North Country Regional Sustainability Plan

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

- Transportation
- Water Management
- Land Use
- 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 171 – 204)

Goals

- Expand and promote the use of alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel for residents and tourists. (Pages 176 - 179 of Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce trip lengths and improve transportation and fuel efficiency. (Pages 180 – 186 of Sustainability Plan)
- Preserve and improve aging transportation infrastructure. (Pages 187 - 190 of Sustainability Plan)
- Concentrate freight and manufacturing development and shipping at prioritized intermodal sites to support sustainable business development. (Pages 191 – 193 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Percentage of people commuting via walking, biking, transit, and carpooling. (Page 183 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 2A)
    - Increase baseline (18.5%) to 20% by 2020 and 25% by 2035.

Water Management (pages 205 – 239)

Goals

- Maintain adequate water supply for future needs. (Pages 208 – 213 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote watershed management planning on a regional or watershed scale. (Pages 214 – 221 of Sustainability Plan)
- Maintain and/or improve the quality of the region's water bodies and supply sources. (Pages 222 – 225 of Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce the energy used for water supply, distribution, and treatment. (Pages 226 – 229 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Water use per capita (gallons per capita per day [gpcd])—Reduce public supply usage by 10% by 2020 (90 gpcd), 20% by 2035 (80 gpcd), and 30% by 2050 (70 gpcd). (Page 210 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5A)
- Prepare management plans for 50% of regional watersheds by 2020, 75% by 2035, and 100% by 2050. (Page 216 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5D)
- Limit new impervious surface area development to 5% of total regional surface area by 2050. (Page 216 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5I)
- Reduce the occurrence of stream biological impairments by 5% by 2020, 10% by 2035, and 25% by 2050. (Page 224 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5G)
- Water body and stream impairments (NYSDEC 303(d) list). (Page 224 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 5B)
    - Complete assessments for 60% of water bodies and streams by 2020, 75% by 2035, and 100% by 2035.
    - Reduce stream impairments by 5% by 2020, 10% by 2035, and 25% by 2050.

Land Use (pages 87 – 125)

Goals

- Revitalize Main Streets and town centers to reduce the cost and impacts of sprawl development. (Page 91 – 99 of Sustainability Plan)
- Create and update comprehensive plans as a means to improve sustainable practices. (Page 100 – 103 of Sustainability Plan)
- Improve the resiliency and adaptability of communities to climate-related impacts. (Page 104 – 107 of Sustainability Plan)
- Include public health in land use planning and sustainability initiatives to encourage healthy communities. (Page 108 – 115 of Sustainability Plan)
- Develop sustainability programs in local schools and colleges to develop, instill, and demonstrate concepts of sustainable land use practices. (Page 116 – 118 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Percentage of population living in areas defined as hamlets, villages, city centers, and downtown areas. (Page 96 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3C)
    - Increase baseline (46.4%) to 50% by 2020, 60% by 2035, and 70% by 2050.
- Area of developed land within a region based on an evaluation of land use patterns and per capita land consumption. (Page 96 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3A)
    - Reduce per capita land consumption (0.47 acres/person) by 5% by 2020, 8% by 2035, and 10% by 2050.
- Increase number of municipalities with Main Street Revitalization Programs to 10 by 2020, 20 by 2035, and 30 by 2050. (Page 96 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8E)
- Increase the percentage of municipalities with tax policies and incentives encouraging downtown development to 10% by 2020, 20% by 2030, and 30% by 2050. (Page 96 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8D)
- Increase the region-wide percentage of municipalities with a Comprehensive Plan updated within the last 10 years to 60% by 2020, 75% by 2035, and 85% by 2050. (Page 102 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 8F)
- For communities within a FEMA designated 100-year floodplain, increase participation in FEMA's NFIP CRS to 50% by 2020, 75% by 2035, and 100% by 2050. (Page 106 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 7B)
- Increase the percentage of North Country counties with Hazards Mitigation Plans (and 5-year updates) that address adaptation to climate-related impacts to 25% by 2020, 50% by 2035, and 100% by 2050. (Page 106 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 7C)
- Increase the percentage of North Country K-12 school districts that have sustainability-related programs, and the percentage of higher education institutions that have a sustainability coordinator position to 25% by 2020, 50% by 2035, and 75% by 2050. (Page 118 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)

Energy (pages 51 – 86)

