

Central New York Regional Sustainability Plan

VisionCNY DRAFT

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Central New York Regional Planning and
Development Board



Chapter 1: Executive Summary

New York State Cleaner, Greener Communities Regional Sustainability Planning Program

The Central New York Regional Sustainability Plan (**VisionCNY**) was prepared by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board under the auspices of the Cleaner, Greener Communities (CGC) Regional Sustainability Planning Program, a state-wide initiative established by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2011 to develop sustainability strategies through a regional planning process. This program was designed to empower regions throughout the State to create plans for more sustainable communities that address the diverse needs of the individual region.

Funding for the CGC program comes from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and is administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

The CGC program is a two-phase competitive grant process. Phase I funding was provided to each of the ten regions throughout the State, as defined by the NYS Regional Economic Development Council Program, to create sustainability plans or to expand the scope of existing sustainability plans. Grants were awarded to a municipality within each region, acting on behalf of a consortium of other municipalities. Funding was made available to develop regional sustainability strategies through a planning process that allowed each region to

develop its own vision, goals, and objectives for a sustainable future, as well as the activities or types of projects needed to achieve it.

Phase II of the CGC Program will provide \$90 million in funding statewide, awarded on a competitive basis, toward regional projects that support and implement the regional sustainability goals identified during the planning process and that provide the greatest opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, save energy, and deploy renewable energy while improving the economic and environmental health of our communities. Phase II is scheduled to be launched by NYSERDA in 2013. Phase II funding is an important part of the planning process; however, this Plan is intended to be used in multiple ways beyond the NYSERDA phase II funding.

The regional planning process was developed as part of the New York State Cleaner Greener Communities program, announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in his 2011 State of the State address. The program will guide and support integrated, sustainable solutions to improve quality of life through two phases. Key goals of the Program are:

- + Establish a statewide sustainability planning framework
- + Inform municipal land use policies
- + Guide infrastructure investment
- + Promote sustainable growth

- + Reduce GHG Emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050

The CGC program provides a vehicle for communities throughout NYS to partner with public and private experts across a wide range of fields, along with community residents, to encourage discussion and lead the development of regional sustainability plans. The participants in the CGC program were asked to think through current conditions, consider various scenarios to optimize growth, and identify, shape and collaborate on actual projects that, when implemented, would significantly improve the economic and environmental health of their respective region. The results of this effort will guide implementation of integrated solutions – from statewide investments to regional decision making on land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and environmental practices – that can maintain and improve local quality of life.

CNY Planning Process

The CNY RPDB is a public agency that was established in 1966 by Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties under the provisions of Article 12B of the New York State General Municipal Law. The CNY RPDB is governed by a board of directors that is appointed by its five member counties. Financial support for the agency is provided by member county contributions, state and federal grants, and contract service revenue. The CNY RPDB provides a comprehensive range of services associated with the growth and development of communities in Central New York with a focus on the following program areas: Community Development, Economic Development, Energy Management, Environmental Management, Information and Research Services, Intergovernmental Coordination and Transportation Planning.

The planning effort brought together representatives from local government, local communities, large and small businesses, not-for-profits and other key stakeholders to discuss the strengths of our region and to develop regional strategies from the ground up. The effort was designed to (1) engage and encourage local participation; (2) gather information on the many sustainability, community, and economic development projects and programs already being undertaken in the region and bring that information together; (3) give stakeholders across the Central New York Region a central location to document and showcase the strong efforts already underway; and (4) give regional stakeholders and residents the encouragement, information, and assistance needed to replicate or expand existing efforts.

Stakeholders with expertise in each of the focus areas were actively involved in the Technical Advisory Committee. The membership of these working groups was selected with the input of the planning team as well as stakeholder recommendations and consisted of representatives from state, county, and local governments, including elected leaders and agencies as well as members from industry and local non-profit organizations.

In addition, input from members of the public was a key part of the planning process, solicited via the project website www.visioncny.org and during two rounds of public meetings held throughout the region in October and December 2012. Overall, approximately 150 members of the public added their input to the planning process.

The **VisionCNY** Plan was developed through a comprehensive process that consisted of assessing the current conditions of the Region, setting goals, identifying and prioritizing strategies, developing implementation plans for these strategies, and identifying priority sustainability indicators and targets in each of the eight focus areas.

The overall goal of the process was to create a long-term sustainability vision for the Region using the collaborative input of regional stakeholders and public participants. The Sustainability Plan was designed to be representative of many voices throughout the region, and implementation strategies have been developed for hands-on use by regional and local governments businesses, and residents. Planning discussions centered around three outlying target years: 2020, 2035 and 2050. These time frames were selected based on the understanding that the Region, as well as the State, seeks to make long-term commitments and investments in ensuring the economic, social and environmental resilience of the Region.

