

Western New York Regional Sustainability Plan

The Western New York Sustainability Plan's goals and targets are categorized by the following focus areas:

- Transportation
- Land Use
- Water Management
- Energy
- Waste Management
- 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 (pages 5-1 – 5-14)

Goals

- Increase and improve alternatives to driving alone (transit, carpool, etc) through interagency partnerships and cooperative efforts, especially in serving the transportation-disadvantaged. (Page 5-7 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Improve regional fuel efficiency, especially in fleets and through strategic investment in infrastructure and planning to increase the use of alternative fuels. (Page 5-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Prioritize transportation infrastructure projects in line with regional smart growth efforts in existing communities and corridors, especially through projects that exemplify "complete Streets" principles. (Page 5-10 of WNY Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) within region by 3%. (Page 5-13 of Plan, Indicator 2B)

Land Use (pages 4-1 – 4-15)

Goals

- Increase the number of local municipalities that are developing, adopting and implementing smart growth policies. (Page 4-7 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Develop mechanisms for regional land use planning assistance and collaboration. (Page 4-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage and focus development in areas served by existing infrastructure. (Page 4-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage the expansion of location-efficient housing and improved infrastructure/services for existing housing that increases access to employment centers and transportation options. (Page 4-10 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Preserve, protect and enhance the viability of agriculture including agricultural lands and urban agriculture. (Page 4-11 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Encourage, enhance and coordinate regional park, greenway and waterfront planning to connect the public and natural resources to each other and promote economic development and recreational opportunities. (Page 4-12 of WNY Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Maintain area of developed land at 0.23 acres per capita. (Page 4-14 of WNY Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3A)
- Increase the number of municipalities that incorporate Smart Growth policies into zoning codes. (Page 4-14 of WNY Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8A)
- The region's target is to reduce the proportion of median income spent on transportation and housing to 50% by 2020 and 45% by 2035. (Page 4-14 of WNY Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6A)

Water Management (pages 7-1 – 7-11)

Goals

- Improve regional water quality through a focus on the identification and management of pollution sources and protection of healthy watersheds. (Page 7-5 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Improve regional water management systems and increase regional water use efficiency. (Page 7-7 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Address regional water quantity concerns through a focus on flooding, storm water/runoff, infiltration and regional water use. (Page 7-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Ensure better coordination of water management with land use and conservation planning and decisions regarding where future development occurs, including continued and increased public access. (Page 7-9 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce instances of Combined Sewer Overflows by 40%. (Page 7-10 of Plan, Indicator 7A)
- Reduce the total miles of impaired streams by 20% (156 miles) to 625 miles by 2035. (Page 7-10 of Plan, Indicator 5B)

Energy (pages 3-1 – 3-14)

Goals

- Promote energy efficiency and conservation efforts throughout WNY in the most environmentally sound and cost-effective way, promoting access to these programs for people at all income levels and business sizes and resulting in a real reduction in GHG emissions. (Page 3-5 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Increase renewable energy generation in the WNY region. (Page 3-9 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Upgrade existing conventional energy infrastructure in the WNY region in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. (Page 3-11 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Support innovative energy projects that are consistent with the sustainability goals of the region and encourage economic development. (Page 3-12 of WNY Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Increase energy generated from non-hydro renewable sources by 9%. (Page 3-13 of Plan, Indicator 1B)
- Increase implementation of NYSERDA funded energy efficiency projects by 34%. (Page 3-13 of Plan, Indicator 1E)
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30%. (Page 3-14 of Plan, Indicator 9A)
- Double the number of Climate Smart Communities to 18 communities by 2015. (Page 3-13 of Plan, Indicator 8A)

Waste Management (pages 8-1 – 8-10)

Goals

- Reduce the amount of MSW that is disposed of (via landfills or incineration). Accomplish this by reducing waste generation and/or increasing recycling. (Page 8-5 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Maximize the diversion of organic waste from disposal facilities (landfills and incinerators) and the beneficial reuse of the organic material. (Page 8-7 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste that is disposed of. Accomplish this by reducing waste generations and/or increasing recycling. (Page 8-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the number of waste transport vehicles that use alternative fuels. (Page 8-9 of WNY Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce tonnage of Municipal Solid Waste generated per-capita by 14%. (Page 8-10 of WNY Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4A)

Agriculture and Forestry (pages 6-1 – 6-12)

Goals

- Strengthen the economic viability of agriculture and forestry enterprises. (Page 6-4 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Achieve more efficient uses of energy inputs and maximize use of agriculture and forestry by-products for energy production. (Page 6-7 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Increase support from government officials and the public for the protection of farmland, continued use of farmland for agricultural purposes, and for strengthening the business climate for agriculture and forestry in the region. (Page 6-8 of WNY Sustainability Plan)
- Promote environmentally sustainable management systems for the agriculture and forestry sectors. (Page 6-10 of WNY Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Maintain area of harvested cropland within Western New York at 406,000 acres. (Page 6-11 of WNY Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3H)