

Cayuga Heights Planning Board

DRAFT Sustainability Survey Outline and References

12/13/24

Local governments are responsible for planning in a number of areas, including housing, transportation, natural resources, land use, waste management, energy use, and infrastructure investment. In New York State, these planning efforts can be combined into a comprehensive plan that steers decision-making by local governments and guides future development through zoning regulations. A comprehensive plan provides communities with a strong defense for regulations adopted in conformance with the plan. In 2023, almost 70% of the cities, towns, and villages in New York State have a comprehensive plan, according to New York State Department of State.

A comprehensive plan also provides a vision for how a community wants to grow over, on average, a 10- to 20-year period and recommends steps for how to achieve that vision. As part of that vision, the comprehensive planning process offers an opportunity for communities to consider how to balance the three “Es” of sustainability: environment, economy, and equity. Doing so encourages local governments to integrate sustainability into the areas of their comprehensive plans. Sustainability elements are best included throughout the comprehensive plan, though alternatively, they may be added in a standalone chapter to the plan or as a separate plan incorporated by reference, though integration is generally considered preferable.

When adopting or modifying a comprehensive plan, it is imperative to solicit and take into consideration the opinions and priorities of community members. Collected data and stakeholder input help inform a comprehensive plan’s content. The Village of Cayuga Heights’s comprehensive plan was last updated in 2014 and now, in 2024, the plan’s priorities are being revisited by its planning board, at the direction of the Village Trustees for potential updates. By means of this survey, the Village seeking feedback from its residents on the topics in its comprehensive plan, ensuring sustainability is a common thread woven into the plan’s overall vision. We look forward to the feedback you’ll provide as a valued member of the Village.

(next)

Please record answers in the space provided:

1. **Economy/Character/Quality of Life:** What defines a sustainable community, and what are key characteristics that the Village can practically promote?
2. **Public Services/Utilities:** What could/How should the Village do to foster local energy production, conservation, and efficiency, while increasing the use of renewable power?
3. **Ecology/Economy:** What could/What should the Village do to promote access to food production, sales, and consumption while reducing food-related waste?
4. **Ecology/Scenic Assets:** Could/Should the Village ensure healthy and vibrant ecosystems that sustain all naturally occurring species, along with our human population? If so, how might that be put to practice?
5. **Public Services/Utilities/Ecology:** How could/How should the Village provide ongoing leadership for water efficiency and water quality efforts to ensure sufficient clean water for current and future generations?
6. **Ecology/Quality of Life:** What could/What should the Village do to reduce our contribution to climate change and minimize air pollution and carbon emissions?
7. **Public Services/Utilities:** What could/What should the Village promote consumer product awareness, increase recycling rates, and reduce the amount of substances/materials entering landfills?
8. **Quality of Life/Public Health:** How could/How should the Village continue to promote healthy living, civic engagement, cultural and ethnic diversity, while partnering with others to promote related activities?
9. **Character/Development:** How could/How should the Village guide and promote development so that buildings and neighborhoods incorporate principles of sustainable design such as long-life building materials and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems?
10. **Transportation:** How can Village transportation infrastructure be designed efficiently, safely, with the environment in mind, and be connected to other local and regional networks?
11. **Transportation:** How could/How should the Village continue to recognize mobility choices and support emerging technologies to encourage sustainable transport of

people and vehicles?

12. **Environment/Economy:** How could/How should the Village bolster the local economy by attracting “green collar” jobs and encouraging businesses to become more sustainable?
13. **Governance:** What could/What should the Village do to provide good government and cost-effective services, meet the needs of our citizens, protect the environment, and cooperate with other governments?
14. **Housing:** How could/How should promote land use and building types to ensure that access to new and existing housing is attainable by all persons?
15. **Character/Quality of Life:** What could/What should the Village consider when balancing historic character with shifting demographics and contemporary development styles?
16. **Economy/Governance:** How could/How should the Village effectively ensure community resilience and protection of assets in the face of a changing environment where storm events are proving to be more extreme?
17. **Ecology/Economy:** What can/What should the Village additionally consider in terms of both climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies?

References:

Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans. PAS Report 578. David R. Godschalk, FAICP, and David C. Rouse, AICP, 2015.

<https://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/compplanstandards/>

Climate Smart Communities: PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements. New York State Department of State, 2024.

https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/?type=1336777436&tx_sjcert_action%5BactionObject%5D=66&tx_sjcert_action%5Baction%5D=getPDF&tx_sjcert_action%5Bcontroller%5D=Action&cHash=e500d064138da4afc9f461426c736811

NYSERDA. Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan: For Local Governments. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, 2021.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Clean-Energy->

[Siting/comprehensive-plan-guide.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjvr83x-6qKAxUyhIkEHaV4G984ChAWegQIGBAB&usg=AOvVaw2bqRxoFyEL2K9M3gT62lGa](#)

M. Johnston— **DRAFT**, 12/13/24