Project Management Team

Working in cooperation with its five-member counties, the CNY RPDB began work on the regional sustainability plan in April 2012. The agency was assisted in this effort by a team led by O'Brien and Gere and a group of subconsultants that included the Arup Design Group, AWS Truepower, Barton & Loguidice, CDH Energy, Earth Sensitive Solutions, HB Solutions, and Terrapin Bright Green. The CNY RPDB and its consultants formed a working planning team with primary responsibility for stakeholder engagement, data collection and analysis, policy and program research, and development of the plan. As required in the State initiative, the planning team addressed eight key policy areas in their work including

energy, infrastructure, economic development, environment, land use, materials management, and governance.

Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholders

The **VisionCNY** Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) selection was based on a number of criteria, including: ensuring representation on each of the working groups from the five CNY counties; including a broad range of representative interests. Technical Committee membership represented a mix of municipal, county, and state agencies, public and private higher education institutions, private industry and not-for-profit agencies. Members were solicited based on their experience and leadership in the Region related to the specific focus area. Great attention and care were taken to ensure that key players and subject matter experts were included.

The Technical Advisory Committee consisted of 21 members. Individuals were identified by the Planning Team based on its knowledge of already active regional participants. An invitation letter was sent out to all potential TAC members, resulting in a base of approximately xx people (see Appendix X- Consortium and Technical Advisory Committee Member List).

Primary responsibilities of the Technical Committees included:

- + Review Regional baseline assessment
- + Develop goals
- + Identify and prioritize sustainability initiatives
- + Confirm implementation strategies for priority initiatives

A member of the Planning Team served as the technical support lead for the TAC. The Planning Team member's role was to schedule and facilitate meetings, document the work of the committee, and prepare the narrative that will form the basis of the Regional Sustainability Plan. The TAC met five times between June and November of 2012, with their work outlined in the planning process described below.

In addition to the core TAC members and the Consortium, a group of interested stakeholders was identified, were notified of public outreach meetings and received periodic updates as relevant materials were added to the project website. These individuals consisted of CNY RPDB members and other individuals who contacted the Planning Team to be apprised of the CGC process.

The CNY RPDB board of directors met four times during the development of the plan to review and provide input into the development of goals, indicators, targets and recommended strategies and projects. Finally, the CNY RPDB organized a series of focus groups in each of the region's five counties with county and municipal officials, key agency staff and other community representatives to obtain local perspectives on area opportunities and challenges, establish local sustainability priorities, and gather input into recommended strategies and projects. A similar focus group meeting was held in Syracuse with regional stakeholders consisting of state and regional agency representatives such as NYS ESD, NYS DEC, NYS DOS and organizations that operate on a regional or multi-county basis such as Centerstate CEO, the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Energy and Environmental Systems, Home Headquarters, Housing Visions and the Gifford Foundation.

Guiding Principles

VisionCNY Regional Sustainability Vision

For purposes of the CGC program, NYSERDA defines "sustainability" as follows:

Sustainability is living, operating and growing more efficiently, while using fewer resources. In adopting sustainable practices, we can meet the needs of our residents – both today and in the future. We can also foster communities that have lower costs, more businesses and jobs, and improved quality of life.

The Central New York (CNY) region seeks to create a future where social and environmental issues are addressed while creating a framework for a sustainable regional economy. This sustainability plan is intended as a tool to guide efforts to achieve a prosperous future that continues to promote innovation and showcase the natural beauty of the region.

The **VisionCNY** Plan documents a long-term vision for Central New York that:

- + Enhances economic development, community vitality, and environmental stewardship;
- + Advances the innovations and interests of residents, business, and local governments to reduce their energy costs and improve private and public infrastructure; and,

- + Supports New York State's long-term goals of reducing GHG emissions by 80 percent by 2050, with a mid-term goal of reducing emissions by 40 percent by 2030.

Sustainable Development that Builds on the Region's Strengths and Addresses the Region's Challenges

There are many examples that demonstrate the Region's progress in becoming more sustainable, including:

- + Private investment in the Region's cities has been steadily increasing. The City of Syracuse downtown has seen a significant commercial turn around, with \$265 million worth of projects according to the Syracuse Downtown Committee. Overall, the city has seen \$1.4 billion invested over last several years in important projects such as the Center of Excellence in Energy and Environmental Systems, CNY Biotech Accelerator, the SUNY UPSTATE Cancer Center and Institute of Human Performance, Inner Harbor, Loguen's Crossing, Connective Corridor, Landmark Theater, Pike Block, Dey's Building, Syracuse University Warehouse Building, Washington Station, and the new CENTRO transfer hub. The downtown in Oswego beginning to see a stronger residential market, reversing a decades-long trend,

with exciting projects such as the Stevedore Lofts. The City of Auburn is experiencing a downtown renaissance as well, with plans for a vibrant arts district and a new arts, education and performance center to support the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival.

