAP, DSS	Energy, Equity, Funding
7.2.7: Support the wide-spread implementation of heat pumps in homes throughout Erie County.	Short-Term	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, WNY Clean Energy Hub	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure
7.2.8: As part of ECLIPSE, investigate creating a land trust to develop neighborhood solar installations and energy storage in vacant lots in urban and suburban neighborhoods.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	NY Green Bank, Private banks	Energy, Equity, Funding, Infrastructure
STRATEGY 3: Resilience					
7.3.1: Support the development of climate-resilient housing (both new housing and retrofitted existing housing) while preventing the displacement of current residents.	Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP	Housing organizations, private philanthropy, local municipalities, developers, NYSHCR, PPG	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure, Resilience
7.3.2: ECLIPSE will investigate creating neighborhood microgrids to increase resilience to disasters while prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities throughout the County.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	UB, utilities, local municipalities, developers, neighborhood organizations	Energy, Equity, Infrastructure, Public Health, Resilience
7.3.3: Develop or secure opportunities to support re-trees, creating green spaces in neighborhoods (including the use of existing vacant lots when possible), and allowing community members to have a say in how green space is used.	Short-Term	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	BSA, neighborhood organizations, local municipalities, PPG	Engagement, Equity, Funding, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
7.3.4: Work with local governments to ensure that new housing (including public housing) protects residents from climate change threats, such as flooding and extreme heat.	Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, NYSHCR, developers	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure, Law & Policy, Public Health, Resilience
7.3.5: Expand the Erie County Healthy Neighborhoods Program to include climate resilience aspects.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	ECDOH, local municipalities, private philanthropy, housing organizations, NYSHCR	Energy, Equity, Law & Policy, Resilience
7.3.6: Create an education program for residents on extreme weather event preparedness.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Erie County Sheriff's Office, ECDOH, local municipalities	Engagement, Equity, Public Health, Resilience
STRATEGY 4: Smart Growth					
7.4.1: Direct investment and new housing development to areas served by existing utility infrastructure and near public transportation, employment, and community services. Discourage sewer and water extensions in rural and/or developing areas, as per the Regional Framework.	Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP; DSM	NFTA, GBNRTC, NYSHCR, local municipalities, (United States) Department of HUD grant programs	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Funding, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Transportation
7.4.2: Expand support for municipal comprehensive plan updates. Encourage increased densities and compact design, live where you work concepts, affordable housing, mixed-use development, multi-family housing, and migrant farmworker housing.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, NYS CFA; HUD CDBG grant, NYSDOS	Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems
7.4.3: Work with local governments on obtaining and implementing smart growth planning and climate-mitigating grants, especially the County's small municipalities with limited capacities.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term/ Long-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSDOS DRI grants, UBRI, NYSERDA, HUD CDBG grant	Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Transportation
7.4.4: Fund additional Erie County CDBG Smart Growth Projects.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYS CFA, HUD CDBG grant	Equity, Funding, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Transportation
7.4.5: Consider expanding the CDBG County Housing Rehab Program to include climate resiliency improvements.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	HUD CDBG & HOME grants, NYSERDA	Equity, Infrastructure, Law & Policy, Resilience
7.4.6: Explore the recreation of a Regional Planning Board, which would help coordinate smart growth initiatives throughout the County.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	Niagara County, local municipalities, UBRI	Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Transportation
7.4.7: Update the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Niagara County, UBRI, GBNRTC	Economy & Workforce, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Transportation

