2018 Division Council Award Nomination

For each nomination, the following information should be provided:

1. **Division name:** LGBTQ and Planning

2. **Division contact person and contact information:** Tracey Corbitt, AICP, Chair, tsc1@westchestergov.com, 914-995-2090

3. **Award Category:** Contribution to the Profession

4. **Name of the Division project, program or process being nominated:** Plan4Health NY Metro Project

5. **Description of the project, program or process, including the targeted audience**

   The LGBTQ and Planning was the only Division to apply for and be granted an APA Plan4Health grant. The grant award was $45,000 to implement a Planners4Health Project focused on the NY Metro Chapter region.

   The Division’s Planners4Health project purpose was to examine the connections between planning and health throughout the NY Metro region and developed tools to help communities become healthier communities. The Division decided to undertake the project to ensure that diversity was considered in the Planners4Health Program. The Division set out to do this by exploring and connecting the New York Metro region’s intersection of health and planning and then created a tool kit for local decisionmakers to enable them to create healthier communities that serve the entire community.

   The NY Metro Planners4Health Project included the following goals:

   - Conduct an assessment of health and planning in the NY Metro region.
   - Encourage new partnerships among different sectors related to planning and public health.
   - Facilitate conversations and encourage learning among public health and planning professionals regarding how our built environment, the natural world, municipal planning and zoning, and other factors, affects community health and vice versa.
   - Host a roundtable with key stakeholders to encourage cross-sector conversations and projects.
   - Create a toolbox for municipal officials on how to create a healthy community for all its citizens.
   - Develop a final summary of project findings.

   Once the program started, the Division reached out to the Law and Planning Division and Pace University Land Use Law Center for assistance. This partnership was invaluable for us in hosting the round table and preparing the toolkit.
The project resulted in a website https://www.plan4healthnymetro.org/ that is complete with resources and it also resulted in a new web resource of a land use toolkit that is based on the APA Metrics for Planning Healthy Communities (https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/document/Metrics-Planning-Healthy-Communities.pdf)

This new web resource was done by Pace University Land Use Law Center and is available as part of their Gaining Ground database. This resource is valuable for communities throughout the country. A summary is attached to this nomination.

6. Identify how the project, program or process:
   a. Meets the award criteria
      The Division met the award criteria on all three categories:
      1. The Division’s project brought about a new set of knowledge-based professional content by providing examples for APA’s Metric for Planning Healthy Communities.
      2. The project provided for measurable visibility through the attendance at the project round table and the continued presentation at local events. A participant in the project, the Town of Ossining, has even decided to move forward with updating their comprehensive plan to include measures for creating a health community.
      3. The Division partnered with the Law and Planning Division once the project was underway and it was determined that we would have a focus on local laws. This partnership was a critical component of the success of the project.

   b. Can measure success
      Success can be measured by the fact that a local municipality is taking action to implement project components. By request, the project has been presented twice already at local planning forums and another has been requested for this spring.

   c. Is transferable to other Divisions
      The project is transferrable to other Division as the Planners4Health program covers a spectrum of planning issues – housing, transportation, land use, environmental and at all scales. Other Divisions can use the resources that are available on the project website and Pace University Land Use Law Center’s Gaining Ground Database.

      The project can serve as a model for working with other professional organizations. Besides Planning and Law Division, the Division partnered with AIA Hudson Valley, ASLA NY, NYS Public Health Association, Open Door Family Medical and Pace University.

The total length of an awards nomination should not exceed two pages in length. A copy of the project, program or process is required to be submitted with the nomination form.

Attachments:

- Project website: https://www.plan4healthnymetro.org
- Workshop summary
- Public Health Toolkit
As part of the American Planning Association’s (APA) Plan4Health project, the APA’s LGBTQ and Planning Division, the Metro Chapter, and the Planning and Law Division, held the Creating Healthy Communities Roundtable, hosted by Land Use Law Center (LULC) at Pace University on June 15, 2017. In attendance were planners, health professionals, elected officials, and representatives from other built environment sectors. The meeting was geared towards understanding how planners can collaborate to make health a priority in their communities and in their work. Summarized below are the common topics and themes that arose during the roundtable breakout discussions.

Barriers to achieving healthy communities were a common concern amongst table participants. Two overarching barriers identified were municipalities’ and planners’ lack of expertise about health and wellness and that health is often not made a priority due to competing interests in communities. Agency isolation, rather than working in a collaborative effort, was also addressed in conversations as a prevalent impediment to achieving healthy communities. Additionally, the participants identified issues such as food insecurity, lower income, lack of awareness about available resources, and inability to access those resources as impediments to the public. Participants generally believed that identifying these barriers was an important first step to remedying them.

