

Land Use and Local Government

Land Use Strategy 1 of 5

Subgroup: Land Use

Strategy under consideration	Promote and facilitate county and inter-municipal smart growth planning efforts, including focusing development in priority growth centers
Rationale	Supporting the development of priority growth center plans and open space conservation areas is the first step toward communicating and implementing smart growth at the local level.
Equity considerations	Ensure that disadvantaged communities are the priority for future growth and investment, including brownfield areas, and ensure that policies do not lead to displacement.
Potential implementation challenges	If planning is conducted on the county level, municipalities would need to buy-in and cater their zoning and other policies to comport with the growth areas. Aligning State/local policies and incentives to achieved desired outcomes. Stable and reliable funding sources for local and regional planning.
Issues to explore	Feasibility and/or capacity to develop priority growth plans on the local and county levels, particularly in rural areas; determining the appropriate entity to conduct the analyses.
Additional thoughts	Some have suggested that this type of analysis can/should be conducted statewide and incorporated into municipal comp plans.

Land Use Strategy 2 of 5

Subgroup: Land Use

Strategy under consideration	Build capacity at the regional level and provide support to municipalities to promote smart growth, facilitate clean energy siting, and reduce VMT
Rationale	Several counties and regions are providing this technical assistance in different ways with measurable results.
Equity considerations	Countywide/regional approach can strategically target EJ/distressed communities with less land use staff and capacity.
Potential implementation challenges	Home Rule; adequate funding to expand such support to an adequate level; long-term nature of changing land use patterns.
Issues to explore	Counties/entities/programs that are willing and able to play this broader role; municipalities willing to work with counties/regional entities; regional differences.
Additional thoughts	Existing regional entities/plans—e.g., REDC and Regional Sustainability Consortiums.

Land Use Strategy 3 of 5

Subgroup: Land Use

Strategy under consideration	Promote coordinated regional approaches to meet climate goals while integrating transportation, housing, and land conservation needs
Rationale	Current planning approaches and land use policies are unlikely to result in development patterns that reduce VMT, ensure equitable housing, and conserve natural and working lands to the extent needed to meet out ambitious climate targets. A new approach is needed for promoting compact, mixed use development, while conserving open space and investing in disadvantaged communities.
Equity considerations	Approach must ensure equitable access to affordable housing, mass transit and economic opportunities. Planning support for low-capacity communities necessary.
Potential implementation challenges	Potential limitations may be related to home rule and local government capacity. Incentive programs may be insufficient to drive necessary change; could require mandates and the development or enhancement of a regional support structure.
Issues to explore	Explore and analyze State level actions to support acceleration of land use impacts that would assist with meeting climate targets.
Additional thoughts	Increase coordination on this topic with Transportation, Energy Efficiency and Housing, and Agriculture and Forestry advisory panels, and Climate Justice Working Group.

Land Use Strategy 4 of 5

Subgroup: Land Use

Strategy under consideration	Streamline and incentivize Smart Growth project review
Rationale	Smart Growth projects are often subject to expensive and lengthy review, even when affordable housing is included.
Equity considerations	Streamlining should not quell opportunities for community input and engagement, especially in EJ/distressed communities whose voices have been quelled or ignored on land use issues in the past.
Potential implementation challenges	Ensuring that streamlining does not negatively impact community input or soften environmental/social protections.
Issues to explore	Community input and participation; incentives as an alternative to streamlining; methods to streamline development that exceeds standards or goals.
Additional thoughts	Expertise of LULG Panel and overall Climate Action Council members may serve to assist with finding a solution that streamlines appropriate projects in appropriate locations while not limiting community input.

Land Use Strategy 5 of 5

Subgroup: Land Use

Strategy under consideration	Coordinate State planning funds/activities/entities to ensure that transportation, housing, and conservation actions are not in conflict and achieve VMT, clean energy, and equity goals
Rationale	Several agencies support planning and zoning related to smart growth, clean energy, housing, and transportation. Collective and coordinated action at the State level can maximize impact, avoid duplication of services, and help localities, developers and CBOs more effectively access and navigate state programs and assistance.
Equity considerations	Coordination can help implement a uniform and consistent approach to supporting/funding projects and planning in EJ/distressed communities.
Potential implementation challenges	Aligning resources with different primary missions and stakeholders.
Issues to explore	Analyze and discuss the different funding and eligibility requirements across planning programs/activities/entities to identify points of conflict and repetition. Improving communication and assistance tools for communities on appropriate funding streams.
Additional thoughts	

