<u>**Community Climate Action Plan - Draft Outline December 2020**</u>

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
  - o Erie County Commits to Paris
  - o Community Climate Change Task Force
  - o NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)
- Baseline Data
  - o Erie County Demographics and Description
  - o Greenhouse Gas Inventory
  - o Assessment of Current Programs
  - o Utility Burden and Equity Mapping
- Commitment to Equity
  - o Inequity in Erie County
  - o Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool
- Erie County Government Levers
  - o Role of County government
  - o "Power to control" vs. "Power to influence"
- Overarching/Cross-Cutting Issues
  - o Education and Outreach
  - o Connections to Health
  - o Funding
  - o Partnerships
  - o 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
- 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 - provides resiliency, reduces food deserts, assists local economies, bolsters emergency food systems for production and procurement
- Address Food Waste through donations, reduction of waste, composting and digesters
- Reduce consumption, increase reuse and recycling to reduce solid waste

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, especially using native plants and forestry practices
- Increasing urban tree canopy in urban/suburban communities to improve human health and resiliency to flooding and extreme temperatures, as well as carbon storage
- Access to a diversity of green space and parks for all neighborhoods
- "Green" Infrastructure – using natural systems to improve water quality
- Agriculture and Forestry
    - Protect agricultural land for food production and carbon storage
    - Protect forests for carbon storage

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, ESCOs)
- Healthy, Supportive Housing – indoor air quality, lead, weatherization/energy efficiency, comfort, COVID
- Decarbonization (new construction/existing buildings)
    - Regulated multifamily affordable housing (5+ units)

- o   Naturally occurring single family affordable housing (1-4 units)
- o   Market rate housing
- o   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
  - o   Priority populations and disadvantaged communities
  - o   Transportation access and equity
- Improve internet access
- Local/Regional manufacturing and supply chains
- Best value contracting, MWBE participation, and procurement
- Just transition support for workers, communities, and local governments dependent on fossil fuel industries

Agriculture and Food Systems
- Farmland protections
- Engage local environmental organizations to encourage farmers to use farming practices and technologies that protect the health of people, animals, soil, air, and water and are sustainable.
- Provide resources, support, incentives, and promotion of farmers to encourage food production methods, such as sustainable and organic practices, to increase their customer base.
- Support the creation of a consumer-producer-buyer verification process to support and increase consumer purchasing
- of healthy and local food.
- Promote the inclusion of food systems as part of climate resiliency and/or disaster mitigation planning efforts.
- Encourage sustainable siting of large-scale renewable energy projects so that prime farmlands are not negatively
- impacted.
- Support, promote, and broaden participation in the Greater Buffalo Urban Growers Pledge.

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

Conclusion