- + Many of the Region's colleges and universities have adopted the Presidents' Climate Commitment and incorporated sustainability into their curricula.
- + Waste reduction and recycling program implementation and the development of a private single-stream recycling facility in Liverpool has resulted in a significant reduction in landfill waste.
- + Syracuse University, the City of Syracuse, and CENTRO is continuing to develop the Connective Corridor linking University Hill to downtown and Armory Square in Syracuse.
- + The Region is home to almost 24 LEED certified buildings.
- + The Region is home to 13 state parks and historic sites with a combined annual attendance of over x million.
- + Thirteen communities in the Region have taken the Climate Smart Communities Pledge.
- + The Clean Tech Center of the Syracuse Technology Garden has developed a number of successful business development and entrepreneurship support programs targeted at clean energy businesses.



These are but a few examples of the many sustainability related initiatives within the Region. However, challenges remain and will continue within the Region unless systemic problems are addressed within a framework of Regional sustainability. The Region has experienced significant urban sprawl since the 1950s, seen in the Region's steady population growth in suburban and exurban areas. In contrast, almost all of the Region's cities and villages have experienced diminishing property values, loss of essential businesses, vacant buildings and abandoned properties. As cities and villages have declined, pockets of poverty have increased, reducing opportunities for low-income populations and people of color. At the same time, sprawl has required extension of roads and infrastructure, new and expanded schools, and increased municipal workforce, all of which increase municipal operating costs. The Sustainability Plan must provide a means to reinvest in the urban cores as well as the rural communities and increase the availability of services and economic opportunities to the underserved populations.

A sustainable CNY Region will have a greater diversity of employment opportunities including those in the expanding green jobs sector. To offer a more diverse set of employment opportunities, the CNY Region must also begin to sufficiently train its workforce to meet the needs of the existing and emerging industries.

The current public transportation system in the CNY Region is well established in the urban centers but fails to create Regional accessibility making it difficult to attract workers outside of cities, as well as providing limited access to suburban jobs for low-income urban residents. Investing in the public transportation system will allow for increased employment levels and equity, as well as decreased dependency on automobiles as more residents will be able to take advantage of a Regional public transportation system. The Region's water infrastructure faces challenges as well, with the NYS Environmental Facility Corporation estimates the Region requires \$822 million in water and sewer improvements.

Building on the Region's Economic Development Strategy

The **VisionCNY** Plan seeks to complement and expand upon the economic development strategy crafted in 2011 by the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (REDC). The REDC is a public-private partnership made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The REDC focuses on a community based, bottom-up approach to job creation and economic growth through the distribution of funds provided by NYS.

In 2011, the CNYREDC led an award winning effort to develop a regional economic development strategy which establishes a vision for Central New York's economic future and provides a framework for implementation. The **VisionCNY** Planning Team set out to leverage the significant planning effort previously undertaken for The CNYREDC Plan and by describing the interconnections of sustainability and economic development. This planning process is intended to take the programs identified in the CNYREDC plan further by evaluating how best to establish economic development priorities within the framework of energy efficiency, emission reductions, and environmental improvements. This approach to economic development will allow the Region, and New York State as a whole, to provide progressive opportunities for development and enhanced quality of life for Central New York residents.

Common Sustainability Themes

The sustainability goals and strategies for each focus area share a number of themes. These common themes are addressed throughout this Plan and include the following:

GHG Emissions Reduction. A successful regional sustainability plan should result in an overall reduction in GHG emissions.

Sustainable Energy Use and Production. Building energy efficiency programs and encouraging energy conservation by businesses and citizens in their homes will promote sustainable energy use while increasing infrastructure for the public and private use of alternative fuels; removing barriers to renewable energy development will help build diverse energy production within the region.

Enhancement of the Regional Economy. Sustainability should be achieved in coordination with the support and enhancement of the regional economy.

Consideration of Diverse Land Uses. Sustainable practices should meet the diverse needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Revitalization of Main Streets. Revitalization of the region's cities, main streets, and community centers will create more livable communities and support local economies.

Conservation of Natural Resources. Conserving, enhancing, and protecting the region's abundant natural resources is vital to regional sustainability. Protecting the region's agricultural and forestry resources will serve to maintain their viability for continued sustainable uses.