Vulnerable populations and stakeholder engagement were also themes covered during the roundtable discussions. Many participants explained that their efforts in creating healthy communities was often focused on the senior and low-income population. Seniors were identified as being at risk for food insecurity and health problems. The discussions included efforts to reach this population, such as providing transit, legal services and case management, as well as telehealth efforts and grocery programs which deliver food to seniors. Low-income citizens were also classified as a vulnerable population because, for many participants, inequity is one of the biggest obstacles to creating a healthy community. One participant stated the rates of health problems double for those whose annual income is below $25,000 a year. Another found that new spaces dedicated to physical activity were not being used by the low-income residents as much as the high-income residents of the community. Programs directed towards these individuals include providing healthcare, preventing residential displacement, promoting affordable housing, and encouraging transit equity. Many participants expressed that improving equality, including access to services, would have a positive impact in creating healthy communities.

During the roundtable breakout discussions, participants shared projects that they consider successful in encouraging healthy lifestyles in the community where they live or serve. Programs related to food, medical health, transportation, and physical activity were a part of the dialogue. Successful food programs include farmers markets, senior grocery programs, and mobile pantry distributions. Medical programs instituted in communities are the health improvement district near White Plains Medical Center, programs to increase vulnerable populations’ access to healthcare services, and Telehealth for Senior
Health which has brought hospitalizations down due to early intervention. Transportation related programs are those that provide transportation to those who cannot drive, including seniors, improving access to bicycle paths and bicycle lanes on roadways, and New York City's Access-a-Ride mobility services. Programs that increase physical activity which were successful are walking clubs, the Walkway Over the Hudson in Dutchess County, community exercise classes, trail planning and maps, as well as encouraging friendly competition in senior communities for most steps walked.

Despite the main successful programs participants have enacted, a large part of the roundtable discussions identified areas of improvement in order to create healthy communities. Education and outreach, communication among entities and access to funding were the most prevalent areas mentioned. Many participants believed that the public, municipalities' and planners need more education about health and wellness in order to institute policies and programs to create healthier communities. Additionally, using outreach methods to increase public knowledge of available resources is believed to be a crucial part in having healthier communities. A common barrier to collaboration cited by participants was agency isolation. Several participants explained that one of the biggest obstacles they face is that each organization sees themselves as an individual silo. Ideas to increase collaboration, such as interagency communication, getting political leadership and first responders involved with health related efforts, as well as interdepartmental communication within local governments were emphasized by participants. An overarching theme for most of the tables, was a lack of funding. Participants discussed advocacy for grant requirements as an area that needs improvement to ensure projects related to healthier communities are able to move forward, and fundraising techniques their organizations have used, such as the Westchester Public-Private Partnership.

The NY Metro Creating Healthy Communities Roundtable was successful in bringing planners, health professionals, elected officials, and representatives from other built environment sectors together to discuss barriers to achieving their objectives, vulnerable populations they have encountered, successful programs they have implemented and to identify areas of improvement. Furthermore, in addition to areas of improvement, the table discussions identified multiple opportunities for future action, as described in Section II of this Final Reporting Form.
PLANNERS4HEALTH TOOLKIT

The structure of the following toolkit is derived from “Metrics for Planning Healthy Communities” by Anna Ricklin and Sagar Shah. These authors laid out a valuable set of metrics to consider when planning with a focus on public health, and their work was invaluable to the creation of our own. Equity is an interwoven element of all planning policies cited below. However, where examples express a specific base in equity, this fact has been noted.

I. Active Living

Active Transportation
Any form of self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation (e.g. walking, biking, or skateboarding) for leisure or non-leisure purposes. Related planning policies:

- Transportation demand management policies
- Legislation prioritizing funding for pedestrian/bike facilities
- Complete streets policies

- Omaha, NE
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Complete streets and Transportation demand management
  - The comprehensive plan provides bicycle facilities which are separated into three categories; trails, paths, and routes. Trails give people a facility with minimal to no traffic congestion. Paths are separate facilities located next to minor and major roads. Routes are streets which allow bicycles but does not include a separate facility for bicycles. These facilities allow for safe passage and recreational activity.

- Baltimore, MD
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Complete streets and Transportation demand management
• The City of Baltimore implemented a Bicycle Master Plan. This plan lays out the bicycle paths throughout the city. The goal is to ensure connectivity of the bikeways which will let more people use them for commuting, errands, or recreation. This keeps the community connected and improves public health.

- Nassau County, NY
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Complete streets and Transportation demand management**
  • To make their downtown more environmentally friendly Nassau County suggests planting medium height plants and trees on paved medians. However, Nassau goes further by promoting the use of double curbs to not only improve the aesthetics, but to encourage citizens to bike or walk rather than drive. This initiative would also allow rain to percolate into the ground, reducing runoff and improving water quality. No matter what actions are taken in the area, Nassau County’s comprehensive plan promotes sustainable, green building and site design to create an environmentally friendly downtown area.