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GOAL: Foster an equitable and robust green economy.					
STRATEGY 1: Outreach					
8.1.1: Determine the needs of community members, businesses, and municipalities through annual surveys.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	Climate Ambassadors, all local IDAs, BNP, Invest Buffalo Niagara, WNY SBR, NYSERDA, WNY REDC, Erie County Association of Governments Climate Smart Committee, Task Force, VBN, ECEMC	Economy & Workforce, Engagement
8.1.2: Develop and regularly update a Climate Action Toolkit to provide a roadmap to success for both large and small business.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	Climate Ambassadors, local IDAs, BNP, Invest Buffalo Niagara, WNY SBR, NYSERDA, WNY REDC, Erie County Association of Governments Climate Smart Committee, Task Force, VBN	Economy & Workforce, Engagement
8.1.3: Hold an annual inclusive economic development summit focused on identifying needs and highlighting available programs that support businesses to address climate change.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	WNY SBR, local IDAs, Chambers of Commerce, Invest Buffalo Niagara	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Funding
8.1.4: Work with government agencies to create new and leverage existing programs that are responsive to the needs identified through the summits to educate, motivate, attract, and reward businesses to invest in climate action.	Medium-Term/ Ongoing	Direct/ Indirect	DEP	NYSERDA, NYSDEC, USEPA, USDOE, REDC, USED, Invest Buffalo Niagara, local IDAs, WNY SBR	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Funding, Law & Policy
8.1.5 Engage in direct community outreach to assess needs and provide resource assistance.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Climate Ambassadors, local municipalities, community groups, UBRI, WNY SBR	Economy & Workforce, Engagement
STRATEGY 2: Policies & Infrastructure					
8.2.1: Review current local economic development policies for environmental, social, and equity concerns and benchmark against other communities.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	ECIDA, Invest Buffalo Niagara, WNY SBR, Chambers of Commerce	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
8.2.2 Work with stakeholders to develop policies that encourage business efforts to reduce GHG emissions and become more resilient to a changing climate, including equitable transportation-oriented development, energy conservation, renewable energy, and job creation.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	ECIDA, Other IDAs, Invest Buffalo Niagara, WNY SBR, Chambers of Commerce, Equal Employment Office, GBNRTC, NFTA, EC Association of Governments	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Equity, Law & Policy, Resilience, Transportation
8.2.3: Focus on redeveloping brownfields while aligning with Smart Growth and equity objectives.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSDEC, USEPA, ECIDA, Invest Buffalo Niagara	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Public Health
8.2.4: Identify preferred economic sites within the County that lack renewable electric infrastructure, renewable electric capacity, or both.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	ECIDA, local municipalities, NYSERDA, local utilities, Association of Governments, Invest Buffalo Niagara, local developers	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Equity, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems
8.2.5: Expand broadband internet throughout Erie County.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	ErieNet LDC, PPG	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Infrastructure
8.2.6: Advocate for sustainable supply chain products and services.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP, Purchasing	WNY SBR, private entities	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Energy, Waste & Resource Management
8.2.7: Continue to support the WNY SBR.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	WNY SBR	Economy & Workforce, Engagement
8.2.8: Assist and guide municipalities in planning and implementing zoning regulations that support green businesses.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities, Association of Governments	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Infrastructure, Law & Policy
STRATEGY 3: Workforce Development					
8.3.1: Advocate for solutions to remove barriers to employment, including access and affordability to transportation and childcare.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP, DSS	Workforce Investment Board, Child-care Coalition, Live Well Erie	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Infrastructure, Transportation
8.3.2: Identify and promote WNY educational institutions that have training programs to attract labor force and industries that are pivoting to green technologies.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Workforce Investment Board, local educational institutes, Northland Training Center, NYS Labor Board, NYSERDA, Buffalo Niagara Builders Association, BOCES, ECC	Economy & Workforce, Engagement
8.3.3: Use local market data to convene a summit with workforce development organizations to identify needs and ways to leverage and fund programs.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Invest Buffalo Niagara, community colleges, universities, local municipalities, labor unions, BOCES, Northland Training Center, NYS Labor Board, Workforce Investment Board, NYSERDA, USEPA	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Funding

