The quality and diversity of the natural resources and environment across New York State are strengths upon which communities and regions can build their futures, using good land use planning as a foundation.

A Vision for Rural New York, Fall 2006
Issues vary across the state by region and by county

Upstate New York Counties, by Metropolitan Status

Most Important Issue Facing Your Community
SOUS Survey 2011
Should state & local government be committed to protecting long-term environmental values?

SOUS Survey 2011
FOR MANY YEARS...
- ↓ Land intensive industries
- ↑ Recreation pressure
- ↑ Human-wildlife interaction
- Degradation of habitat
- Invasive species
- Water quality – NPS pollution
- Housing development/sprawl

MORE RECENTLY...
- Wind turbines
- Shale gas development

POTENTIAL FUTURE ISSUES...
- Biomass production
- Geothermal development
- Carbon sequestration
SOME OBSERVATIONS

- Stability in Upstate New York, a source of resilience
- Interest in acting on long-term land use & environment planning needs while development pressure is less intense
- Fiscal pressures encouraging greater levels of intergovernmental and regional cooperation
- “Local” is more important than ever
- Sustainability, green technologies, water resources, climate action, alternative energy, walkable communities, and infrastructure remain important areas of focus
INNOVATION AND RESOURCEFULNESS

In a Time of Austerity

[Image: Wikimedia Commons]
CONSERVATION PERSPECTIVE

Strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces that conserve ecosystem values and functions and provide associated benefits to human populations

STORMWATER PERSPECTIVE

Systems that mimic natural processes in order to infiltrate, evaporate, and/or reuse stormwater
According to the Conservation Fund

“while green infrastructure planning occurs at a broad ‘landscape scale,’ elements of the over-arching network can be found at all scales”

Moffatt and Kohler 2008
EXAMPLES OF INNOVATION/RESOURCEFULNESS

- Cayuga County Biogas Project
- Naturally Chilled Water – Syracuse
- Save the Rain – Onondaga County
- Central Catskills Community Planning
CAYUGA COUNTY BIOGAS PROJECT

A Partnership of Resources

Images courtesy of the Cayuga County Planning Department
Economic Development, Energy, & CCPUSA

Cayuga County is strategically positioned to take advantage of local energy resources to stimulate economic development.

Using biogas derived from the county’s agricultural resources, CCPUSA could develop a pipeline to deliver clean, renewable energy for economic development purposes.

Biogas Digesters
- Breaks down biodegradable material
- Produces natural gas and more manageable fertilizer
- Currently, underutilized output
- Millions of private dollars invested by farmers
- Four currently operating, three more planned

Manure Management
- Improves efficiency of farm operations
- Improves viability and sustainability of operations

Dairy Farms
- Defines rural character
- 2007: 1312 were employed on Cayuga County farms
- 2007: 540M in sales of 2008 milk and milk products

CCPUSA
- Energy delivered
- Energy harnessed

Clean, Renewable Energy
- National priority
- State mandate
- Future necessity
- Local opportunity
- Educational resource

Challenges and issues

Pollutant loading of lakes and streams
- Oswego Lake

Economic Development Tools
- Attraction of new businesses
- Job creation
- Retention of existing businesses
- Creation of new assets
- Utilization of existing assets

Significant Economic Engine
- 2007: Cayuga County produced 101.4 M lbs of milk
- 2007: 540M in sales of 2008 milk and milk products

Goals: meets local need
- of local resource
- Annual savings and viability

Assessment of viability
- Manure management strategies

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NATURALLY CHILLED WATER

A Study Conducted for Syracuse, New York

Image courtesy of Dr. James Hassett, SUNY-ESF
GREEN EFFORTS WIN RECOGNITION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SINGLES OUT SYRACUSE AND ONONDAGA COUNTY AS ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS
Save the Rain
Nationally Significant GI Test Case

Multipronged approach to address stormwater/surface water quality through the use of a variety of tools

NE Siskyou Green Street - Landscaped Curb Extension
Portland, OR
CENTRAL CATSKILLS COLLABORATIVE
Economic Development Centered on Green Infrastructure
A broader definition of “green infrastructure”...

... network of protected lands with associated benefits for the human population – ecosystem services, community and economic development.
CONCLUSION

A Turning Point
SOME OBSERVATIONS

- Recognize stability in Upstate New York is a source of resilience
- Act on long-term goals while development pressure is less intense
- Take the opportunity that fiscal pressures present to develop greater levels of intergovernmental and regional cooperation
- Foster the “Local”
- Develop tools and procedures for measuring progress on sustainability and green infrastructure efforts statewide
- Share your work
strengths upon which communities and regions in New York State can build their futures