- Niagara County, NY
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Transportation demand management**
  • One of Niagara County’s objectives through their comprehensive plan is to reduce reliance on automotive modes of transportation by creating networks of connected non-motorized trails for pedestrians and bicyclists.
  • [http://www.niagaracounty.com/Portals/0/docs/NCCompPlan/ChapterIX/PublicHealthandSafety.pdf](http://www.niagaracounty.com/Portals/0/docs/NCCompPlan/ChapterIX/PublicHealthandSafety.pdf)

- Buffalo, NY
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Complete streets and Transportation demand management**
  • As part of the effort to revitalize the area, Buffalo plans to overhaul their transportation network by 2030. The overhaul will include implementation of quality bicycle and pedestrian amenities and alternative mode programs.
  • [https://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/files/1_2_1/Mayor/COB_Comprehensive_Plan/section_245101657796.html](https://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/files/1_2_1/Mayor/COB_Comprehensive_Plan/section_245101657796.html)

- Nassau County, FL
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Transportation demand management**
  • Seek to promote multi-modal transportation that is safe and efficient by maintaining minimum acceptable levels of service (as defined by FDOT Quality/Levels of Service Handbook) for all roadway segments in the county (T.01). All development proposals will be reviewed to ensure compliance with meeting this goal. Chief
among the renewing criteria is the project’s contribution to public health (T.02). Additionally, to promote walking and biking, the county will incorporate the appropriate facilities into transportation improvement projects (T.04).

- San Diego, CA
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Complete streets and Transportation demand management
  - San Diego is promoting walking as a viable mode of transportation by improving walkability of the city. They plan to create mixed-use neighborhoods connected by public transportation, build residences closer to parks, schools, shopping, employment, and transit, and a safe and accessible walking environment by designing streets to increase pedestrian safety (ME-A). To accomplish this, San Diego plans to – among other things – enhance public rights of way, design site plans and buildings with pedestrian-oriented features, and implement traffic calming measures (ME-A.7.a-b, e).
  - San Diego is also promoting biking as a viable travel choice in their city. To this end, they have implemented the Bicycle Master Plan which identifies existing and future needs and provides recommendations for facilities and programs. They are focusing on creating a network of bikeways that are feasible and serve bicyclists’ needs – especially for travel to employment centers, village centers, schools, commercial districts, transit stations, and institutions. They are also focused on providing adequate safe bicycle parking and implementing public education to promote bicycle safety (ME-F.1, 4, 6).

- Knoxville, TN
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Complete streets
  - Knoxville’s zoning code has a section specifically dedicated to fostering a complete streets policy, making sure that their streets offer a comprehensive network that accommodates all users and all modes of transportation (Section 23-19).
  - https://library.municode.com/tn/knoxville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICOOR_CH23STSI

- Cambridge, MA
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Transportation demand management
  - In article 6 of their Zoning Ordinances, Cambridge provides for significant amounts of bicycle parking. Aside from reducing their carbon footprint, the implementation of the bicycle parking will encourage the use of bicycles for transportation, as well as reduce congestion on the streets.
Recreation

Opportunities for exercise, such as playing sports, taking a fitness class, playing on a playground, or walking in a park. Can include activities like biking or walking as long as they are not done for the purpose of travel to a new destination (like school or work). Related Planning Policies:

- Policies prioritizing equitable investment in parks and open space
- Shared use policies between local governments, school districts, faith-based organizations, etc.

- Oneida Nation, WI
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - Oneida Nation has a comprehensive plan which establishes a state of the art family fitness, adventure, and recreation complex. The reservation will develop a sports complex of athletic fields and provide programs that will allow community elders to participate in recreational activities in a safe, inviting atmosphere.

- Ridgefield, WA
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Policies prioritizing equitable investment in parks and open space
  - Equity-Based Example
  - Ridgefield is dedicated to great parks and recreational spaces. As such, in their 2016 Comprehensive Plan, the city plans to make park acquisition and development a priority. The city states that, “[m]any new parks will be sited in currently undeveloped areas... [and] underserved neighborhoods.” In fact, the city has adopted a comprehensive plan dedicated solely to parks, their “Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan”. This plan contains an analysis of future park needs, as well as what types of recreational opportunities should be available. Furthermore, Ridgefield is expecting to plan for and develop a city-wide system of trails that link schools, parks, and other facilities. (89)

- Anchorage, AK
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - In chapter 21.07 of the Code of Ordinances of Anchorage, Alaska, the city espouses the desire to create and maintain a network of streets, walkways, pathways, and
trails. Additionally, it allows for trails to be placed near attractive natural features like streams to encourage citizens to walk along the trails for their recreation.