Action Item Summary

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
COMMERCIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL: Erie County will move toward net-zero-carbon-emissions commercial buildings and support the transition to a decarbonized electrical grid.					
STRATEGY 1: Building Performance & Efficiency Education					
9.1.1: Create and maintain a website to connect the community to key local and industry resources (including case studies) related to building energy performance.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP, DPW	AIA, USGBC, WNY SBR, NYSERDA, Buffalo & Erie County Library	Energy, Engagement
9.1.2: Advocate for utility companies to include energy performance ratings on energy bills.	Medium-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP, DPW	Utilities, NYSAC, PSC	Energy, Engagement, Law & Policy
9.1.3: Advocate for building performance information requirements and resources to address building efficiency be provided to homebuyers and renters at time of closing or leasing.	Medium-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP, DPW	Energy Performance Contractors, Utilities, NYSERDA, Association of Realtors, County Clerk's Office	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Law & Policy
9.1.4: Advocate for public benchmarking and disclosure of commercial building energy consumption for larger buildings.	Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	NYS, local municipalities, NYSERDA, WNY SBR	Energy, Engagement, Law & Policy
9.1.5: Educate developers on funding and financing opportunities, including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct	DEP, DPW	Local financial institutions, EIC NY	Energy, Engagement, Funding
9.1.6: Use high performing County-owned buildings and facilities to educate the community on building efficiency opportunities.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct	DEP, DPW	NYSERDA, Arc, USGBC	Energy, Engagement
9.1.7: Work with IDAs to incentivize high-performing buildings.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP; Office of Economic Development	ECIDA, regional IDAs, Chambers of Commerce	Energy, Funding, Law & Policy
STRATEGY 2: Decarbonized Power Sector					
9.2.1: Work with renewable energy developers, land owners, local governments, residents, and other stakeholders to foster the broad deployment of renewable energy, including wind power, solar energy, and hydropower.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, developers, NYSERDA, WNY SBR	Energy, Engagement
9.2.2: Educate and train municipal leaders on how to plan and permit renewable energy development.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Direct	DEP	UBRI, NYSERDA, NYSDOS, local municipalities	Energy, Engagement, Infrastructure
9.2.3: Emphasize projects that conserve energy in the County's CDBG program.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	HUD, local municipalities, WNY SBR	Energy, Equity
9.2.4: Promote finance programs, such as PILOT and PACE for renewable energy projects.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	County IDAs, businesses, WNY SBR, developers, NYSERDA	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Equity, Funding
9.2.5: Support the alignment of economic development policy and incentives for renewable energy with climate goals.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP; Office of Economic Development	County IDAs, local municipalities, developers, WNY SBR, NYSERDA	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Funding, Law & Policy
9.2.6: Coordinate with the NYSDEC to raise awareness about the New York Works Well Plugging Initiative as well as the importance of identifying and plugging wells.	Short-Term/ Long-Term	Indirect	DEP	NYSDEC, Erie County SWCD, WNYLC	Energy, Engagement
STRATEGY 3: Energy Code					
9.3.1: Educate local governments on energy and building codes, including NYStretch Code and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	NYSDOS, NYSERDA, utilities, UBRI, BOMA, Association of Local Governments	Energy, Engagement, Law & Policy
9.3.2: Provide direct technical support to local governments for Energy Code compliance and implementation.	Short-Term/ Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Association of Local Governments, IDAs, Construction Exchange, AIA, NYCOM, NYSAC	Energy, Engagement, Law & Policy
STRATEGY 4: Energy Storage & Demand Management					
9.4.1: Educate commercial, industrial, residential, and school building owners about battery storage and load shifting options.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct	DEP, DPW	BOMA, WNY SBR, NYSERDA, NYPA, NY State Assembly & Senate, NYSAC	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement
9.4.2: Educate municipal officials about battery storage for formulation of ordinances and codes protecting life and property, while valuing climate justice.	Short-Term/ Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	NYDOS, NYSERDA, ECEMC	Energy, Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Public Health
9.4.3: Incorporate battery storage and load shifting into the County's heat emergency plan and other resilience plans.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP, Emergency Services, ECDOH	Libraries	Energy, Equity, Resilience

