

## Proposed New Action Items

One of the questions posed as part of the five-year review of the Comprehensive Plan is:

### What action items should be added to help achieve the principles and policies of the plan?

#### Background

Most of the 28 actions identified in the 2015 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan have been initiated. In identifying potential actions to consider pursuing prior to the next full update of the Comprehensive Plan (which is scheduled to be completed in 2025), the staff of the Department of Planning and Sustainability reviewed actions that were considered (but not included) while preparing the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, as well as the recommendations included in other plans and strategies. Special emphasis was placed on those documents that were developed since 2015, within a professional planning context, and that incorporated public review and comment. These were:

- Tompkins County Energy and Economic Development Task Force (2016)
- Tompkins County Energy Roadmap (2016)
- Tompkins County Housing Strategy (2017)
- Tompkins County Habitat Connectivity Strategy (2018)

The following documents were also reviewed:

- Tompkins County 2020 Energy Strategy (2010)
- Tompkins County Conservation Strategy (2012)
- Building Vibrant Communities in Tompkins County ... a Development Focus Areas Strategy (2012)
- Tompkins County Strategic Tourism Plan (2012)
- Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan: 2013 Update (2013)
- Tompkins County Sustainability Strategy (2014)
- 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan (2014)
- Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy 2015-2020 (2015)
- Tompkins County Water Quality Strategy: 2019-2021 (2018)
- Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan (2013)

Among those documents, more than 600 potential action items were identified. The staff began by identifying the most promising action items that also met the following two minimum screening criteria:

- The action should clearly be tied to at least one POLICY in the Comprehensive Plan
- The action is something the County, as a government entity, can undertake

Through an iterative process, the staff pared down the list to the action items proposed below.

## Action Items to be initiated by 2023

Staff from the Department of Planning and Sustainability proposes the following short list of Action Items. This new list includes actions the County could reasonably take to most effectively further the policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

1. Municipal Assistance: Work with municipalities to assist their implementation of projects that would directly promote the policies of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan or projects identified in County strategies.
2. HABs Strategy: Establish a detailed countywide Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) strategy based on the Cayuga Lake and Owasco Lake HABs Action Plans and identify the actions, and the appropriate lead agencies, to be taken in Tompkins County that would most effectively reduce HABs.
3. Flood Maps: Support the process for updating the County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
4. Stream Corridor Training: Provide training to local officials on the benefits of and mechanisms for protecting stream corridors.
5. Watershed Rules and Regulations: Work with the other counties and water purveyors in the Cayuga Lake watershed to explore the advantages and disadvantages of developing Watershed Rules and Regulations for the watershed.
6. County Culverts: Establish a procedure when replacing County-owned culverts to address the increasing intensity of rain events and to analyze opportunities to address habitat connectivity.
7. Conservation Funding: Evaluate the effectiveness of the County's existing conservation funding programs in implementing the priorities identified in conservation and connectivity strategies and make appropriate changes to those programs.
8. County Forest: Establish clear goals for managing the County Forest Land and develop a plan of action for advancing those goals.
9. Resiliency and Recovery Plan: Develop the Tompkins County Resiliency and Recovery Plan that both includes an update of the *Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2013)* and develops tools to support resiliency and post-disaster economic recovery.
10. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory both for the community and for County government, updating the data in the *2014 GHG Emissions and Energy Use Inventories*.
11. Energy Strategy: Update the *2020 Energy Strategy* and work with community partners to implement the identified local measures.

12. Energy infrastructure: Work with the Public Service Commission, state agencies, and NYSEG to support energy infrastructure in the County that advances the County's greenhouse gas emissions goals, while supporting the County's *Economic Development Strategy* and *Housing Strategy*.
13. Water and Sewer Study: Support TCAD's update of the *Countywide Inter-Municipal Water and Sewer Feasibility Study for Tompkins County* (2010) and disseminate the results to municipalities.
14. Business Energy Advisors: Evaluate the Business Energy Advisors program for its effectiveness in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and determine the most effective mechanism, if any, for continuing and expanding the program.
15. Planning and Design: Identify and share ways local municipalities can incorporate Planning and Design Principles from the *Development Focus Areas Strategy* (2012) into their land use review processes within the Development Focus Areas.
16. Healthy Community Plans: Provide professional planning support to assist County departments working on healthy community plans.
17. Strategic Tourism Plan: Update the *Tompkins County 2020 Strategic Tourism Plan* (2012).
18. Priority Trails: Work with community partners to further implement the Tompkins Priority Trails Strategy.
19. TDM Program: Encourage County employees to participate in a Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program, such as the Downtown Ithaca Alliance's project.
20. Green Fleet: Develop a Green Fleet program for County government to include electric vehicles and fleet management improvements.
21. Route 13 Corridor Study: Develop the 2020 State Route 13 Corridor Study and find ways to implement identified recommendations.
22. Housing Funding: Identify and pursue funding sources to support low income and workforce housing opportunities, including expansion of the Community Housing Development Fund Program.
23. Track Housing Development: Track housing development (including supportive, senior, and student housing) and maintain a list of housing projects within the Development Focus Areas that have a strong potential to meet housing needs.
24. Housing Needs Assessment: Review the *Housing Needs Assessment* periodically as new data become available and determine if there are significant changes to housing need trends.
25. Track Development and Preservation: Track and report on development and preservation activity within the Natural Features and Agricultural Resource Focus Areas.