Education. Promoting and improving public education and increased awareness of sustainability issues is essential in realizing the region's sustainability goals.

Government Policy and Programs. Local government policy and programs that could prevent or discourage implementation of regional sustainability initiatives should be assessed and updated accordingly.

Technical Approach

Baseline Assessment

A baseline assessment was conducted for each of the eight focus areas that comprise the Central New York Sustainability Plan. The baseline assessment provides an overview of the existing conditions and issues associated with each focus area and identifies where there may be gaps in achieving sustainability.

The assessment provides a snapshot of the existing scenario in the Region and includes economic, demographic, infrastructure, energy, and other data from the U.S. Census; Regional, state, and federal agencies; academic institutions; and Regional, state and national organizations. The baseline assessment information was presented at the first round of technical committee meetings. This information provided the foundation for identifying sustainability goals and initiatives.

Goal Setting

The Planning Team and the Technical Advisory Committee discussed and established overarching goals related to how sustainability could be achieved in their respective focus area. These goals became the foundation for discussions with the technical committees and the public related to the identification of Regional initiatives.

Indicators & Target Establishment

The overall planning process also resulted in the development of sustainability indicators and targets that will help the Region measure the progress towards achieving the goals and initiatives of the Sustainability Plan. The indicators are relevant to the individual focus areas and provide a method for tracking meaningful outcomes that resonate with stakeholders and decision makers.

The sustainability targets include a long-term goal for achieving a specific objective, such as "Reduce per capita energy consumption 40 percent by the year 2020". These targets are connected to the baseline assessment which provides the data which the Region can use to measure the progress towards achieving the long-term goals established for each focus area.

Identification of Regional Strategies

Using the baseline assessment as a foundation and the goals as guidance, the Planning Team and Technical Advisory Committee considered current and projected gaps in the focus area and identified a variety of actions that could be implemented to address these gaps. Ideas generated from the Planning Team, TAC and the public were organized into up to ten strategic initiatives for each focus area. These strategic initiatives were then evaluated by the CNY RPDB board of directors. The evaluation criteria included regional impact or scalability, replicability, greenhouse gas reduction potential, ease of implementation, timeline for implementation, and cost. The results of the evaluation were provided to the Planning Team for consideration for the prioritization process.

The Plan

NYSERDA provided the following guidance on the need for a Regional Sustainability Plan:

Sustainable development strives to enhance environmental, economic and social well-being without degrading current or future natural, economic and social resources. Project identified by this planning process should improve energy efficiency throughout the community, promote renewable energy and result in reduced carbon emissions.

The CNY RPDB partnered with public and private experts across a wide range of fields, along with community stakeholders, to lead the development of a Regional Sustainability Plan and to promote projects that will significantly improve the economic and environmental health of our area. This plan is intended as a guide for integrated, sustainable solutions—from statewide investments to regional decision-making on land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and environmental practices—to improve our quality of life. The **VisionCNY** Plan is designed to be regional in scope and direction, and to provide guidance rather than being prescriptive or regulatory in nature. It is intended to provide a framework for a long-term sustainability vision for Central New York.

The **VisionCNY** Plan outlines tangible actions for improving the long-term sustainability of our communities and natural resources. Specifically, the Plan identifies:

- + Current GHG emissions and energy use along with available natural resources and economic assets

- + Strategies for GHG gas emissions reduction, energy improvements, and the deployment of renewable energy sources
- + Sustainability goals for each of the following sustainability focus areas: energy, land use and livable communities, transportation, agriculture and forestry, water management, and waste management
- + Actions to achieve these goals and barriers to implementation.

The region already has a number of initiatives and projects underway, and this plan demonstrates how current activities can be coordinated to produce additional positive impacts on emissions, energy production and energy and cost savings. While much is being accomplished, a broader level of support by way of increased funding for projects, and the continued collaboration of existing institutions and stakeholders to actively promote sustainability within the region will encourage the development of a populace who will make economic, social and environmental decisions in an informed manner.

Sustainability Goals and Strategies

In order to chart a course to effectively and efficiently transition to this new sustainability landscape, the CNY region has articulated a series of strategies that will enable energy and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. These strategies address the various components that will facilitate change by addressing policies, procedures, education and outreach. They also are aimed at the broad spectrum of sectors that can drive change: government, business and industry, residential and non-profit. The strategies are supported by programs and projects that the region can implement to become more sustainable. Projects recommendations were solicited from the stakeholders, including members of the public, and were included as tangible actions that can be implemented to work toward achieving these goals. It was important that each action be considered for project readiness, applicability toward sustainability goals, GHG emissions impact, and CNY REDC economic development goals detailed in the 2011 Strategic Plan and 2012 Update.