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS GOAL: Erie County will promote equitable nature-based solutions to protect intact landscapes, restore degraded ecosystems, and improve equitable access to green infrastructure, tree canopy, and open space for all residents.					
STRATEGY 1: Skilled Labor Jobs					
10.1.1: Partner with interested parties to collaborate on training needs and opportunities.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	High schools and colleges, Corps Groups, state and federal agencies, non-profits, BOCES programs, Workforce Investment Board, job training facilities, local municipalities, businesses, unions, community-based organizations and block clubs, Live Well Erie	Engagement, Economy & Workforce, Landscapes & Ecosystems
10.1.2: Provide skilled labor job training for nature-based projects.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	High schools and colleges, Corps Groups, state and federal agencies, non-profits, BOCES programs, Workforce Investment Board, job training facilities, local municipalities, businesses, unions, community-based organizations and block clubs, Live Well Erie	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems
10.1.3: Hire workers from trainings.	Medium-Term	Direct	Parks, DPW, DSM	Local businesses, unions, non-profits	Economy & Workforce
10.1.4: Pursue on-going preventive and maintenance efforts for nature-based projects.	Medium-Term	Direct	Parks, DPW	Community-based organizations	Landscapes & Ecosystems
STRATEGY 2: Conserve Resilient Lands, Waterways, & Priority Habitats					
10.2.1: Map the most climate resilient lands in Erie County and prioritize them for protection.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	NYSDEC, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, LEWPA	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
10.2.2: Create a Conservation Plan for Erie County that prioritizes areas for protection and ensures equitable access to open space, connectivity, and green infrastructure.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, NYSDEC, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, LEWPA	Equity, Infrastructure, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
10.2.3: Work with partners and residents to protect priority lands through outreach and education.	Medium-Term	Direct/Indirect	DEP	Local municipalities, NYSDEC, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, LEWPA	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems
STRATEGY 3: Restoration Strategies					
10.3.1: Identify and prioritize degraded lands, including shorelines, for implementation projects.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	LEWPA, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, PRISM, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, ECEMC, local municipalities, Erie County Parks	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
10.3.2: Identify lead organizations for implementation projects and funding sources.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	LEWPA, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, PRISM, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, ECEMC, local municipalities, Erie County Parks	Engagement, Funding
10.3.3: Complete habitat and living shoreline restoration, including signage, to educate the community. Focus on priority areas that address climate vulnerabilities identified for Erie County.	Medium-Term	Direct	DEP	LEWPA, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, PRISM, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, ECEMC, local municipalities, Erie County Parks	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
10.3.4: Develop protocols and mechanisms for continued monitoring and adaptive management of work completed as part of this goal.	Medium-Term	Indirect	DEP	LEWPA, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, PRISM, WNYLC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, ECEMC, local municipalities, Erie County Parks	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
STRATEGY 4: Improve Connectivity for Pollinators & Wildlife					
10.4.1: Encourage and educate the public on creating pollinator-friendly habitat.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	ECEMC, Home for a Gnome, Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment, Pollinator Conservation Association, Save the Bees WNY, CCE Master Gardeners, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, local municipalities	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems
10.4.2: Continue habitat certification efforts through outreach and education.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	Black Rock Riverside Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Foundation	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems
10.4.3: Support the planting of pollinator gardens in both urban and rural environments.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	Community gardens, CCE Master Gardeners, Grassroots Gardens WNY, nurseries, Pollinator Conservation Association	Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems

Action Item Summary

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
10.4.4: Support the planting of native plants in both urban and rural environments.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	Nurseries, garden stores, Grassroots Gardens WNY, MAP, other urban farms with Agriculture & Markets Greenhouse licenses, NYSDEC	Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems
10.4.5: Combat invasive species to promote biodiversity.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	PRISM, Erie County SWCD, LEWPA, WNYLC, Let's Goat Buffalo	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health
10.4.6: Educate the public about nature-based residential lawn care.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	CCE Master Gardeners, ECEMC, Home for a Gnome, Black Rock Riverside Alliance	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health
STRATEGY 5: Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy					
10.5.1: Establish and maintain a living list of native and climate resilient tree and shrub species of all sizes that can thrive in current and future climate conditions projected for the region, paired with a list of complementary best practices for planting and maintenance.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	CCE, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, local municipalities, USDA	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
10.5.2: Map and assess the demographic and geographic disparities in tree canopy, including a timeline with 2030 and 2050 goals, thereby establishing priority communities for tree canopy preservation and expansion.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	CCE, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, local municipalities, colleges and universities, USDA	Economy & Workforce, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
10.5.3: Establish mechanisms for ongoing care and maintenance of canopy trees.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	CCE, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, local municipalities, block clubs, USDA	Economy & Workforce, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
10.5.4: Encourage developers, builders, homeowners, and municipalities to plant and grow shade trees effectively.	Short-Term	Indirect	DEP	CCE, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, local municipalities, block clubs, WNY SBR, USDA	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health, Resilience
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS GOAL: Erie County will promote agriculture and food system solutions that advance farmland and environmental protection; strengthen ecosystem health; improve equitable access to healthy, local food; mitigate the impacts of climate change; and increase climate resiliency.					
STRATEGY 1: Promote & Protect Agriculture					
11.1.1: Support the development of the Evans Agribusiness Park and encourage the use of locally farmed products in its operations.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	ECIDA, Town of Evans, FPC, Invest Buffalo Niagara	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food
11.1.2: Use the General Municipal Law Section 239-M process to encourage the appropriate siting of developments (e.g., solar, residential) so that agricultural land is not negatively impacted.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities	Energy, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
11.1.3: Support municipalities' enforcement of New York State's Agriculture and Markets (AGM) construction and mitigation guidelines for solar on farmland.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Municipal code enforcement officers, AGM, AFPB	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
11.1.4: Advocate for expanded impact mitigation payments to farmers for smaller renewable energy projects on smaller acreages of farmland.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	AGM, FPC	Economy & Workforce, Energy, Engagement, Equity, Funding, Landscapes & Ecosystems
11.1.5: Conduct outreach and education to municipal officials for farmland protection.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities, UBRI, NRCS, Erie County SWCD, WNY Soil Health Alliance, CCE, EC Farm Bureau, LEWPA	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
11.1.6: Support the protection of productive farmland with conservation easements.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	WNYLC, AFPB	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
11.1.7: Promote the use of enforceable soil safety and integrity regulations and testing to protect consumers.	Short-Term	Indirect	ECDOH	GBUG, FPC, CCE, Erie County Farm Bureau, NYFB, NOFA	Law & Policy, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health
11.1.8: Maintain the geography of the Planning Policy Areas as identified in the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth through zoning, comprehensive planning, and preservation of farmland in rural areas.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Local municipalities	Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
STRATEGY 2: Protect & Restore Ecosystems					
11.2.1: Promote the reduced use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizer while advocating for alternatives that regenerate soil biology as a key to improving soil health.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	ECDOH, Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Public Health
11.2.2: Provide regular training to municipal officials and the community at large on the proper use of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and project review tools, with consideration of a proposed project's ecological and climate impacts.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	NYSDEC, NYSDOS, local municipalities	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy

