

Mohawk Valley Regional Sustainability Plan

The Mohawk Valley Sustainability Plan's goals and targets are categorized by the following focus areas:

- Transportation
- Land Use
- Energy
- Water Management
- Waste Management
- Economic Development
- Agriculture and Forestry

More detailed descriptions of each goal, target and indicator can be found in the regional sustainability plan and the indicator document—locations of those descriptions within both documents are listed within each focus area below.

Transportation

Goals

- Align Transportation and Land Use Planning and Investment. (Page 2-10 – 2-11 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve Efficiency in Maintenance of Transportation Infrastructure. (Page 2-10 – 2-11 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve and Connect Regional Multi-use Trails. (Page 2-10 – 2-11 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase Public Transportation Ridership. (Page 2-10 – 2-11 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote Transportation Alternatives. (Page 2-10 – 2-11 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Increase total percentage of people commuting via walking, biking, public transportation, and carpooling. (Page 2-12 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2A)
 - 2015: No change.
 - 2025: Increase percentage alternative commutes from 14.67% to 20%.
 - 2050: Increase percentage alternative commutes from 14.67% to 30%.
- Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita. (Page 2-13 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2B)
 - 2015: No change.
 - 2025: Reduce annual VMT per capita by 10% (from 10,743 to ~9,700).
 - 2050: Reduce annual VMT per capita by 25% (from 10,743 to ~8,100).
- Improve surface rating of state roads. (Page 2-14 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)
 - 2015: No change.
 - 2025: Increase regional average state highway condition rating to 7.0.
 - 2050: Increase regional average state highway condition rating to 7.25.
- Expand regional trail network – miles of trails in the region. (Page 2-14 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2K)
 - 2015: Formulate a regional strategy to connect trails into a network.
 - 2025: Close remaining gaps in the Canalway trail.
 - 2050: Increase current total by 15%.
- Increase transit ridership. (Page 2-15 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2G)
 - 2015: Increase current total by 1%.
 - 2025: Increase current total by 5%.
 - 2050: Increase current total by 25%.
- Increase number of registered alternative fueled vehicles. (Page 2-16 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2C)
 - 2015: No change.
 - 2025: Increase percentage of hybrid, electric, CNG, propane, and other nonpetroleum fueled vehicles from 0.72% to 2% of regional NYs Mohawk Valley registrations.
 - 2050: To Be Determined based on vehicle and fuel availability.

Land Use

Goals

- Redevelop Main Streets, Waterfronts, and Brownfields. (Page 2-18 – 2-19 of Sustainability Plan)
- Provide Technical Assistance and Collaboration Opportunities. (Page 2-18 – 2-19 of Sustainability Plan)
- Identify, Preserve and Protect Lands Suitable for Viable Agriculture. (Page 2-18 – 2-19 of Sustainability Plan)
- Invest in Existing Infrastructure and Housing Stock. (Page 2-18 – 2-19 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Number of Community Centers Awarded Brownfield Opportunity Areas Funding. (Page 2-21 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3O)
 - 2015: Increase total number of communities participating by 2 to 8.
 - 2025: Increase total number of cities participating by 5 to 11.
 - 2050: To be determined.
- Reduce Per Capita land consumption (Page 2-22 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3A)
 - 2015: Maintain at 0.325 developed acres per person.
 - 2025: Maintain at 0.325 developed acres per person.
 - 2050: Maintain at 0.325 developed acres per person.
- Percentage of Population in Community Centers. (Page 2-22 – 2-23 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3C)
 - 2015: Maintain percentage of CDP population at 52%.
 - 2030: Increase percentage of CDP population by 2.5% to 54.5%.
 - 2050: Increase percentage of CDP population by 5% to 57%.
- Percentage of Municipalities with Comprehensive Plans Updated since 2002. (Page 2-23 – 2-24 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8E)
 - 2015: Increase percentage of municipalities with an updated comprehensive plan from 33% to 40%.
 - 2025: Increase percentage of municipalities with an updated comprehensive plan to 50%.
 - 2050: Increase percentage of municipalities with an updated comprehensive plan to 70%.
- Number of Communities with Main Street Revitalization Programs. (Page 2-25 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8E)
 - 2015: Increase number of community centers that have received Main Street Program funding by 4 to 18.
 - 2025: Increase number of community centers that have received Main Street Program funding by 24 to 31.
- Number of Grocery Stores and Farmer’s Markets per 1,000 residents. (Page 2-26 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6H)
 - 2015: Maintain number of grocery stores per 1,000 residents at 0.21 and farmer’s markets per 1,000 residents at 0.06.
 - 2025: Increase number of grocery stores per 1,000 residents to 0.23 and maintain farmer’s markets per 1,000 residents at 0.06.

