Agenda

> Why a new plan?
> **Introduction to the Sustainable Development Plan**
  > Vision
  > Scenarios
  > Elements
  > Plan
  > Action
> **Tour of Plan website - future.ongov.net**
> **Steering Committee perspectives**
> **Panel Q & A**
Why a new plan?
2010 Plan
Trends Research

> Tracked housing, infrastructure, & demographics

> Illustrated trends and inter-relationships
Trends Research

1970 Urbanized Land Area – 96 sq. miles
2010 Urbanized Land Area* – 186 sq. miles

1970 Population – 472,835
2010 Population – 467,026

* Onondaga County only
Trends Research

> We’ve got sprawl –

_and it’s worse here than other places_

> Added infrastructure & urban services without added population or tax base –

_that’s called sprawl without growth_

> Trends are taking us in the wrong direction –

_fiscally, environmentally, and socially_
Community Planning & Transportation Survey

> Test planning concepts
> Broad audience
> ~1,000 responses
> Statistically valid
> Strong support for Smart Growth
Community Planning & Transportation Survey

> 85% Support for Smart Growth Strategy
> 77% said Develop in Existing Communities
> Support For Regional Planning
> Help Struggling Communities
> Natural Areas, Farmland, Air/Water Quality
> Transportation Choices

**Figure 5: Preferred Scenario for Future Development**

Please tell us which scenario best represents how you would like to see future development take place in Onondaga County.

- **Location of Future Development**
  - 77% Within already developed communities with available buildings or unused lands.
  - 10% Anywhere people want to build.
  - 13% On open land at the edges of existing development.

- **Arrangement of Future Development**
  - 77% Housing and buildings should be closely spaced, with sidewalks leading to nearby shops and parks, even if it means smaller homes and yards.
  - 23% Housing and buildings should be spread out, even if it means less open areas and farmland and having to drive more.

**Preserving Natural Areas, Habitats, and Open Lands is:**

- Extremely Important: 64%
- Somewhat Important: 33%
- Not Important: 3%

Future growth will follow the existing trend of new development in mostly suburban areas. Government spending will include road widening, rural access to public water and sewer, and expanding fire/police and schools. Investment in existing communities, farmland preservation, and public transit will be limited.
A hundred years after we are gone and forgotten, those who never heard of us will be living with the results of our actions.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes
Steering Committee

David Bottar, CNY Regional Planning & Development Board
David Coburn, Onondaga County Office of the Environment
Gordon Cuffy, Onondaga County Law Department
James D’Agostino, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
Brian Donnelly, Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Angela Douglas, Bridges Out of Poverty
Richard Hawks, SUNY ESF
Charlotte Holstein, FOCUS Greater Syracuse
Andrew Maxwell, City of Syracuse Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
Matthew Millea, Onondaga County Office of the County Executive
Douglas Morris, Onondaga County Planning Board
Dr. Cornelius Murphy, Jr., SUNY ESF
Mary Beth Primo, Onondaga County Department of Economic Development
Hon. Kathleen Rapp, Onondaga County Legislature
Hon. James Rhinehart, Onondaga County Legislature
A. Thomas Rhoads, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection
Hon. Terri Roney, Supervisors Association - Town of Skaneateles Supervisor
I. Holly Rosenthal, Metropolitan Water Board
James Rowley, Onondaga County Department of Management & Budget
Hon. Joseph Saraceni, Mayors Association - Village of Baldwinsville Mayor
Vito Sciscioli, Syracuse 20/20
Robert Simpson, CenterState CEO
Mary Thompson, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of CNY
Project Team
**Project Timeline**

**Plan Outreach**

1. Envision Our Future Public Workshop
2. Municipal Meetings
3. Choose Our Future Public Open Houses
4. Focus Group Meetings
5. Character Area Mapping Workshop
6. Present Draft Sustainable Development Plan

**Plan Components**

- A Website Development
- B Analyze Existing Conditions & Trends
- C Scenario Modeling & Fiscal Impact Analysis
- D Begin Virtual Open House
- E Identify Elements of Sustainable Development
- F Prepare Element Reports
- G Research Policies & Practices
- H Develop Action Plan
- I Define & Map Character Areas
- J Complete Draft Sustainable Development Plan
Website

- Interactive format
- On-line Events
- 1-Minute Surveys
- Presentations/Reports
- Public events
- News & Announcements
- Best Practices
- Comment
- Agency / Document links
Envision Our Future
Public Workshop