ACTION ITEM	HORIZON	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	LEAD COUNTY ENTITY	PARTNERS	KEY WORDS
11.2.3: Provide stable and enhanced support for agencies and organizations with missions and functions that help reinforce agroecosystem restoration, protection, and enhancement.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	CCE, FPC, Erie County SWCD	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Funding, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Resilience
11.2.4: Promote sustainable forest management to increase carbon sequestration and climate resiliency while protecting forest ecosystems.	Ongoing	Direct	Parks	Erie County SWCD, NYSDEC, NRCS, CCE, private sector businesses	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Resilience
STRATEGY 3: Access to Healthy Food					
11.3.1: Support the sale and consumption of locally produced foods by supporting relevant legislation and programming, such as value-based procurement and the Good Food Purchasing Program.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP, ECDOH	FPC, AFPB, NYFB, GBUG, NYS Senate, Good Food Buffalo, Erie Grown, PPG	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Food, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
11.3.2: Promote the Healthy Community Store Initiative to provide healthy options at corner stores, especially those in food insecure neighborhoods.	Ongoing	Indirect	ECDOH	CCE, FPC	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food, Public Health
11.3.3: Promote incentives for food retailers in food insecure, disadvantaged communities who provide fresh produce, locally sourced meats, and culturally appropriate food.	Ongoing	Indirect	ECDOH	NYSDOH, AGM, USDA, NRCS, Field & Fork, FPC, American Heart Association	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food, Public Health
11.3.4: Improve the existing food donation network and increase food security by incorporating surplus prepared foods.	Long-Term	Indirect	ECDOH	FeedMore WNY, AGM, FPC	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Food, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management
11.3.5: Encourage regulatory authorities to prioritize helping small-scale food producers overcome food safety regulation hurdles.	Medium-Term	Indirect	ECDOH	FPC, UB Food Lab, USDA, FSIS, CCE, AGM	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Food, Law & Policy
11.3.6: Enhance educational campaigns to educate consumers on the impacts that their food choices have on nutrition and waste.	Short-Term	Direct	ECDOH	NRCS, Erie County SWCD, CCE, Urban Fruits and Veggies, West Side Promise Neighborhood, African Heritage Food Cooperative, MAP	Engagement, Food, Public Health, Waste & Resource Management
11.3.7: Support expanded educational programming on at-home canning and other food preservation techniques, as well as eating seasonally to increase the shelf life of local foods and incentivize local purchasing.	Short-Term	Indirect	ECDOH	FPC, CCE	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Food, Waste & Resource Management
11.3.8: Explore participation in the Good Food Purchasing Program.	Short-Term	Direct	Purchasing	Local municipalities, school districts	Economy & Workforce, Equity, Food, Public Health, Resilience
11.3.9: Build support for and recommend changes to policies and health codes that support and encourage food waste recovery infrastructure and diversion.	Short-Term	Indirect	ECDOH	FPC, NYSDEC, local municipalities	Food, Law & Policy, Waste & Resource Management
STRATEGY 4: Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change					
11.4.1: Establish a renewable energy siting policy (e.g., PILOT or community benefit agreement) that protects farmland while supporting renewable energy development.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	RPTS, Law Department	Energy, Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy
11.4.2: Conduct outreach and education to farmers about the importance of adapting to climate change.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	NRCS, Erie County SWCD, CCE	Engagement, Resilience
11.4.3: Update the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan to include climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation initiatives.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP	AFPB	Landscapes & Ecosystems, Law & Policy, Resilience
STRATEGY 5: Coordination					
11.5.1: Work with existing food hubs to expand opportunities and connections between farmers, restaurants, and retailers.	Ongoing	Indirect	DEP	Buffalo Go Green, African Heritage Food Cooperative, MAP, PFC, Feed Buffalo, Alliance Butchery, FPC, CCE	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food
11.5.2: Create an Erie County one-stop-shop of agriculture and food system programs and resources.	Short-Term	Direct	DEP, ECDOH	Erie County SWCD, NRCS, FPC	Economy & Workforce, Engagement, Equity, Food
11.5.3: Promote and share examples of regenerative agriculture practices being conducted in our region.	Ongoing	Direct	DEP	Erie County SWCD, CCE, MAP	Engagement, Landscapes & Ecosystems