Energy

Goals

- Reduce consumption of electricity and heat generated from fossil fuels. (Page 2-43 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase energy efficiency. (Page 2-43 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase renewable local energy generation and use for electricity and heat. (Page 2-43 of Sustainability Plan)
- Evaluate life-cycle impacts of energy generation and use. (Page 2-43 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce annual regional energy consumption per capita. (Page 2-45 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1A)
 - 2015: 165 MMBtu per capita reduction (10%)
 - 2025: 138 MMBtu per capita reduction (25%)
 - 2050: 92 MMBtu per capita reduction (50%)
- Reduce CO₂e Emitted by Energy Usage (residential, commercial, industrial), Total Per Capita. (Page 2-46 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 9A)
 - 2015: 2.43 million metric tons CO₂e reduction (10%).
 - 2025: 1.82 million metric tons CO₂e reduction (25%).
 - 2050: 0.91 million metric tons CO₂e reduction (50%).
- Reduce Regional Direct Fossil Fuel Energy Consumption per Capita. (Page 2-47 – 2-48 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 9A)
 - 2015: 59 MMBtu per capita reduction (10%).
 - 2025: 49 MMBtu per capita reduction (25%).
 - 2050: 33 MMBtu per capita reduction (50%).
- Increase Total Annual Renewable Energy Generation. (Page 2-49 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1B)
 - 2015: 696,490 MWh (50% increase in renewable energy generation).
 - 2025: 928,654 MWh (100% increase in renewable energy generation).
 - 2050: 1,857,308 MWh (200% increase in renewable energy generation).
- Increase Number of Households and Businesses Enrolled in Energy Efficiency Programs and Implementation of NYSERDA-Funded Projects. (Page 2-50 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1F)
 - 2015: 12.7 kWh (10% increase).
 - 2025: 15.9 kWh (25% increase).
 - 2050: To be determined.

Water Management

Goals

- Conserve Water and Related Energy Consumption. (Page 2-28 – 2-29 of Sustainability Plan)
- Maintain Water Quality. (Page 2-28 – 2-29 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve Existing Infrastructure. (Page 2-28 – 2-29 of Sustainability Plan)
- Establish Watershed Planning. (Page 2-28 – 2-29 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce Water Demand per Capita and Sector. (Page 2-30 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5A)
 - 2015: No increases in water use unless directly tied to major new uses that promote economic activity without any degradation.
 - 2025: 20% reduction in water use (except new uses).
 - 2050: 30% reduction in water use (except new uses).
- Reduce Total number of impaired waters. (Page 2-31 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5B)
 - 2015: No degradation of water quality.
 - 2025: 10% reduction in impaired water bodies.
 - 2050: 25% reduction in impaired water bodies.
- Reduce Energy Use by Water and Sewer Utilities per Million Gallons Supplied or Treated. (Page 2-32 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5C)
 - 2015: 5% reduction in energy use.
 - 2025: 20% reduction in energy use.
 - 2050: 50% reduction in energy use.
- Reduce Percentage of Unaccounted Water. (Page 2-32 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)
 - 2015: Identify potential loss areas. Incur no additional system losses.
 - 2025: 10% reduction in system losses.
 - 2050: 30% reduction in system losses.

Waste Management

Goals

- Reduce Solid Waste Generation. (Page 2-35 – 2-36 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the Regional Market for Recycled Goods. (Page 2-35 – 2-36 of Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce Energy Costs Associated with Materials and Solid Waste Management. (Page 2-35 – 2-36 of Sustainability Plan)
- Expand Effective Existing Projects and Promote New Regional Strategies. (Page 2-35 – 2-36 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce Per capita waste disposal rate (lbs. per capita/day). (Page 2-37 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4A)
 - 2.5 pounds/person-day by 2015.
 - 0.5 pounds/person-day by 2025.
 - 0.1 pounds/person-day by 2050.
- Proportion of Solid Materials Diverted (Recycled or Composted). (Page 2-38 – 2-29 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4B)
 - Divert 35% solid waste by 2015.
 - Divert 70% solid waste by 2025.
 - Divert 95% solid waste by 2050.
- Energy Cost per Ton of Materials Processed. (Page 2-40 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4F)
 - No change from baseline by 2015.
 - 20% reduction from baseline by 2025.
 - 50% reduction from baseline by 2050.
- Expenditures per Capita Dedicated to Education and Outreach. (Page 2-41 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4G)
 - 10% increase from baseline by 2015.
 - 30% increase from baseline by 2025.
 - 50% increase from baseline by 2050.