- Buffalo, NY
  - Charter and Ordinances
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - Buffalo prohibits any vehicle propelled by any power other than muscular power in an area of the town known as “Riverwalk.” Riverwalk is a paved pedestrian path for bicycling and running (Section 91).
  - http://ecode360.com/11767262

**Traffic Safety**

*Designing public infrastructure that promotes the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.*

Related Planning Policies:

- Vision Zero or a similar initiative to end traffic fatalities
- Traffic calming policies and related design guidelines

- Ossining, NY
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Traffic calming policies and related design guidelines
  - The Village of Ossining plans to employ traffic calming in neighborhoods around schools and downtown by using signage, re-striping major roadways, and implementing traffic data collection and infrastructure inventory throughout the village. The goal of this plan is to improve pedestrian safety and comfort, and to change the behavior of motorists who would otherwise use residential roads to bypass congestion on the major roads.

- San Diego, CA
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - San Diego is doing its best to promote “Walking School Bus” efforts where parents/responsible adults share the responsibility of escorting children to and from school by foot or bicycle. They have also planned to work with school districts and their communities to locate schools where a maximum number of students can walk to school safely (ME-A.2.b–c). The city is also going to promote public education to increase drivers’ awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists and encourage more courteous driving (ME-A.3).

- Rochester, NY
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Vision Zero or a similar initiative to end traffic fatalities
The city-wide guidelines in Rochester’s zoning codes specifically state that safe pedestrian movement, access, and circulation should be promoted through zoning, including clearly defined access and rights-of-way. The code further provides that if a service alley is viable, garages and loading areas will be accessed using only that alley to decrease danger to pedestrians (§120-156(E)).

- **San Antonio, TX**
  - **Zoning Code**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Traffic calming policies and related design guides**
    - In their zoning ordinances, San Antonio recognizes that long blocks and wide streets with uninterrupted traffic flow encourage speeding. Accordingly, the city allows streets to grow in length as long as there is some traffic calming feature implemented to discourage speeding and increase traffic safety (§35-506(t)).
  - [http://library.municode.com/tx/san_antonio/codes/unified_development_code?nodeId=ARTVDEST_DIV2INST#ARTVDEST_DIV2INST_S35-506TRSTDE](http://library.municode.com/tx/san_antonio/codes/unified_development_code?nodeId=ARTVDEST_DIV2INST#ARTVDEST_DIV2INST_S35-506TRSTDE)

- **Washington, NY**
  - **Zoning Code**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Vision Zero or a similar initiative to end traffic fatalities**
    - Washington’s zoning code provides height limitations for structures placed at or near street intersections. The code states that no new structure can be over thirty inches in height above the grade of the street. The restrictions create intersections that are more convenient and safe for the town residents, free from potentially dangerous obstructions.

### II. Healthy Food System

**Access**

_Easy physical and economical access to healthy food that meets dietary needs. Physical access is dependent on geographical proximity of healthy food stores, and economic access relates to affordability. Also includes access to unhealthy food because both healthy and unhealthy food determine the food environment. Related Planning Policies:_

- Incentive programs to attract full service grocers to food deserts
- Financial Incentives to corner stores for carrying healthy food choices
- Policies that expedite the permitting process or provide incentives for the development of new farmers markets
- Regulations prohibiting or limiting new fast food establishments

- **Alachua County, FL**
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
- **Related Planning Policy: Incentive Programs to attract full service grocers to food deserts.**
- **Equity-Based Example**
  - The comprehensive plan promotes access to healthful, affordable, and nutritious food through a community garden and agriculture programs offered by the USDA Farm to School Programs. These programs target low-income and populations at high-risk for health disparity for programs promoting gardening, healthy food access, and nutrition improvement.
  
  - [https://growth-management.alachuacounty.us/formsdocs/comp-plan.pdf#page=413](https://growth-management.alachuacounty.us/formsdocs/comp-plan.pdf#page=413)

- **Minneapolis, MN**
  - **Healthy Corner Store Program**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Financial incentives to corner stores for carrying healthy food choices**
  - **Equity-Based Example**
  - With this city-wide program, the Minneapolis Health Department is teaming up with corner store owners to improve access to fresh produce and healthier foods. Store owners learn skills for buying and handling produce, and how to help customers choose healthier food options. The specific goals of the program are: (1) increasing inventory of affordable fresh produce varieties in corner stores; (2) increasing visibility of fresh produce in corner stores; (3) increasing store owners’ knowledge about handling fresh produce; and (4) increasing sales of fresh produce in corner stores. To accomplish these goals, the program provided specific help to corner stores that participate in the program, such as: signs and display baskets to draw customers’ attention to healthy food options, training on proper handling to maximize produce shelf life, $200 stipend to use toward the first order from a produce or healthy food wholesaler, and promotion events to introduce residents to the store’s improvements.
  

- **Philadelphia, PA**
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  - Philadelphia received a $25 million grant which they used to provide city agencies, the School District of Philadelphia, and other private organizations an increased capacity to build healthier food environments. They created a healthy corner store network, established new farmers’ markets, and expanded education and enforcement of food regulations around the city.
  