The Plan considers the opportunities and constraints that the region is facing with respect to achieving sustainability throughout the region. As a result, a broad set of goals that are achievable in the region were identified for each sustainability focus area. All of the goals were developed with consideration given to economic development, governance, and the

impacts of climate change on the CNY region. Strategies were then designed to meet the regional sustainability goals for each focus area as well as across focus areas. The regional sustainability goals and key strategies and project recommendations for each policy area are as follows:

Energy

GOAL

Minimize the environmental impact of the region's energy use by increasing the efficiency of energy and fuel consumption, curtailing energy demand and increasing the use of local clean energy sources in place of fossil fuels.

STRATEGIES

1. Accelerate adoption of energy efficiency measures by promoting access to information and incentives for customers at all income levels, for businesses of all sizes, and for difficult to reach property types.
2. Encourage municipalities to adopt policies, codes and regulations that stimulate increased investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
3. Accelerate energy improvements in major public facilities and infrastructure.
4. Promote deployment of renewable energy.
5. Accelerate deployment of distributed alternative and efficient energy resources.
6. Increase the use of demand response programs during peak load periods to better manage electricity supply and consumption.
7. Upgrade power transmission and distribution systems to encourage the development of renewable energy projects, energy storage and smart grid including electric-vehicle-to-grid technologies.
8. Educate and motivate behavior change which minimizes energy usage.
9. Foster the development of clean energy manufacturing enterprises.
10. Promote innovative projects for clean energy generation, storage and distribution such as hydrogen fuel cells and eco-industrial or agri-business parks that co-locate symbiotic industrial processes.

Infrastructure

GOAL

Promote sensible infrastructure that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, revitalizes existing communities, improves the quality of life, strengthens targeted industry concentrations, and improves the region's competitiveness, and connections to, the national and global economies.

STRATEGIES

1. Connect community destinations (schools, grocery stores, libraries, parks, shops, municipal offices) with a complete network of sidewalks, highly visible crosswalks, and bicycle lanes and/or paths.
2. Implement transportation services, policies, projects and incentives that encourage transit-oriented development and alternative modes of travel for work, shopping and recreation (pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails, bicycle parking, printed and online bicycle path maps, bike-to-work programs, improved access to public mass transit).
3. Develop and implement an enhanced transit strategy (i.e. Bus Rapid Transit) for select mobility corridors within the region to support increases in transit ridership.
4. Invest in alternative fuel infrastructure such as electric charging stations, CNG stations, and biofuels.
5. Develop and implement transportation demand management (TDM) programs in concert with large employers and municipalities that would benefit from reduced parking demand.
6. Support and maintain "fix-it-first" state and federal transportation infrastructure policies, which favor the maintenance of existing streets and highways, as well as wastewater and drinking water facilities, over the construction of new ones, and important funding programs for historic preservation, walking and cycling facilities, and Main Street and streetscape improvement projects.
7. Begin to strategize on national, superregional, and local freight and commuter rail systems in collaboration with other upstate New York communities and continue to lobby for support of and continued Amtrak service to the region.
8. Develop programs that raise the awareness of, motivation for, and accessibility to pursue sustainable, low-emissions transportation choices.

9. Provide reliable and fast access to the Internet for all of the region's residents.
10. Invest in drinking water and wastewater treatment systems to improve efficiency and incorporate alternative energy technologies such as wind, solar, and biodigester facilities.

Land Use

Goal

Manage the region's economic and physical development through the efficient and equitable use of land to conserve its natural and cultural resources and revitalize its urban cores, main streets and existing neighborhoods.

STRATEGIES

1. Employ targeted development initiatives (regionally catalytic) through land use planning to support existing urban cores, rural centers, main streets, neighborhoods, and improvements to local quality of life conditions -focused on connectivity, visual quality, accessibility, human-scale pedestrian amenities and mixed uses.
2. Leverage the region's exemplary natural and cultural resources as well as its anchor institutions in education, health and medicine.
3. Implement safe and accessible pedestrian, car-top boat, and bicycle infrastructure that connects homes, places of work, community services, and natural resources across the region.
4. Establish municipal policy frameworks and incentives to redevelop underperforming areas with mixed-uses that are supportive of local needs including jobs, healthy foods, and access to healthy lifestyles; introduce urban design standards for plantings, benches, lighting, art, and universal accessibility playgrounds, waterfronts, parks, and nature areas; implement mixed-income housing options, transit-oriented development, waterfront development and Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) districts that provide access to community services.
5. Increase infill development and prioritize the preservation, energy-efficient rehabilitation, remediation, and reuse of the region's historic and older existing vacant or underused buildings and brownfield sites in urban, suburban and rural population centers for mixed uses including affordable housing.