Economic Development

Goals

- Enhance regional concentrations to retain and create business in key growth sectors (REDC Goal: GROW). (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)
- Align the region’s workforce with the appropriate education and training to increase the supply of skilled workers (REDC Goal: BUILD). (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)
- Create innovation enabling infrastructure that will drive entrepreneurialism (REDC Goal: CREATE). (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)
- Restore infrastructure and increase spatial efficiencies that will revitalize existing urban and town centers (REDC Goal: REVIVE). (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)
- Strengthen government and civic effectiveness to produce a more vibrant economy (REDC Goal: FORGE). (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote unique regional assets through a unified identity and campaign. (Page 2-3 – 2-4 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Housing + Transportation (H+T) Index: Transportation /Housing Affordability. (Page 2-6 – 2-7 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6A)
 - 2015: Maintain current H+T Affordability Index levels at the Mohawk Valley regional average of 53%.
 - 2025: Reduce the H+T Affordability Index by 10% to 43% (2% below CNT current recommended standards).
 - 2050: Reduce the H+T Affordability Index by 15% to 38% (7% below the CNT recommended H+T Index of 45% [2009 base year]).
- Relationship of Wages to Changes in Employment. (Page 2-8 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6G)
 - 2015: No further loss of jobs or wage levels based on the regional average (using 2011 as a base year and a 2% increase in jobs and wages for the REDC target sectors).
 - 2025: Wages: 10% regional average increase in wages from 2011 base year; Employment: an unemployment rate that is 2% below the 2025 state or national averages, whichever is lower.
 - 2050: Wages: 10% increase from 2025 level; Employment: an unemployment rate that is no more than 4%; All residents are making a living wage that is above the poverty level.

Agriculture and Forestry

Goals

- Promote Education. (Page 2-52 of Sustainability Plan)
- Enhance Efficiencies. (Page 2-52 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote sustainable agricultural and forestry economic development for individuals, families, and the region to help sustain the current workforce and encourage others to join the workforce. (Page 2-52 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- On-farm energy efficiency projects implemented. (Page 2-54 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 10U)
 - 2015: 220 farms in 2013 round of funding.
 - 2025: Dependent on future of program.
 - 2050: Dependent on future of program.
- Maintain Acres of Cropland Available for or in Production. (Page 2-54 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3H)
 - In 2007, 3,487,000 acres were available; 3,038,000 acres are currently being harvested.
- Maintain Level of Forest Land Available for Production and Harvest of Wood. (Page 2-57 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3I)
 - In 2007, 1,794,000 acres of harvestable timberlands were available within the Mohawk Valley region.
- Improve Economics of Farmer Households. (Page 2-58 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6E)
 - 2015: Average net operator income/farm increases from \$20,436 (2007) to \$25,000.
 - 2025: Average net operator income/farm increases to \$40,000.
 - 2050: Average net operator income/farm increases to \$60,000.
- Increase Number of Agricultural and Food Processing Operations. (Page 2-59 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6E)
 - 2015: NYS Agriculture & Markets 20 C Permit holders increase to 600 (5% from 2012); NYS Agriculture & Markets 5A Permit holders increase to 7 (20% from 2012); USDA Permit holders increase to 19 (5% from 2012).
 - 2025: NYS Agriculture & Markets 20 C Permit holders increase to 660 (15% from 2012); NYS Agriculture & Markets 5A Permit holders increase to 12 (200% from 2012); USDA Permit holders increase to 23 (30% from 2012).
 - 2050: NYS Agriculture & Markets 20C permit holders increase to 745 (30% from 2012); NYS Agriculture & Markets 5A permit holders increase to 18 (300% from 2012); USDA permit holders increase to 27 (200% from 2012).
- Increase Number of Forest Product Processing Operations. (Page 2-60 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3I)
 - 2015: Increase in wood processing operations from 65 to 70.
 - 2025: Increase in wood processing operations to 100.
 - 2050: Increase in wood processing operations to 135.
- Increase Number of Local Food Markets. (Page 2-61 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6H)
 - 2015: Increase to 565 farms with direct sales (up 5% from 2012); increase to 5 farm-to-school programs; increase to 34 CSAs (up 10% from 2012); increase to 43 farmer's markets (up 5% from 2012); establish 2 food hubs.
 - 2025: Increase to 591 farms with direct sales (up 10% from 2012); increase to 20 farm-to-school programs; increase to 37 CSAs (up 20% from 2012); increase to 45 farmer's markets (up 10% from 2012); increase to 4 food hubs.
 - 2050: Increase to 618 farms with direct sales (up 15% from 2012); increase to 40 farm-to-school programs; increase to 40 CSAs (up 30% from 2012); increase to 49 farmer's markets (up 20% from 2012); increase to 6 food hubs.