

Addendum A

Erie County Community Climate Action Plan Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal and List of Priority Climate Actions

Following discussion with the Community Climate Change Task Force and several of its subject matter committees, Erie County is amending the Erie County Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to include a long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal and a list of Priority Climate Actions. These Priority Climate Actions are either in progress or work will begin in 2025.

GHG Inventory and Reduction Goal

In 2017 the County created a baseline GHG inventory for 2005 to align with federal GHG goals, showing communitywide emissions of 11,800,000 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e). In 2025, the One Region Forward 2024 Community GHG Inventory became available for Erie County. A summary of that inventory is included as Addendum B. The 2024 inventory shows 10,578,229 MTCO₂e total communitywide GHG emissions. The largest emission sector is transportation (42% of total emissions), followed by residential (23%), industry (13%), commercial (12%), waste management (8%), and agriculture (2%). The 2024 GHG emissions represent a 10% reduction from 2005, mostly from a reduction in electricity related emissions in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

Note that neither the 2005 or 2024 inventory efforts had access to fuel consumption or emissions data for key sectors, both rely on assumptions-based approaches, and those methodological approaches are different for the two inventories. Therefore, the accuracy of the 10% reduction estimate and future reduction estimates is not clear. But, for the purpose of goal setting and measuring progress going forward, the inventories are useful.

As an outcome of the CCAP planning process, Erie County has adopted a goal of 75% GHG reduction from the 2005 baseline year by 2050. This is similar to New York State (NYS) statewide reduction goal, which uses a 1990 emissions baseline, and has a goal of 85% emissions reduction by 2050. Erie County GHG inventories are not available before 2005, but between 1990 and 2005 the [New York State GHG inventories](#) show an increase in statewide emissions of about 12%.

Priority Climate Actions

Below are Priority Climate Actions from the CCAP. These are actions that are either ongoing or work will start in 2025.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

3.1.1 Heat Emergency Plan - Build upon the extreme heat analysis in the CVA to develop a locally-informed plan for mitigating the effects of, and responding to, heat wave conditions.

CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

5.1.1 Encourage compliance with NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Food Waste Law and Good Samaritan Law for business enterprises through outreach and education.

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.

5.1.8: Support community groups whose goals align with creating effective changes in waste reduction practices.

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.

5.2.4: Support recycling options for multi-family residential buildings, public housing, and commercial entities.

5.2.6: Educate and promote responsible waste management practices, such as the recovery and collection infrastructure, throughout all sectors of Erie County.

5.2.9: Promote and expand participation in the HHW collection program and address barriers to participation in existing and emerging programs.

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.

5.3.3: Promote and educate consumers on the benefits of reusable products like refillable containers, product repair, maker spaces, and buying used goods.

TRANSPORTATION

6.2.1: Support expansion of the County's current light rail system, including connection to East Buffalo and the airport.

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

6.3.2 Install public-facing EV charging stations at County facilities.

6.3.3 Advocate for EV charging infrastructure on real estate development projects, especially for projects with direct County involvement.

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.

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.

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.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCY

7.1.1: Engage and alert the public about access to free or low-cost energy assessments offered by New York State.

7.1.3: Educate homeowners on energy and cost savings from weatherization and upgrades to energy efficient technologies, including heat pumps.

7.2.1: Create a County-wide community energy program that utilizes 100% clean energy that prioritizes disadvantaged community residents as first adopters.

7.2.6: Work to assure that energy and housing costs are affordable for the County's low- and moderate-income residents.

7.3.3: Developing or securing opportunities to support re- treeing, 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.

7.3.6: Create an education program for residents on extreme weather event preparedness.

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.

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

8.1.1: Determine the needs of community members, businesses, and municipalities through annual surveys.

8.1.2: Develop and regularly update a Climate Action Toolkit to provide a roadmap to success for both large and small business.

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.

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.

8.1.5 Engage in direct community outreach to assess needs and provide resource assistance.

8.2.1: Review current local economic development policies for environmental, social, and equity concerns and benchmark against other communities.

8.2.5: Expand broadband internet throughout Erie County.

8.2.7: Continue to support the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable.

COMMERCIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

9.1.6: Use high performing County-owned buildings and facilities to educate the community on building efficiency opportunities.

9.1.7: Work with Industrial Development Authorities to incentivize high performing buildings.

9.2.1: Coordinate and serve as a conduit for information in support of renewable energy projects.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

10.1.2: Provide skilled labor job training for nature-based projects.

10.4.1: Encourage and educate the public on creating pollinator-friendly habitat.

10.4.2: Continue habitat certification efforts through outreach and education.

10.4.3: Support the planting of pollinator gardens in both urban and rural environments.

10.4.4: Support the planting of native plants in both urban and rural environments.

10.4.5: Combat invasive species to promote biodiversity.

10.4.6: Educate the public about nature-based residential lawn care.

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.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

11.1.1: Support the development of the Evans Agribusiness Park and encourage the use of locally farmed products in its operations.

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.

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.

11.2.4: Promote sustainable forest management to increase carbon sequestration and climate resiliency while protecting forest ecosystems.

11.3.1: Support the sale and consumption of locally produced foods by supporting relevant legislation and programming, such as value-based procurement and Good Food Purchasing Program.

11.3.8: Explore participation in the Good Food Purchasing Program.

11.4.3: Update the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan to include climate resiliency, mitigation, and adaptation initiatives.