Key Words

Key Words Action Items

Economy & Workforce

Chapter 5 - Consumption and Waste
5.1.3, 5.1.5, 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.3, 5.3.4

Chapter 6 - Transportation
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Chapter 7 - Housing and Neighborhood Resiliency
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Chapter 8 - Economic and Workforce Development
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Chapter 9 - Commercial Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
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Chapter 10 - Nature-based Solutions
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Chapter 11 - Agriculture and Food Systems
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Chapter 5 - Consumption and Waste
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Chapter 6 - Transportation
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Chapter 7 - Housing and Neighborhood Resiliency
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Chapter 8 - Economic and Workforce Development
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Chapter 9 - Commercial Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
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Engagement

Chapter 1 - Introduction
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Chapter 5 - Consumption and Waste
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Chapter 6 - Transportation
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Chapter 7 - Housing and Neighborhood Resiliency
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Chapter 8 - Economic and Workforce Development
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Chapter 9 - Commercial Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
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Chapter 10 - Nature-based Solutions
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Chapter 11 - Agriculture and Food Systems
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Equity

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Chapter 5 - Consumption and Waste
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Chapter 6 - Transportation
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Chapter 7 - Housing and Neighborhood Resiliency
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Chapter 8 - Economic and Workforce Development
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Chapter 9 - Commercial Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
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List of Acronyms

TERM	DEFINITION
AAA	American Automobile Association
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AFPB	Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
AGM	Agriculture and Markets
AIA	American Institute of Architects
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
BNP	Buffalo Niagara Partnership
BOCES	Boards of Cooperative Educational Services
BOMA	Building Owners and Managers Association
BRRR	Black Rock Riverside Alliance
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BSA	Buffalo Sewer Authority
CASP	Climate Action & Sustainability Plan
CCA	Community Choice Aggregation
CCAP or "the Plan"	Community Climate Action Plan
CCE	Cornell Cooperative Extension
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CJWG	Climate Justice Working Group
CLCPA	Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
CVA	Climate Vulnerability Assessment
DAC	Disadvantaged Communities
DMV	Department of Motor Vehicles
DPW	Department of Public Works
DSM	Division of Sewerage Management
DSS	Department of Social Services
EC	Erie County

TERM	DEFINITION
ECC	Erie Community College
ECDOH	Erie County Department of Health
ECEMC	Erie County Environmental Management Council
ECIDA	Erie County Industrial Development Agency
ECLIPSE	Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy
EIC NY	Energy Improvement Corporation of New York
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EV	Electric Vehicle
FPC	Food Policy Council
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
GBNRTC	Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council
GBUG	Greater Buffalo Urban Growers
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
HEAP	Home Energy Assistance Program
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
HOCN	Heart of the City Neighborhoods
HOME	HOME Investment Partnerships Program
HUD	(United States) Department of Housing and Urban Development
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
LDC	Local Development Corporation
LEWPA	Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
LMI	Low- to Moderate-Income
MAP	Massachusetts Avenue Project

List of Acronyms

TERM	DEFINITION
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt Hour
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NFTA	Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
NOFA	Northeast Organic Farming Association
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NY	New York
NYCOM	New York Conference of Mayors
NYFB	New York Farm Bureau
NYPA	New York Power Authority
NYS	New York State
NYSAC	New York State Association of Counties
NYS CFA	New York State Consolidated Funding Application
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOH	New York State Department of Health
NYSDOS	New York State Department of State
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSDTF	New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
NYSEG	New York State Electric and Gas
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
NYSHCR	New York State Homes and Community Renewal
NYSP2I	New York State Pollution Prevention Institute
NWF	National Wildlife Federation
PACE	Property Assessed Clean Energy
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PFC	Providence Farm Collective
PILOT	Payment in Lieu of Taxes

