

Communities Working Together for Sustainability

April 22, 2009 Table Discussion Summary

Reflect on what you heard this evening and discuss issues and commonalities, How should we, as a community, be organized to further these projects? What will your role be?

Organization/Education/Awareness

- Create a coalition to serve as organizing entity (e.g. Tompkins model)
 - Included in the coalition: Hospital, organizations at the event, Cayuga Community College, when talking about Lake water talk with fishermen, energy producers and other commercial enterprises, college/high school students, always expand the circle
 - Different people organizations take the lead depending on the topic
 - Do more regional planning
 - Each community forum committees to assess their town's individual needs relative to residents homes and businesses
 - Grant writers to find money
 - Create a culture of support and collaboration
 - Develop a comprehensive strategic energy plan
 - Shared resources and collaboration between state, county, business, educational and not for profit
- More education/awareness/communication
 - Getting the college to take the lead in the community by supporting this initiative, creating regular educational sessions (Permaculture awareness and education, how to measure carbon footprint, improving residential efficiencies)
 - Create a group of quarterly think tank groups. Sharing ideas, expertise, experience
 - Educate public on energy smart decisions to reduce usage to save money.
 - Bring everyone to the table regularly

Workforce Development/Economic Development

- Develop ways to create incentive/rewards e.g. Tompkins sales tax rebate
- Opportunities to help local or any business the analysis and shared understanding of savings and advantages (don't know where to start, offer solutions, assistance)
- Working towards a better economy while moving towards a greener, cleaner environment
- Investments – savings – investments - savings cycle.
- Local green energy and green jobs affect our local economy and community exponentially

Energy production/use

- Two prong approach – one for commercial/municipal, one for residential
 - Commercial/Municipal: Use Low sulfur fuel, lake water cooling, replace bulbs with energy efficient lighting and windows with better ones, Encourage more websites to use less paper, wind power, heat with solar
 - Residential: Practical ways to go green and improve property values, Basic environmental conservation - rain gardens, placing of shade trees in right locations for cooling houses, buildings and community feeling
- Develop regional network of power production and distribution
- Financing energy efficiency, Carbon trading
- Re-focus some of our programming to focus on energy wind power, geo-thermal, solar, nuclear
- Utilizing and re-using natural resources

Transportation --- the biggest contributor to our carbon footprint

- Develop more park-n-rides
- Developing more pedestrian/bike paths
- Bus service from town to cities-colleges-hospital and shopping centers