> 100+ attendees
> Webinar option
> Broad geographic base
> 3 breakout groups & voting
Envision Our Future
Public Workshop

Top Comments:
> Control Sprawl
> Healthy Urban Core
> Energy - efficiency/renewables, etc.
> Consolidate/Coordinate Governments
> Improve Bike/Trail Systems
> Support Farms/Open Space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment: Top 5 Comments</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limit sprawling development patterns</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve the bike/path system in the County</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Onondaga Lake and keep it as undeveloped as possible</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike paths and sidewalks</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce use of pesticides and fertilizers/compost/use native plants</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restore and protect natural resources</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Onondaga Lake, restore its ecological functions, restore its wetlands, and create a setback trail</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy: Top 5 Comments</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control sprawl</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control sprawl (reuse land instead of spreading out)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop/facilitate use of renewable energy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master plans to re-densify City of Syracuse</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate renewable energy (does the County have authority?)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social: Top 5 Comments</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognize the role of a healthy core in attracting people back to the City (schools, housing choice)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address government fragmentation and act more like a cohesive region</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do we create equitable school districts (suburbs vs the City)?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support education and youth employment (Say Yes!), youth employment open</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty’s influence on schools, housing and transit; interrelationships between poverty and regional success and sustainability</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build a healthier food system and its contribution towards a more attractive region</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Say Yes!</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Municipal Interviews

- 25 of 35 municipalities

- Villages play an important role
- Sales tax formula
- Must increase tax base
- Outdated zoning
- Aging infrastructure
- Smart growth
- Keep rural areas rural
- Hydrofracking
- Open space and trails
- Property tax cap
- Stormwater regulations
- Competition
- Strained municipal budgets
- I-81
- No planning
- Limited communication
- Lack of housing diversity
- Unfunded mandates
Focus Group Meetings

- Society & Community Development
- Open Space & Ecosystems
- Government Finance
- Water Resources
- Economic Development
- Agriculture & Rural Communities
- Buildings & Neighborhoods
- Energy
- Mobility & Transportation
Scenarios
**Scenario Modeling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure &amp; Land Use</td>
<td>Access to Multimodal Facilities</td>
<td>Population and Jobs Proximate to Transit, Trails, and Walkable Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure &amp; Land Use</td>
<td>Vehicle Miles of Travel</td>
<td>VMT Total and Per Capita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure &amp; Land Use</td>
<td>Access to Jobs</td>
<td>Worker Access to Jobs within Proximity to Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax &amp; Fiscal Policy</td>
<td>Tax Base</td>
<td>Fiscal impact on City and Town services and Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland &amp; Open Space Preservation</td>
<td>Rural Acreage Preserved</td>
<td>Amount of Rural/Ag Land, and Natural Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Future A</th>
<th>Future B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Onondaga County Population</td>
<td>458,485</td>
<td>442,977</td>
<td>448,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onondaga County Employment</td>
<td>252,455</td>
<td>279,246</td>
<td>279,301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable Development Plan

Scenario Modeling

2035 Trend Scenario
Scenario Modeling - Findings

- **17,500** fewer acres of farmland and open space lost to development
- **6,300** more households supporting the existing public sewer system
- **12,500** more households in close proximity to assets such as libraries, parks, schools & grocery stores
- **30** million fewer miles driven to work each year
- **8,300** more households living in highly walkable neighborhoods
- **$21** million more in tax benefits for municipalities in Onondaga County
Choose Our Future
Public Open Houses

> 4 Locations
> Downtown (Federation Conference)
> Marcellus Park
> Onondaga Lake Park
> Manlius Swan Pond

> Virtual Open House on future.ongov.net
Choose Our Future
Public Open Houses

> Overwhelming (nearly 90%) Support for Smart Growth Indicators & Overall Smart Growth Scenario!
Elements of Sustainable Development

- Transportation & Land Use
- Building & Neighborhoods
- Rural Communities & Open Space
- Government Finance
- Water Resources
- Intermunicipal Planning
- Energy
- Livability & Society
- Economy
Key Research & Findings

> Transportation and Land Use are inextricably linked
> Vehicle miles traveled and commute times are increasing
> Fiscal constraints on transportation budgets are severe, must prioritize investments
> Suburban development patterns do not support transit and walkability
> Technology advances alone can’t mitigate polluting effects of commuting, need to change land use patterns
Key Research & Findings