Clean Energy Strategy 1 of 3

Subgroup: Clean Energy

Strategy under consideration	Establish statewide higher energy codes, benchmarking, building performance mandates, and PACE Financing to avoid a patchwork of policies.
Rationale	Local governments are generally leery of taking on initiatives that may place them at what they perceive to be a competitive disadvantage to other communities in their region. Rather than a patchwork of different rules and opportunities in different communities, consider statewide approaches.
Equity considerations	Uniform and consistent policies across communities can ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the benefits of clean energy policies. Avoid placing costs and administrative burden on resource-constrained municipalities.
Potential implementation challenges	Likely to require state legislation.
Issues to explore	Different funding and eligibility requirements across programs to find possible points of conflict and repetition.
Additional thoughts	

Clean Energy Strategy 2 of 3

Subgroup: Clean Energy

Strategy under consideration	Encourage local governments to initiate CCA programs and community campaigns to increase local access to clean energy products and services.
Rationale	Local initiatives like CCA and community campaigns can make significant contributions to CLCPA goals and help spur the widespread deployment of Distributed Energy Resources. Local governments need a clear path forward to implement actions that have the greatest potential for impact. Increased access can be achieved with state programs that provide grants, free technical assistance, and recognition for local leadership.
Equity considerations	Local policies can be tailored to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities.
Potential implementation challenges	Likely to require funding for state program to support local government climate action.
Issues to explore	Different funding and eligibility requirements across programs; need to find possible points of conflict and repetition and opportunities for alignment.
Additional thoughts	

Clean Energy Strategy 3 of 3

Subgroup: Clean Energy	
Strategy under consideration	Overcome legal, financial, regulatory, and technical barriers to greening municipal building, facilities, and fleets
Rationale	Local governments control significant energy consuming assets like street-light systems, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and public transit systems and are well positioned to advance district systems and microgrids. Strategies can help lower operating costs and generate financial benefits over time.
Equity considerations	Investments in local infrastructure can be targeted to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities.
Potential implementation challenges	Resources and staff capacity at the local level is limited. Likely to require funding and alignment for state program to support local government climate action.
Issues to explore	Leadership by example is important, but we must implement better strategies that affect energy use for the community as a whole, like walkable communities, above-minimum energy codes, community clean energy campaigns, and Community Choice Aggregation.
Additional thoughts	



Adaptation and Resilience Strategy 1 of 2

Scope topic/Subgroup: Adaptation and Resilience

Strategy under consideration	Develop policies, programs and resources to reduce risks associated with acute climate hazards
Rationale	NYS can take numerous steps in the near term to support regional and local adaptation, and reduce risks associated with sea-level rise, flooding, extreme weather, thermal extremes, drought and ecosystem disruption.
Equity considerations	Program development must identify and prioritize support for most vulnerable communities.
Potential implementation challenges	Regions and municipalities lack the technical, staff and financial resources necessary to implement effective Adaptation/Resilience (A/R) programs and projects. Local governments needed stronger state support.
Issues to explore	Greater use of implementation contractors to assist with RFP development and contract management.
Additional thoughts	Failure to invest in A/R will result in fewer resources to support mitigation. Panel members pointed to the valuable role of climate coordinators and planners provided by State programs.

Adaptation and Resilience Strategy 2 of 2

Scope topic/Subgroup: Adaptation and Resilience

Strategy under consideration	Seek to ensure State and local investments assess climate change and resiliency impacts of projects
Rationale	Effective stewardship of public funds and resources requires consideration of climate change in decisions regarding public investments and environmental reviews.
Equity considerations	Must ensure EJ/distressed communities benefit from protections and strategies of neighboring communities do not increase their risk.
Potential implementation challenges	Increased costs for development or implementation, increased timeframes to explore new, more resilient methods over traditional implementation, perceived conflict between development and near-term economic benefits over long-term sustainability practices. Expertise to assess project proposals and alternatives that will meet the same goals of the project.
Issues to explore	Some action may require additional authority under SEQRA; development of review guidance, decision-support tools, public investment guidelines, etc.
Additional thoughts	