  - [http://phila2035.org/pdfs/final2035vision.pdf](http://phila2035.org/pdfs/final2035vision.pdf)

- **Concord, MA**
  - **Zoning Code**
• **Related Planning Policy: Regulations prohibiting or limiting new fast food establishments**
  Section 4.7.1 of Concord’s zoning code expressly states:
  “Drive-in or fast food restaurants are expressly prohibited. A drive-in or fast food restaurant is defined as any establishment whose principal business is the sale of foods or beverages in a ready-to-consume state, for consumption within the building or off-premises, and whose principal method of operation includes: (1) sale of foods and beverages in paper, plastic or other disposable containers; or (2) service of food and beverages directly to a customer in a motor vehicle.”
  This zoning code removes fast-food establishments from the community and improves the public health through reducing consumption of unhealthy foods.

- Ithaca, NY
• **Comprehensive Plan**
• **Related Planning Policy: Policies that expedite the permitting process or provide incentives for the development of new farmers markets**
• **Equity-Based Example**
  Ithaca’s Comprehensive Plan makes it clear that having a sustainable local food system that will provide nutritious food to their residents is a priority. Their number one goal for their food system is that all residents of the city will enjoy food security. Ithaca is making it their goal to encourage farmers’ markets, including establishing a regular shuttle to Ithaca Farmers’ Market.

- New York, NY
• **Zoning Resolution**
• **Related Planning Policy: Other**
• **Equity-Based Example**
  In 2016, New York City passed a zoning resolution defining “FRESH” food stores as a store with at least 6,000 sq. ft. of space utilized for selling grocery products intended for home preparation and consumption. At least 50% of the space must be used for non-perishable items, and at least 30% must be used for the sale of perishable goods. At least 500 ft. of the perishable food section must be dedicated to fresh produce. The city has offered to modify density and parking requirements to encourage establishment of “FRESH” food stores.
  • [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/zoning/zoning-text/art06c03.pdf?r=032216](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/zoning/zoning-text/art06c03.pdf?r=032216)

- Kinderhook, NY
• **Zoning Code**
• **Related Planning Policy: Policies that expedite the permitting process or provide incentives for the development of new farmers markets**
  Kinderhook specifically permits farmer’s markets (farm markets) in two thirds of its zoning districts, promoting both farm operations and tourism. They define farm
markets as permanent structures that primarily sell agricultural products and related goods to the general public. Additionally, the farm markets can either sell pre-harvested goods, or allow customers to pick their own products. The town also permits seasonal farm stands in four of its zoning districts with fewer requirements.


**Production**
Growing of food, no matter whether it is on farms or through urban production. Related Planning Policies:
- Remove policy barriers to establishing urban agriculture and community gardens

- Baltimore, MD
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Remove policy barriers to establishing urban agriculture and community gardens
  - Baltimore has “Project 5000,” where the city bought out a large number of vacant properties. The city then turned these vacant parcels into community gardens and recreational spaces. The point of this project was to address the disposition of vacant properties and turn them into places that the community wants to use. The community gardens make the properties aesthetic and help keep neighborhoods competitive, emerging, and stable.

- Seattle, WA
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Remove policy barriers to establishing urban agriculture and community gardens
  - The comprehensive plan for Seattle also adopts several neighborhood plans, including the Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake plan. These neighborhoods plan to increase the production of healthy food by increasing the opportunities to participate in educational gardening. The neighborhood will work with Seattle Tilth (teaches gardening classes to adults and kids) to run a gardening class that teaches skills that may be used in home or community gardens. The neighborhoods also plan to partner with several schools and the community center to get youth involved in gardening at P-Patches – local urban agriculture areas. (pg. 36)

- Planning for Healthy Places Model Code
  - Model Zoning Code
- **Related Planning Policy: Remove policy barriers to establishing urban agriculture and community gardens**
  - Planning for Healthy Places put together a model zoning code which would be successful through a two-pronged approach: (1) making community gardening an approved use in appropriate use-based zones to prevent them from being closed down as illegal and (2) establishing a separate use-based zone dedicated to the use of community gardens. The model code is well written, and includes additional comments for ways that different municipalities may choose to alter the language to effectuate different types of gardens (allowing chickens, for example).