6. Implement policies and incentives such as targeted technical assistance programs and model "Transfer of Development Rights" (TDR) regulation, Uniform Tax Exemption, expedited permitting, mortgage recording fee exemptions, shared parking and access management or other mechanisms, consistent with New York State law, which can be easily adopted by local municipal governments to allow higher density of development in priority investment areas such as commercial and mixed use areas.
7. Establish policy and incentives to increase the long-term protection of high value natural areas, the use of protective buffers, low impact development, green roofs, limits or reductions in the area of impermeable paving surfaces, as well as diversified public green spaces and public waterfront access.
8. Encourage development and implementation of wastewater treatment wetlands where the costs to municipalities for traditional municipal sewer infrastructure limits development and rehabilitation in existing rural community centers.
9. Establish strong working relationship processes and initiatives between local communities, municipal governments, and NYS agencies such as DOT, DEC and DOS to align priorities and coordinate investments.
10. Prioritize and increase funding that serves community development goals in low-income and underserved neighborhoods including improving preK-20 educational attainment.

Natural Environment

GOAL

The primary goal in support of sustaining CNY's environment is to conserve and protect the quality of the region's water, air, land and wildlife resources without compromising the ability to meet current and future resource dependent needs.

STRATEGIES

1. Utilize and replicate natural systems in support of critical infrastructure services to protect and improve water quality.
2. Utilize green Infrastructure to improve air and water quality and to reduce 25% of the current stormwater runoff volume from existing and new development within 5 years.

3. Implement targeted infrastructure improvements for pollution sources known to impact impaired water bodies in CNY.
4. Protect prime agricultural soils and reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from agricultural lands by expanding and improving access to existing effective agricultural support programs.
5. Reduce consumptive water use by 25% within 5 years.
6. Enhance the health, diversity and resiliency of regional forest resources.
7. Ensure natural resource managers have the tools to effectively meet their responsibilities.

Sustainable Materials Management

GOAL

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the overall environmental impact of the region's waste stream by reducing the production of waste, the energy intensity of the materials management system and the amount of waste requiring landfill disposal.

STRATEGIES

1. Support and implement policies and programs that reduce waste generation, encourage reuse and increase recycling to close the loop on material flows within the region.
2. Develop additional reuse and recycling infrastructure.
3. Encourage composting and other organic material recycling technologies.
4. Reduce the environmental impacts of the waste management system itself, including collection, processing and deposition.
5. Develop regional Industrial Ecology programs such as waste material audits for local industries to help identify IE opportunities and a waste materials exchange program to facilitate the use of waste materials as inputs.
6. Sponsor "kernels" of Industrial Symbiosis and support regional networks between industries to foster trust and establish the conditions in which businesses organically find partners that have usable waste streams.
7. Improve the collection and reporting of accurate information regarding the generation, collection, and processing of residential and non-residential waste.

8. Develop approaches to address specialized waste streams such as hazardous waste and construction & demolition debris to reduce the amount of material requiring landfill disposal.
9. Engage in solid waste management facility planning on a regional basis
10. Support regional collaboration and participation in updates to the Solid Waste Management Act.

Economic Development

GOAL

Support the growth of a diverse economic base in Central New York that will provide employment opportunities for a broad cross section of citizens across the entire five-county area.

STRATEGIES

1. Maintain a strong foundation for the management and efficient delivery of government services at the federal, state, and local level.
2. Support the development and maintenance of a modern infrastructure network in Central New York that is focused on roads, sewer and water facilities, transit services, telecommunication resources, air and rail services, shovel ready development sites, and port facilities.
3. Develop a coordinated regional program that will improve the quality of life in Central New York through targeted investments in the region's recreation, cultural, arts, and historic resources.
4. Maintain a strong network of county and regionally-based organizations with the capacity to coordinate the delivery of a range of economic development services, tax abatement, and financial assistance in Central New York.
5. Support the operation of a coordinated and robust business retention and expansion program in Central New York
6. Maximize the region's human capital by improving the alignment of workforce supply and employment demand in the region.
7. Encourage the growth of a strong entrepreneurial culture in Central New York that will strengthen the region's economy through new venture formation and product development activities.

8. Support the region's industry concentrations through investment of resources in targeted research initiatives, capital funding, and workforce training programs.
9. Coordinate implementation of a comprehensive regional marketing and business recruitment program.
10. Implement a comprehensive regional export marketing campaign and technical assistance program.