TERM	DEFINITION
PPG	Partnership for the Public Good
PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
PSC	Public Service Commission
PUSH	People United for Sustainable Housing
REDC	Regional Economic Development Councils
Regional Framework	Erie-Niagara County Framework for Regional Growth
RPTS	Real Property Tax Services
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SOV	Single Occupancy Vehicles
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics
SWCD	Soil & Water Conservation District
Task Force	Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force
UB	University at Buffalo
UBRI	University at Buffalo Regional Institute
US	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOE	United States Department of Energy
USEDA	United States Economic Development Administration
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGBC	United States Green Building Council
VBN	Visit Buffalo Niagara
VRF	Variable Refrigerant Flow
WAP	Weatherization Assistance Program
WNY	Western New York
WNY SBR	Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable
WNYLC	Western New York Land Conservancy

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TERM	DEFINITION
Active transportation	A means of transportation that is human-powered, primarily walking or bicycling.
Agrivoltaics	The simultaneous use of land for solar photovoltaic power generation and agricultural production.
Agroecosystem	Communities of plants and animals interacting with their physical and chemical environments that have been modified by people to produce food, fiber, fuel, and other products for human consumption and processing.
Biodiversity	The variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.
Broadband	High-capacity electronic transmission technique using a wide-range of frequencies and internet traffic types, which enables a large number of messages to be communicated simultaneously and is used in fast internet connections.
Brownfield	A property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.
Carbon footprint	The total amount of GHGs that are emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels from an individual, event, organization, service, place, or product.
Carbon sequestration	The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide.
Carbon sink	Anything that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases (e.g., plants, the ocean, and the soil).
Carbon-free	Energy is produced by a resource that generates no carbon emissions.
Clean energy	Energy that is produced through methods that do not release GHGs or any other pollutants.
Climate change	Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.
Climate justice	Acknowledging and addressing how climate change has disproportionate, adverse impacts on the social, economic, and public health of historically disadvantaged communities such as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and low-income communities.
Climate resilience	The capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant climate-related threats.
Damage-based approach	Provides a monetary estimate of the impacts on society from activities that are a source GHG emissions.
Decarbonize	Reducing GHG emissions and capturing carbon emissions.
Disadvantaged community	Those that bear the burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and possess certain socioeconomic criteria, or comprise high-concentrations of low- to moderate-income households.
Distributed renewable energy	A distributed electric generator powered by sustainable renewable energy or alternative renewable energy that supplies electric power to an electric power service company, is used for on-site consumption, or is sold to third-parties.
Distribution system	The flow of procedures, systems, and activities that are designed and linked to facilitate and monitor the movement of goods and services from the source to the consumer.

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TERM	DEFINITION
Diversion	Actions that target the removal of materials from waste streams that are currently destined for landfills or incinerators so they can be recycled and remade into useful products.
Ecosystem services	Ways that people benefit from their surrounding environment.
Electrification	Replacing technologies that use fossil fuels with technologies that use electricity as a source of energy.
Energy burden	The percentage of household income that goes toward energy costs (electricity, home heating).
Environmental racism	The disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on BIPOC communities.
Equality	Everyone receives an equal amount of support.
Equity	Ensuring each person with the type and amount of support to meet their individual needs.
E-waste	Electrical or electronic equipment that's been discarded.
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)	A policy approach under which producers are given significant financial and/or physical responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.
Food injustice	The disproportionate burden of environmental barriers to healthy food experience on disadvantaged and BIPOC communities.
Food web	Consists of all the food chains in a single ecosystem.
Geothermal power	Electrical power generated from geothermal energy, which is heat produced deep in the Earth's core.
Green economy	An economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive.
Green infrastructure	An approach to water management that protects, restores, and mimics the natural water cycle.
Green jobs	Labor related to renewable energy, energy conservation, tree planting, green infrastructure, building new homes while renovating existing ones, and upgrades to utilities.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.
Greenhouse gas inventory	A list of emission sources and the associated emissions quantified using standardized methods.
Gross income	The total income earned by an individual on a paycheck before taxes and other deductions.
Harmful algal blooms	Overgrowth of algae in water, which hurts the environment, public health, and local economies. Some blooms produce dangerous toxins in fresh and marine water.
Heat pump	A device for heating or cooling by transferring heat mechanically from or to an external reservoir, such as the ground, water, or outside air.