- **Ulysses, NY**
  - **Zoning Code**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  - Ulysses, NY has a zoning district - A1 - where the primary land use is agriculture. The stated purpose of this zone is "to protect the agricultural production resources. . . viable agricultural operations and the agricultural heritage of the town…" Furthermore, in zone A1 any practice necessary for on-farm production or preparation and marketing of agricultural commodities cannot constitute a private nuisance.
  - [http://www.ecode360.com/28860356?highlight=a1#28860356](http://www.ecode360.com/28860356?highlight=a1#28860356)

**III. Environmental Exposures**

**Air Quality**

*State of the air in the community. Related Public Policies:*
  - **Policy requiring facilities serving vulnerable populations to be at least 500 feet from high traffic roadways**

- **Ramsey, MN**
  - **Comprehensive Plan and Health Impact Assessment**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Policy requiring facilities serving vulnerable populations to be at least 500 feet from high traffic roadways.**
  - The City plans to preserve existing tree canopies and promote additional tree planting to preserve the air quality for future generations. They also provide 200 meter and 500 meter buffers from “Highway 10” to protect the surrounding residential communities from traffic pollution
  - [http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/assets/2008/04/cityoframseyhiareport.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/~/media/assets/2008/04/cityoframseyhiareport.pdf)

- **Nassau County, FL**
• **Comprehensive Plan**
• **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  To help avoid urban sprawl and reduce automobile use, Nassau created and adopted the East Nassau Community Planning Area (ENCPA) for future land use. The county has certain goals for development within the ENCPA, including: facilitating multi-modal transportation and creating communities that discourage urban sprawl. The goals of development within the ENCPA directly promote public health through encouraging walking and biking, making sure they are safe by planning for them to exist in the future, and decreasing the amount of pollution created by vehicles (FL.13)

- **San Diego, CA**
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  San Diego is aiming to employ sustainable planning to reduce their carbon footprint and prepare for adverse impacts of climate change. They aim to accomplish this through changing land use patterns to reduce vehicular trips, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, improving energy efficiency in vehicles and buildings, and planting trees (CE-A.2).

- **Buffalo, NY**
  • **Charter and Ordinances**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  Buffalo has extensive ordinances regarding air pollution. Most significantly, Buffalo holds not only violators of the ordinances responsible and liable for infringements, but they also hold owners, proprietors, lessors, agents, tenants, managers, superintendents, captains, etc. responsible and liable for any unlawful emission. Section 66.
  • [http://ecode360.com/13571881](http://ecode360.com/13571881)

**Water Quality**
*Condition of the water relative to its use (drinking, washing, recreation, etc.). Related Public Policies:*
  • *Policies that manage stormwater through green infrastructure or low impact development practices*

- **Nassau County, NY**
  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  • **Related Planning Policy: Policies that manage stormwater through green infrastructure or low impact development practices.**
  • Nassau County suggests planting medium height plants and trees on paved medians. Nassau goes further by promoting the use of double curbs to improve the aesthetics
and allow rain to percolate into the ground, reducing runoff and improving water quality.

- Marlborough, NY
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - Marlborough is increasingly concerned about the quality of their water (most of the drinking water is supplied by private wells). To combat this, their comprehensive plan suggests maintaining and increasing the amount of vegetation adjacent to streams, revising regulations when necessary to allow the planning board to require information regarding water quality of proposed on-site wells, and better locating septic tanks to avoid as much concentration of nitrate in the drinking water as possible.

- Buffalo, NY
  - Charter and Ordinances
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - Buffalo has several ordinances regarding maintaining water quality. They prohibit any act that will impair the purity of any water used for drinking in any party of the city, a separate ordinance regarding dumping in watercourses which cannot be done without a permit that is only issued if the quality of the water would not be impaired. Furthermore, Buffalo prohibits washing cars in public water. Section 491.

- Minneapolis, MN
  - Code of Ordinances
  - Related Planning Policy: Policies that manage stormwater through green infrastructure or law impact development practices
  - In 2010, the surfacing ordinance for Minneapolis’ off-street parking was amended to allow pervious pavement to be used as surfacing. The Code of Ordinance also gives strict guidelines to be followed with implementing the pervious pavement as surfacing for parking. (541.300–305). The 2010 amendment to the original ordinance states that the implementation of pervious pavement will further the city’s comprehensive plan by encouraging developments to use best management practices for stormwater management through sustainable design practices. (pg. 3).

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**Soil Contamination**
Presence or potential presence of environmental contaminants in the soil, often on brownfield sites that are underproductive or underused. Related Public Policies:

- Policies prioritizing brownfield remediation and urban infill

- Newburgh, NY
  - Master Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Policies prioritizing brownfield remediation and urban infill.
  - The City’s Master Plan provides for two programs regarding brownfield remediation. The first program is the Brownfield Opportunities Area (BOA), which is intended to promote planning in areas with multiple brownfields. The second program is the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) which provides funds for investigation and remediation costs. The goal of these programs is to regenerate these contaminated properties which will have positive effects on their local environments and improve the quality of life in their respective neighborhoods.

