

Concept for the Upstate New York Roundtable – Linking Community Revitalization and Environmental Restoration in the Great Lakes Region

Proposed Goal and Objectives

Goal: Plan and conduct a forum to showcase past successes, discuss present challenges and identify a range of opportunities linking land conservation, development and redevelopment in order to improve the health and vitality of the Great Lakes region.

Objectives:

1. Brief roundtable participants on the variety of existing and recommended programs, resources and strategies related to land conservation and development and redevelopment, including but not limited to coastal management, brownfields, open space, rural preservation, transportation management, greenways and canal ways, and related “smart growth” initiatives .
2. Provide a forum for representatives from pertinent stakeholder organizations and government to network and discuss their experiences and needs in a collegial atmosphere.
3. Improve information sharing by employing various communication techniques and technologies.
4. Identify opportunities to enhance the benefits of regional and statewide programs, resources and strategies (identified in Objective 1), as they may apply within the Great Lakes basin portion of New York State.

Audience

Representatives of relevant state agencies, leaders of statewide associations (NY Association of Towns, NY Association of Counties and NY Conference of Mayors), leaders of regional and local organizations within the Great Lakes portion of New York State, leaders of statewide interest groups involved in land use, development and protection, and relevant government representatives.

Timeframe

Planning for the New York Roundtable began in September 2006 with a roundtable forum and delivery of final product required by the end of September 2007.

Planning Process

A Steering Committee has guiding the planning process in order to enhance the value of outcomes and/or products. Membership since September has been voluntary and composed of state agency representatives, academics with issue expertise, and pertinent interest/advisory groups

The Great Lakes Commission is responsible for overall planning, research, logistics, facilitation, and production of final roundtable forum and resulting products. Commission Staff and project costs are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Approximately 0.4 FTE from the Commission is available during the course of this project for the above activities.