Climate Adaptation

GOAL

Adapt successfully to a changing climate and improve the resilience of the region's communities, businesses, infrastructure and natural systems.

STRATEGIES

1. Conduct vulnerability and risk assessments, and cost-benefit analyses in order to identify key areas for climate adaptation in Central New York communities
2. Develop systems to prepare for and respond to more frequent flooding events
3. Implement measures that mitigate the impacts of climate change on infrastructure
4. Create a central repository of regional climate data and provide channels for the distribution of climate information
5. Develop and implement emergency and hazard mitigation plans
6. Implement agricultural practices that support environmental, economic, and social sustainability
7. Promote open space conservation, implement smart growth strategies, and protect forest ecosystems to increase regional climate mitigation potential
8. Develop climate adaptation education opportunities in order to increase the number of Climate Smart Communities in Central New York.

Sustainability Indicators and Targets

The **VisionCNY Plan** establishes a framework for measuring progress toward a more sustainable region. Sustainability Indicators provide benchmarks for quantifiable results to measure the success of moving closer to achieving the sustainability goals identified in the Plan. Each

sustainability focus area discussed in the Plan includes a list of specific metrics that can be used to ensure that the results of the implementation of the Plan are tracked and measured over time to gauge success. In addition, each focus area has set the following targets in which to show progress toward achieving sustainability in the region:

Energy

1. Reduce regional energy consumption per capita, including electricity and fuels, by 40% (over 2010 levels) by 2030.
2. Reduce regional GHG emissions per capita by 40% (over 2010 levels) by 2030.

Land Use

1. Decrease per capita land consumption by 10 percent by 2030
2. Increase proportion of population within existing municipal centers from 56 percent to 65 percent by 2030
3. Increase the number of acres of the region's pristine shoreline, scenic farmland, rugged gorges, and forestlands in nature preserves open to the public and in conservation easements on private lands.

Transportation

1. Increase the total percentage of people commuting via walking, biking, transit, and carpooling by 20 percent (over 2010 levels) by 2030.
2. Decrease the vehicle miles traveled per capita by 20 percent (below 2010 levels) by 2030.

Natural Environment

1. Reduce per capita regional water demand 3 percent annually through 2030.
2. Reduce the annual frequency of combined sewer overflow occurrences by reducing 25% of the current stormwater runoff volume from existing development within 5 years.
3. Reduce 20% of the waterbodies currently impaired by nutrients and/or sediment.

Sustainable Materials Management

1. Reduce the total solid waste generated per capita by 75 percent (below 2010 levels) by 2030.

Economic Development

1. Increase the Region's current population of 791,5000 to 1 million residents by 2050.
2. Increase the region's current number of jobs from 320,000 to 405,000 by 2050.
3. Increase the Region's per capita income by 10 percent over the next 30 years to equal or exceed the national average by 2050.
4. Increase the number of clean-economy jobs in Central New York by 10%.

Climate Adaptation

1. Decrease the economic value of property vulnerable to storm surges and flooding (by relocating critical infrastructure from parcels crossed by floodplains) by 10 percent (below 2012 levels) by 2030.
2. Decrease per capita CO₂e emissions by 35 percent (below 2010 levels) by 2030.

Implementation / Next Steps

The CNY RPDB will spearhead the implementation of the **VisionCNY** Plan. Implementation of a region-wide sustainability plan fits squarely within the mission of the CNY RPDB, which includes providing assistance to its member counties and local municipalities in the areas of community development, energy management, economic development, environmental management and transportation planning.

In order to chart a course to effectively and efficiently transition to this new sustainability landscape, the Planning Team has articulated a series of strategies that will enable energy and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. These strategies address the various components that will facilitate change by addressing policies, procedures, education and outreach. They also are aimed at the broad spectrum of sectors that can drive change: government, business and industry, residential and non-profit. The strategies are supported by programs and projects that the region can implement to become more sustainable.

Sustainability projects were solicited from the stakeholders, including members of the public, and were included as tangible actions that can be implemented to work toward achieving these goals. It was important that each action be considered for project readiness, applicability toward sustainability goals, GHG emissions impact, and CNY REDC economic development goals detailed in the 2011 Strategic Plan and 2012 Update. The sustainability projects included with this Plan are those that would help the region meet the goals described above. Since the **VisionCNY** Plan will be formally adopted by the CNY RPDB as its guiding document, it is anticipated that the implementation of this Plan will lie with the CNY RPDB and its county members in close coordination with local municipalities the CNY REDC and that as the projects identified are completed, others could be added to move the region closer to the stated sustainability goals. A summary of all the identified sustainability projects is located in Appendix B.