TERM	DEFINITION
Invasive species	A species that is non-native to an ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
Just transition	A process that builds connections, creates opportunity, and ensures a good quality of life for all.
Life cycle of a product	The course of the life of a product, from when the product is in development to when the product has been removed from the market.
Load shifting	An electricity load management technique in which load demand is shifted from peak hours to off-peak hours of the day.
Maker spaces	Places that have the tools, equipment, and permitting to make items and sell to others.
Microclimates	A small or restricted area of land where the climate differs from the surrounding area.
Microgrid	A local energy grid with control capability, which means it can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate autonomously.
Micromobility	Transportation using lightweight, usually single-person vehicles, such as bicycles, scooters, e-bikes, and e-scooters.
Microtransit	A method of shared transit that uses small-scale vehicles, such as shuttles, minibuses, or regular cars, to deliver transportation to the public.
Mindful consumption	When buying practices are driven by a commitment to making purchasing decisions that have positive social, economic, and environmental impact. Examples include only buying what you need, buying secondhand, and opting for reusable products over single-use products.
Multi-modal transportation	Supports the needs of all users whether they choose to walk, bike, use transit, or drive.
Native species	A species that originated and developed in its surrounding habitat and has adapted to living in that particular environment. For North America, is one that was found within (as a component of) the ecosystem under consideration pre-European settlement.
Nature-based solutions	Actions to create features that mimic natural features and processes.
Net-zero-carbon-emissions	Achieving a balance between GHGs produced and GHGs taken out of the atmosphere. No more GHGs can be put into the atmosphere than taken out.
Pay-as-you-throw garbage	A usage-pricing model for disposing of municipal solid waste. Users are charged a rate based on how much waste they present for collection to the municipality or local authority.
Procurement	The act of obtaining or purchasing goods or services.
Recovery and collection infrastructure	Community infrastructure that collects, repurposes, donates, borrows, reuses, and recycles materials.
Redlining	A discriminatory practice of banks and government agencies from the 1930s to the 1960s that systemically denied financial services such as mortgages and insurance loans to residents of certain areas based on their race or ethnicity.
Regenerative agriculture	The agricultural practices that not only regenerate the land health (soils and plants), but also regenerate the businesses and communities that engage with that land (both economically and socially).
Regenerative economy	An economy that works to regenerate goods and/or services that are required for, or contribute to, public health and well-being.

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TERM	DEFINITION
Renewable energy	Energy produced from sources that are naturally replenished and do not run out, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy.
Resiliency	The capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties.
Resilient lands	An area of land where high microclimatic diversity and low levels of human modification provide species with connected, diverse climatic conditions that they will need to persist and adapt to changing regional climates.
Retrofit	The process of modifying something after it has been manufactured.
Seiche	A temporary disturbance or oscillation in the water level of a lake or partially enclosed body of water, especially one caused by changes in atmospheric pressure.
Single occupancy vehicle	When a privately-operated vehicle is only occupied by the driver.
Smart grid	An electricity supply network that uses digital communications technology to detect and react to local changes in usage.
Smart growth	Planned economic and community development that attempts to avoid urban sprawl and worsening environmental conditions. Covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.
Smart meter	Provides detailed information on consumption in order to reduce electricity bills and increase knowledge about the status of the electricity grid.
Social vulnerability	The susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards, including disproportionate death, injury, loss, or disruption of livelihood.
Socio-demographic	A combination of social and demographic factors that define people in a specific group or population.
Socioeconomic	Relating to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors within the population.
Solar systems	The integrated use of solar devices for the functions of collection, transfer, storage, and distribution of solar energy.
Sustainable agriculture	An agricultural method that seeks to sustain farmers, resources, and communities by promoting farming practices and methods that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.
Sustainability	To create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.
Symbiotic	Interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association.
Urban sprawl	The rapid expansion of urban areas on undeveloped land near a city.
Weatherization	Protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sunlight, precipitation, and wind, and modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency.
Zero carbon	No carbon emissions are being produced from a product or service.
Zero-emission	An engine, motor, process, or other energy source that emits no waste products that pollute the environment or disrupt the climate.

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