- Characteristics of traditional, suburban, rural
- Expanded suburban, rural shrinking, traditional suffering
- Need to explore new ideas to increase success and sustainability
- Qualities of sustainable places:
  - infill
  - well-connected networks
  - mixed-use
  - diversity
  - multi-modal options
  - cities, villages and hamlets as focal points
Key Research & Findings

> Protection of open space is a priority for residents
> Open space lacks connectivity
> Farming is a large industry in Onondaga County
> Reduction in farmland and conversion of prime soils
> Encroachment of suburban development changes character
> Conflict between keeping rural character and growing tax base
> Many rural areas are not conducive to on-site wells or septic
Key Research & Findings

> High tax burden
> Fragmented government structure
> State and Federal aid is becoming more scarce
> Scattered, low-density development with infrastructure is costly
> Reliance on property taxes creates municipal competition
> Fiscal impacts of different uses and place types
Key Research & Findings

> Stormwater, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure
> Expanding infrastructure to serve new development
> Communities are faced with aging infrastructure, new mandates
> National leader in green infrastructure
> Abundance of water resources a tremendous asset
Key Research & Findings

- Authority to regulate land use is vested to municipalities
- Fragmented planning and zoning can lead to inefficiencies
- Planning resources are limited
- Consider regional needs and goals in local planning
- New opportunities in shared planning
Key Research & Findings

- Transportation and homes account for over 50% of energy consumption
- Need to reduce energy demand
- Need to retrofit older housing and commercial building stock
- Explore clean, renewable energy sources
- Local initiatives and partners
Key Research & Findings

- Social and economic imbalances
- Perceptions of schools drive housing choice
- Increase walking/biking - lessen pollution and improve public health through design
- Access to food, recreation, transit, services, jobs
- Public and scenic spaces contribute to quality of life
Key Research & Findings

- Transitioning economy, diversifying job sectors
- 38,000 workers commuting into the County
- Education and high quality skills of residents is key
- Strengthen industry concentrations and links to global economy
- Revitalizing the region’s urban cores, main streets and neighborhoods
- Revitalization, infill, and reuse of existing assets
“Living” Plan – future.ongov.net
Action
Character Area Mapping and Guidance

- Mapped areas of common identity and qualities
- Provides a countywide illustration of our built and natural patterns
- Serves as a baseline condition for benchmarking changes
- Developed guidance and strategies intended to strengthen and enrich each area to their fullest potential
- General guidance in the Summary Report with more information on the website
Village Cores

The Village Cores Character Area is best described as the traditional center of the incorporated villages in Onondaga County. Commonly focused at the intersection of State or County roads, these areas serve as historic retail, service, government and religious centers surrounded by and connected to Traditional Neighborhoods areas.

During the suburbanization movement, many of these areas struggled to maintain relevance, resulting in high vacancy rates and disinvestment. Across the country, however, these areas are undergoing a revival as more residents are embracing a distinct and livable neighborhood experience.

Character

While each Village Core is unique, common features may include a highly connective sidewalk system, public parking to the side and rear of structures, two- to four-story buildings in both block and freestanding formats and a mix of uses. While lower in intensity and scale than the Urban Core, Village Core areas require a vibrant mix of uses supporting an active streetfront, upper-story residential, walkable and safe streets, multi-modal accessibility, well maintained landscaping and public art. Village Core areas are well suited to provide niche retail, personal services and eating establishments. Village Cores also tend to provide urban infrastructure, such as water and sewer service, allowing for increased development densities.

Guidance

Village Cores once served as the civic and commercial centers for residents of Onondaga County. While the form and structure of these areas are still mostly intact, much of the function has been lost during post-World War II development trends. To strengthen and enhance the Village Cores again, communities should take advantage of the increasing demand for village living to spur significant investment in and adjacent to Village Cores, particularly in Traditional Neighborhoods. In support of a vibrant mix of uses and housing types, upper story areas should be largely residential, increasing the volume of foot traffic and generating 24-hour demand for uses such as convenience retail, banking and laundromats.