The vast majority of the region's greenhouse gas emissions are related to its use of energy and the burning of fossil fuels. For this reason, the strategies and actions that are likely to achieve the greatest emissions reductions focus on the energy sector. As can be seen in the Vision CNY Energy Consumption waterfall chart below (Figure 1-1), the screening efforts of this plan have identified that of the 100,700,000 MMBtu energy consumption of the region, pursuit of energy efficiency in all sectors over the next 40 years could reduce the region's energy demand by nearly 31,000,000 MMBtu, or approximately 40%. In addition, penetration of renewable technologies, at levels matching the potential for such in the

region, could provide approximately 8.3% of the current energy need. The combination of the deployment of efficiency and renewable at these levels would result in a cleaner energy infrastructure for CNY. Figure 1-1 below summarizes the energy priority projects that were identified as part of energy opportunities review for developing the VisionCNY Plan, which will result in a smaller, cleaner energy portfolio to meet CNY's own energy needs. In addition, the "green jobs" created through the deployment of these technologies will position CNY as a leader in the economically and environmentally responsive energy infrastructure of tomorrow.

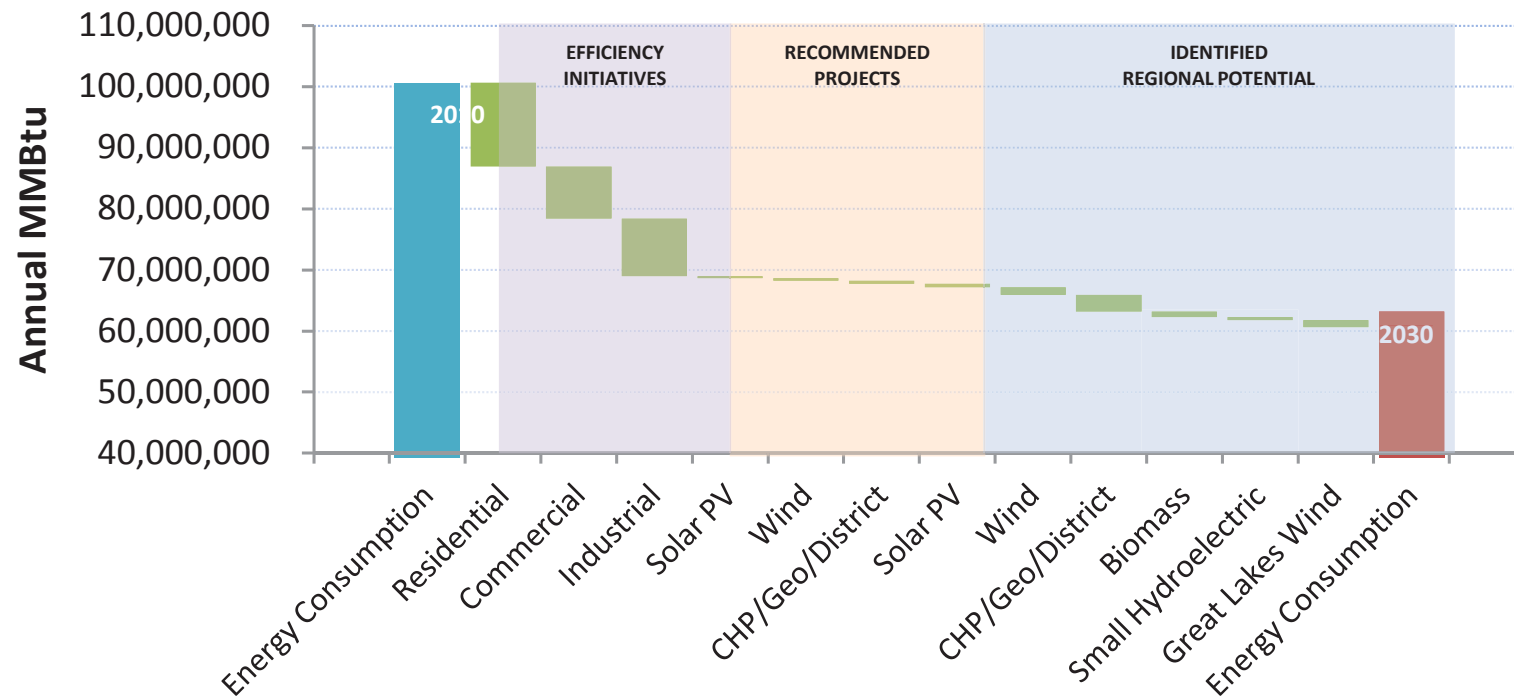


FIGURE 1—Vision CNY Energy Sustainability Roadmap