- Syracuse, NY
  - General Plan: Housing Element
  - Related Planning Policy: Policies prioritizing brownfield remediation and urban infill
  - Syracuse attacks both brownfield reclamation and urban infill in their comprehensive plan. With respect to the former, the city plans to maintain and enhance their program. They will inventory existing brownfields and prioritize their clean up. They also plan to apply to include additional corridors in their Brownfields Opportunity Area program and other cleanup grants, and encourage private property owners to utilize relevant tax credits. Regarding the latter, the city plans to prioritize rehabilitation and deconstruction over demolition, reserving construction of new housing for appropriate infill locations. (26–29)

IV. Emergency Preparedness

Natural Hazards
An event that completely disrupts the social, ecological, economic, and political stability of the affected region. Related Public Policies:

- Hazard mitigation policies included in all forms of plan making, from comprehensive plans to area plans

- Babylon, NY
  - Charter and Ordinances
• **Related Planning Policy:** Hazard mitigation policies included in all forms of plan making, from comprehensive plans to area plans.

• Babylon has an extensive section of ordinances regarding prevention of flood damage. The ordinances are intended to promote public health and safety, and minimize public and private losses due to flooding. There is an extensive permit process required for any development to be undertaken in flood hazard areas. If any development or current buildings are in violation of the ordinance, the penalty accumulates daily.
  
  • [http://ecode360.com/6592866](http://ecode360.com/6592866)
    o Section 171

**Climate Change**

*Any significant change in climate that lasts for an extended period, mainly focused on the accumulation of greenhouse gasses due to human activity.* Related Public Policies:

• Climate change data or projection integrated into all future planning efforts

• Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- **Buffalo, NY**

  • **Comprehensive Plan**
  
  • **Related Planning Policy:** Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions

  • As part of their plan to overhaul their transportation network, Buffalo plans to use mixed-use corridor development and other land use policies that complement and promote the use of public transit options, reducing dependency on individual automobiles and parking. This plan works well with their established public transit options which they can build and improve upon to complement the mixed-use development in a symbiotic fashion. One of their biggest projects in their 2030 plans is implementation of high quality public transit between downtown Buffalo and Niagara Falls to decrease congestion, dependence on vehicles, and promote tourism and economic development (2.4.10). These goals will work together to strategically lower the greenhouse emissions from cars in the Buffalo area.

  • [https://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/files/1_2_1/Mayor/COB_Comprehensive_Plan/section_245101657796.html](https://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/files/1_2_1/Mayor/COB_Comprehensive_Plan/section_245101657796.html)

- **Kingston, NY**

  • **Comprehensive Plan**

  • **Related Planning Policy:** Climate change data or projection integrated into all future planning efforts; Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

  • The comprehensive plan provides for the City to use a sustainable development checklist for applicants seeking City funding. Each applicant must fill out the checklist and achieve a minimum score to receive the funding. The goal of the checklist is to have more sustainable projects that are a result of public financing, reduce energy consumption, reduce CO2 emissions, reduce water consumptions, waste generation, and stormwater runoff.
- Nassau County, NY
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
    Nassau County realizes that if their expected land use expansion over the next few decades is dispersed consistent with current land use trends traffic congestion and carbon emissions will grow concurrently. To mitigate the increased carbon footprint they will have due to increased population, Nassau plans to concentrate growth in downtown centers to alleviate other parts of the county from out-of-scale development – particularly of single-family homes that would increase vehicular traffic. The county also plans on focusing on transit oriented development to create a walkable environment with public transportation alternatives to further reduce the county's impact on climate change.

- Ardsley, NY
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Climate change data or projection integrated into all future planning efforts
    The village adopted an Environmental Conservation Commission to help preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment. The commission advises the Village Board of Trustees on matters affecting the preservation, and use of the natural and man-made features. The commission conducts studies, surveys, and inventories then provides an annual report concerning the Village’s environmental resources.
  - http://ecode360.com/5110642

- Yorktown, NY
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
    The Town of Yorktown created the Energize NY Benefit Financing Program that provides funds to qualified property owners to finance the acquisition, construction, and installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The goal of this program is to achieve energy efficiency and renewable energy goals which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and mitigates the effect of global climate change.
    - http://ecode360.com/27371236
    - http://www.yorktownny.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/192/ch07_natural20resources_0.pdf

- San Jose, CA
  - Comprehensive Plan
- Related Planning Policy: Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City plans to replace 100% of their traffic signals and streetlights with smart, zero emission lighting by 2022.

- Omaha, NE
- Comprehensive Plan
- Related Planning Policy: Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The city is planning to construct an electric streetcar line to provide a transportation function and an economic boost for tourism. This is an attempt at less automobile travel in the city as the trolley would serve the busier areas.

- San Diego, CA
- Comprehensive Plan
- Related Planning Policy: Climate change data or projection integrated into all future planning efforts; Smart growth policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- San Diego is focusing on creating a “City of Villages” by developing mixed-use activity centers that are pedestrian-friendly. This development of the city will enable people to make fewer and shorter auto trips, which is a large component of San Diego’s goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions (LU-A). Aside from promoting walking, San Diego is also trying to improve the appeal of public transport to make it the first choice of travel for as many people as possible. Accomplishing this goal will help San Diego increase mobility, preserve neighborhood character, and improve air quality by reducing the use of and dependence on automobiles (ME-B).