Sample Strategies

- Provide regulations and programs that permit and support upper-story residential and retail build-out of first floor spaces.
- Encourage the formation of Business Improvement Districts to effectively maintain and enhance the public realm.
- Improve on- and off-street parking supply through shared lots, locating lots behind buildings, proper screening and enhanced wayfinding systems.
- Support pedestrian friendly environments through sustainable streetscape design and Complete Streets.
Action Plan

- Implementation guidance for the Plan
- Result of Vision and Elements
- Eight Policy Areas
  - Grow Smarter
  - Sustainability Pays
  - Protect the Environment
  - Strengthen the Center
  - Fix it First
  - Keep Rural Communities Rural
  - Lighten Our Footprint
  - Plan for People
### Key to Action Plan Tables

The following pages provide an introduction to the Action Plan, including a one-page key illustrating the various components of a typical Policy Area table found in the Action Plan, as well as a brief overview of each Policy Area.

1. **Policy Theme & Statement**
   - An overarching theme and statement were developed to provide an overview of each Policy Area.

2. **Projects & Practices**
   - The actions identified in this portion of the Action Plan tables are those recommended projects and practices determined to be of highest priority as they relate to implementation.

3. **Planning Scale**
   - To allow for a more focused implementation, the recommended projects and practices are broken down into four planning scales – the region, the County, the community, and the site.

4. **Timeframe**
   - Each project and practice was assigned to one of three timeframes for implementation:
     - **Short Term**: strategies should be implemented within the first 2 years of plan completion.
     - **Medium Term**: strategies should be implemented from 3 to 10 years after plan completion.
     - **Long Term**: strategies may be ongoing or take 10 or more years to implement.

5. **Partners**
   - Given the comprehensive nature of this effort, parties that would be involved with implementing each of the projects and practices are suggested.

6. **Elements of Sustainable Development**
   - Many of the projects and practices are based on the key findings from each of the nine Element Reports. As such, the relevant Elements are identified for each project and practice.
Grow Smarter

Encourage and support sustainable and fiscally responsible development patterns.

Policy Statement:
Onondaga County will encourage and support sustainable and fiscally responsible development patterns. Growth that takes advantage of existing infrastructure, strengthens our traditional centers and is designed to be a long term asset to the community is a core priority of the County. We will strive for place-based design to ensure distinct, vibrant places are attractive and responsive to the needs of our residents, workers and visitors.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Reinforce traditional neighborhood development patterns and characteristics and look for opportunities to retrofit suburban sites to achieve density, walkability, and interconnectedness.

2. Develop model ordinances, guidelines, and best practices for Smart Growth design principles and work with municipalities to incorporate them into local codes and project reviews.

3. Institute a County Sustainable Streets policy combining the concepts of Complete Streets to create multi-modal transportation networks with the use of green infrastructure to address stormwater issues.
Grow Smarter

Encourage and support sustainable and fiscally responsible development patterns.

Policy Studio: Onondaga County is looking to grow in a smart, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner. This takes adapting a traditional growth pattern to the current context for place-based design. Envisioning, planning, and designing for place-based design ensures distinct, vibrant places are attractive and responsive to the needs of our residents, workers, and visitors.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Reinforce traditional neighborhood development patterns and characteristics and look for opportunities to achieve infill and density.

2. Develop model ordinances, guidelines, and best practices for Smart Growth design principles and work with municipalities to incorporate them into local codes and project reviews.

3. Institute a County Sustainable Streets policy combining the concepts of Complete Streets to create multi-modal transportation networks with the use of green infrastructure to address stormwater issues.
Sustainability Pays

Sustainable development today pays dividends well into the future.

Policy Statement:
Sustainability pays dividends in a variety of ways – with cleaner air and water, cost-effective public services, and appealing places for people and jobs. It is the policy of Onondaga County to require, recognize and reward principles and practices resulting in a more efficient and sustainable region. Innovative strategies that improve cooperation, create a regional competitive advantage and strive to meet the vision of this plan will be supported by the County.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Develop and fund a Sustainability Pays program to implement targeted municipal efforts consistent with the Sustainable Development Plan.

2. Identify opportunities to improve government efficiency wherever possible through the sharing or consolidation of services to reduce the tax burden on property owners.

3. Consider the regional net fiscal impact of development and investigate taxing strategies that minimize competition between municipalities.
Sustainable Development Plan

Sustainability Pays

Sustainable development today pays dividends well into the future.

Policy Statement:
Sustainability pays by creating cleaner and more appealing places for people and jobs. It is the policy of Onondaga County to require, recognize and reward principles and practices resulting in a more efficient and sustainable region. Innovative strategies that improve cooperation, create a regional competitive advantage and strive to meet the vision of this plan will be supported by the County.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Develop and fund a Sustainability Pays program to implement targeted municipal efforts consistent with the Sustainable Development Plan.