Goals

- Increase the Local Generation and Distribution of Renewable Energy. (Pages 58 - 64 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the Energy Efficiency of the Region's Building Stock. (Pages 65 – 70 of Sustainability Plan)
- Reduce energy use through consumer decision-making and behavioral changes. (Pages 71 – 74 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Increase Class 2 and Class 3 renewable electricity generation to 45% of in 2020, 55% in 2035, and 60% 2050. Energy facilities are described as follows: Class 1 - large commercial/utility scale; Class 2 - light commercial applications (town office, municipal centers); smaller commercial/institutional and distributed generation; and Class 3 - residential/small business. (Page 61 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1B)
- Reduce current annual per capita energy consumption to 20% below forecasted levels by 2020, 30% by 2035, and 40% by 2050. (Page 72 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1A)
- Increase thermal energy (heat) generation from renewable sources to 20% of the region's public and commercial buildings by 2020, 35% by 2035, and 50% by 2050. Focus on the conversion of buildings currently using fuel oil for heat to the use of high-efficiency and low emissions biomass, solar (thermal), or geothermal as appropriate. Consider environmental impacts and heating system economics of all proposed new installations. (Page 62 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 1G)
- Increase the number of existing buildings in energy efficiency programs or certified to green building standard by 20% by 2020, by 50% by 2035, and by 100% by 2050. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)
- Increase annual kWh savings from NYSERDA Energy Efficiency Funded Program Projects by 20% by 2020. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)
- Increase the number of buildings built to LEED or similar energy efficiency standards to 25% of new building stock by 2020, 35% by 2035, and 50% by 2050. (Page 67 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator N/A)

Waste Management (pages 240 – 265)

Goals

- Reduce the amount of solid waste generated. (Pages 251 - 253 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the percentage of materials recycled or reused. (Pages 254 – 258 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Reduce per capita MSW disposal rate (excludes recycled MSW and construction and demolition [C&D] materials) from 3.2 pounds per person to: (Page 252 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4A)
    - 1.7 pounds per person-day by 2020.
    - 0.5 pounds per person-day by 2035.
    - 0.1 pounds per person-day by 2050.
- Increase percentage of total solid waste stream that is recycled in region from 8% to: (includes MSW, organics, and C&D materials). (Page 256 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 4B)
    - 50% materials recovered by 2020.
    - 70% materials recovered by 2035.
    - 85% materials recovered by 2050.

Agriculture and Forestry (pages 126 – 170)

Goals

- Promote development of the agricultural and forestry industries, including expansion of existing operations and starting new operations. (Pages 130 – 138 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase local food and forest product processing and sales within the region. (Pages 139 – 143 of Sustainability Plan)
- Increase the use of biomass to meet the thermal energy needs of the region and beyond. (Page 144 - 148 of Sustainability Plan)
- Promote tourism and recreation based on the region's natural resources while providing for the long-term maintenance of the region's recreational resources. (Pages 149 - 151 of Sustainability Plan)
- Enhance forest management through increased use of best management practices. (Pages 152 - 154 of Sustainability Plan)
- Upgrade and maintain existing farming infrastructure to improve energy efficiency and reduce farm operating costs. (Pages 155 - 158 of Sustainability Plan)

Targets

- Maintain farm acreage and products: (Page 136 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 6E)
    - Number of farms.
    - Acreage of land in farms.
    - Total cropland.
    - Harvested cropland.
    - Market value of agricultural products sold.
- Maintain economically productive forests: (Page 136 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 3I)
    - Privately owned forestland within the Adirondack Park: 1,724,042 acres of privately owned forestland within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park (USGS LULC, 2006).
    - Timberland (private and public forests available for wood production and harvest) in North Country Region: 4,058,333 acres (USFS FIA Database, 2010).
- Increase number of wood-processing facilities (Page 142 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 10S)
    - Increase the number of primary wood-processing facilities to 50 by 2020, 60 by 2035, and 70 by 2050.
    - Increase the number of secondary wood-processing facilities to 65 by 2020, 75 by 2035, and 85 by 2050.
- Increase number of permitted food-processing facilities in the region: (Page 142 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 10T)
    - Increase the number of 5A Permit Holders to 10 by 2020, 25 by 2035, and 40 by 2050.
    - Increase the number of 20C Permit Holders to 590 by 2020, 640 by 2035, and 690 by 2050.
    - Increase the number of USDA Permit Holders to 3 by 2020, 6 by 2035, and 12 by 2050.
- Increase number of utility and community facilities using biomass for energy: (Page 146 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 11C)
    - Increase the number of utility and community facilities using biomass for energy to 30 by 2020, 70 by 2035, and 90 by 2050.
    - Increase the number of number of biomass manufacturing facilities in the region to 8 by 2020, 12 by 2035, and 15 by 2050.
- Increase number of farms with completed energy audits: (Page 157 of Sustainability Plan, Indicator 10U)
    - Increase the number of audited farms per county by 5% by 2020, 20% by 2035, and 50% by 2050.