**Infectious Disease**
*Illnesses caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses, or parasites. Related Public Policies:*
- Incorporate measures addressing vector control and waterborne disease into community plans, zoning restrictions, and stormwater management

- Brevard County, Florida
- Comprehensive Plan
- Related Planning Policy: Incorporate measures addressing vector control and waterborne disease into community plans, zoning restrictions, and stormwater management.
- Brevard County plans for public facilities to be located outside of floodplain or wetland areas. The goal of this plan is to prevent any standing water from accumulating. There are exceptions if the facilities can be shown to not be adversely affected by periodic flooding.
or standing water or if the building structures are flood proofed and elevated. This plan is also implemented to control the mosquito population in public facilities.


V. **Social Cohesion**

**Green Infrastructure**

Strategically planned and managed network of green open spaces, including parks, greenways, and protected lands. Often used in urban areas to capture, store, and infiltrate stormwater runoff. Related Public Policies:

- Policies that incentivize development of green infrastructure so that it is conveniently accessible to all residents

- Portland, OR
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **Related Planning Policy:** Policies that incentivize development of green infrastructure so that it is conveniently accessible to all residents
  - Portland’s economic development goals laid out in their comprehensive plan include ensuring that parks, trails, natural areas, and a healthy environment continue to protect the city’s quality of life and attracts and retains businesses and work force. In pursuance of this goal, the comprehensive plan sets the policy of allowing park development within industrial zones to provide adequate park service within one-half mile of every resident. (GP6-1, GP6-16).

**Housing and Community Development**

Providing a healthy and suitable living environment, expanding economic opportunities for people in need, providing quality and affordable housing, and generally improving the social, economic, cultural, and environmental situation of the community. Related Public Policies:

- Land use and zoning policies that promote easy access to jobs, services, and amenities
- Transportation policies that promote easy access to jobs, services, and amenities

- Sacramento, CA
  - **General Plan:** Housing Element
  - **Related Planning Policy:** Policies prioritizing brownfield remediation and urban infill
  - **Equity-Based Example**
  - One of Sacramento’s main goals with respect to production of housing in the future is to ensure that the housing provided will meet future needs. In the pursuit of that goal, their general plan puts forth policies that require the promotion of quality infill development, with a specific focus on affordable units. The city will offset costs of the development of this affordable housing through deferred fees and financial
incentives including: water development fee waivers and sewer credits. (General Plan; Housing Element, p. H 9-4).

- Beacon, NY
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Land Use and Zoning policies that promote easy access to jobs, services, and amenities**
  - The City of Beacon plans to create a new community center for youth and seniors in or next to the central business district. The City encourages the police department to be involved in the planning and implementation of some of the youth planning through community policing. The goal is to create new opportunities for community development and for the youth and seniors to partake in activities to lead active and healthy lifestyles. The program also helps form a positive image of police officers in the community, which helps create stronger relationships between the police department and the citizens.

- Chenango County, NY
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Other**
  - **Equity-Based Example**
  - Chenango County is seeking to ensure equity of health among their residents by minimizing water contamination through implementation and enforcement of residential regulations. They also intend to assess the health care needs of the entire population, and use the data collected to support existing programs as well as identify gaps in service and fill them. The county also intends to participate in regional health delivery and planning functions. They also plan on heavily marketing recreational opportunities through social media and GPS mapping of existing organizations and venues.

- Grand Rapids, MI
  - **Comprehensive Plan**
  - **Related Planning Policy: Legislation prioritizing funding for pedestrian/bike facilities**
  - Grand Rapids has established a goal of having 10% of all regional travel trips made by bicycle. To reach that goal, the city is focusing energy and resources on providing more and better bicycle facilities and bike paths that will accommodate bike trips to a variety of locations, including: school, work, and shopping centers. The city has proposed a framework of greenways and on-street bicycle/pedestrian corridors that link all areas of the city. (6.3.5).
Public Safety
Prevention and protection of the public from dangers affecting safety, such as crime. Related Public Policies:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) policies that maximize visibility and eyes on street
  
- King County, WA
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Related Planning Policy: Other
  - The Strategic Plan focuses on healthy children through working to ensure that children meet youth physical recommendations, receive their vaccinations, and meet educational standards.

- Cleveland, OH
  - Zoning Code
  - Related Planning Policy: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design policies that maximize visibility and eyes on the street
  - Cleveland provides for a maximum height of 4 ft. for fences in residential areas bordering a main street. Additionally, the fence must be at least 50% open. These fence limitations create a better line of sight to main causeways, and help to reduce crimes.