2. Consider the regional net fiscal impact of development and investigate taxing strategies that minimize competition between municipalities.
Protect the Environment

Support and enforce practices to protect our natural environment for future generations.

Policy Statement:
Projects and practices that protect our natural resources, conserve our wildlife habitat and enhance opportunities for connective greenways and recreational systems will provide an important legacy for future generations. Onondaga County will support and enforce practices to protect our natural assets and minimize the effects of development on our fragile ecosystems.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Create regional and local open space plans to prioritize protection efforts and establish connections between existing open spaces.

2. Complete and connect regional and local trail systems, including the Onondaga Lake Loop the Lake Trail, the Erie Canalway Trail and the Onondaga Creekwalk, to form major pedestrian and cycling oriented recreational and transportation spines in the region.

3. Limit development in wetlands, floodplains, sensitive environmental areas, important wildlife habitats, watersheds that are sources of drinking water, or areas with valuable mineral resources.
Protect the Environment

Support and enforce practices to protect natural areas for future generations.

Policy Statement
Projects that conserve, connect, and protect wetlands and surface water connect
an important legacy for future generations. Onondaga County will support and enforce practices to protect our natural assets and minimize the effects of development on our fragile ecosystems.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Create regional and local open space plans to prioritize protection efforts and establish goals and timelines.

2. Implement policies and guidelines to protect sensitive environmental areas, important wildlife habitats, watersheds that are sources of drinking water, or areas with valuable mineral resources.

3. Limit development in wetlands, floodplains, sensitive environmental areas, important wildlife habitats, watersheds that are sources of drinking water, or areas with valuable mineral resources.
Strengthen the Center

Strengthen and support the City of Syracuse as the region's center of commerce, culture and innovation.

Policy Statement:
We are one region, and we will rise and fall together. It is the policy of Onondaga County to support projects and practices to strengthen our urban core as a nationally recognized regional center of jobs and commerce, culture, education and innovation. We will work collectively to elevate the region by combating the challenges facing our region’s core.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Promote recognition of the importance of Syracuse as the economic and cultural center of Onondaga County and Central New York.

2. Promote the development and enhancement of exciting and iconic destinations (e.g., Armory Square, Inner Harbor) within the urban core to attract economic activity and tourism. Reinforce downtown Syracuse as the hub for arts, culture and entertainment.

3. Support the Say Yes to Education program to provide a needed support system to families within the City school district as well as to attract and retain City residents.
**Strengthen the Center**

Strengthen and support the City of Syracuse as the region’s center of commerce and culture.

**Key Projects & Practices**

1. Support the Say Yes to Education program to provide a needed support system to families within the City school district as well as to attract and retain City residents.

2. Promote recognition of the importance of Syracuse as the economic and cultural center of Onondaga County.

3. Support the Say Yes to Education program to provide a needed support system to families within the City school district as well as to attract and retain City residents.

Policy Statement:

We are committed to furthering the policies, practices, and initiatives that recognize education and innovation. We will work collectively to elevate the region by combating the challenges facing our region’s core.
Fix it First

Maximize the use of existing infrastructure as a way to provide fiscally responsible public services.

Policy Statement:
A sustainable future is dependent upon our ability to be fiscally prudent. We will collaborate as a region to protect our built and natural assets and maximize the use and efficiency of fragile infrastructure. With finite fiscal capacity, continued expansion of infrastructure and service districts in the absence of true regional need is unsustainable.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Extension of the Onondaga County Sanitary District, construction of new wastewater facilities or enhancements to existing County-owned facilities to meet capacity demands will only occur when supported by the policies and principles of the Sustainable Development Plan.

2. Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities and infrastructure over building new facilities and infrastructure.

3. Onondaga County Planning Board Review of municipal planning and zoning referrals, as well as the County’s Capital Improvement Plan, must require compliance with the Sustainable Development Plan.
Fix it First

Maximize the use of existing infrastructure as a way to provide services to the public while being fiscally prudent.

Policy Statement:
A sustainable development plan is essential for the efficient maintenance, continued operation, and replacement of our built environment. The efficient operation of the Onondaga County Sustainable Development Plan must require compliance with the Sustainable Development Plan.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Extension of the Onondaga County Sanitary District, construction of new wastewater facilities or enhancements to existing County-owned facilities to meet capacity demands will only occur when supported by the policies and principles of the Sustainable Development Plan.
Keep Rural Communities Rural

Strengthen and protect the region’s strong agricultural tradition and conserve invaluable rural landscapes.

Policy Statement:
Sustaining environments for farmland protection, local food production and preservation of rural resources are key elements of local and regional planning and relate to the success of all our communities. Onondaga County will engage a broad base of stakeholders to devise local and regional strategies for protection of our finite rural resources.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Recognize agriculture as an important industry in Onondaga County that creates jobs, provides locally grown food, supports tourism, maintains open space, and minimizes burdens on local governments for services.

2. Work with municipalities to identify agricultural protection zones by limiting residential and commercial encroachments within active farm communities, minimizing strip development along road frontages, and utilizing transfer of development rights programs to preserve farmland and farming.

3. Investigate taxing strategies or other financial incentives to limit the need for rural communities to attract development to support school and municipal budgets and encourage owners to keep vacant land as open space.
Keep Rural Communities Rural

Strengthen and protect the region’s strong rural economic base and cultural heritage that supports diverse agricultural landscapes.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Recognize agriculture as an important industry in Onondaga County that creates jobs, provides locally grown food, supports tourism, maintains open space, and minimizes burdens on local governments for services.

2. Investigate taxing strategies or other financial incentives to limit the need for rural communities to attract development to support school and municipal budgets and encourage owners to keep vacant land as open space.
Lighten Our Footprint

Lower our carbon footprint by reducing energy demand, embracing cleaner energy options and using resources wisely.

Policy Statement:
Working with government, research institutions and businesses, Onondaga County will identify and implement a variety of practices and projects to maximize use of clean and renewable energy supplies and reduce overall energy demand. We also recognize that reducing our energy demand relates significantly to our commuting patterns, as well as the location and design of residential and commercial buildings. We, as citizens, businesses and government will strive to reduce the region’s vehicle miles traveled and household and building energy demands.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Implement the County’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from County operations. Create and implement local plans to reduce municipal GHG emissions.

2. Establish and promote programs and opportunities (e.g., Save the Watt) to identify and reduce residential and commercial energy demand and to incentivize energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources.

3. Educate the public on the role that development patterns and transportation choices have on energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.
Lighten Our Footprint

Lower our carbon footprint by reducing energy usage and embracing renewable energy options wisely.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Implement the County's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from County operations. Create and implement policies and initiatives to reduce GHG emissions.

2. Identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions to reduce demand and incentivize energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources.

3. Develop and implement transportation plans and policies to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. We also recognize that reducing our energy demand relates significantly to our commuting patterns, as well as the location and design of residential and commercial buildings. We, as citizens, businesses, and government, will strive to reduce the region's vehicle miles traveled and household and building energy demands.
Plan for People

Recognize people as our greatest asset by creating quality places and opportunities for all.

Policy Statement:
As a region, we will work together to ensure that all our residents have access to quality communities, jobs and services. We will ensure that we are creating and sustaining the elements of our communities that enhance public health, economic opportunity, mobility, access to daily needs and enjoyment of our region.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Invest in improving community quality, including mixed uses and housing types, interesting architecture and site design, sidewalks, streetscapes and landscaping, and clustering of destinations to promote vibrant and appealing places for people to live, work and recreate.

2. Encourage designing and siting senior living facilities to fit into existing communities that maximize walkable access to neighborhood amenities and transit.

3. Identify areas within the County lacking access to basic neighborhood services, such as supermarkets and parks, and help to create the conditions necessary to support the development of desired neighborhood services and amenities.
Plan for People

Recognize people as our greatest asset by creating quality places and opportunities for all.

Key Projects & Practices

1. Invest in improving community quality, including mixed uses and housing types, interesting public spaces, and local markets.

2. **Encourage designing and siting senior living facilities to fit into existing communities that maximize walkable access to neighborhood amenities and transit.**

3. Identify areas within the County lacking access to basic neighborhood services, such as supermarkets and parks, and help to create the conditions necessary to support the development of desired neighborhood services and amenities.
Next steps

> Get the word out
> Draft plan feedback
> Continue building the website
> Implementation
> Monitoring
> Education
Join us on the path for a sustainable future!

Explore the full Plan at:

future.ongov.net

Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
John H. Mulroy Civic Center
421 Montgomery Street - 11th Floor
Syracuse, New York 13202

(315) 435-2611
www.ongov.net/planning/
countyplanning@ongov.net