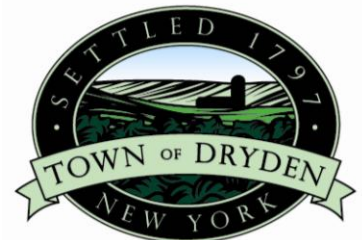


A COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT: The Dryden Sustainability Inventory

Prepared by:

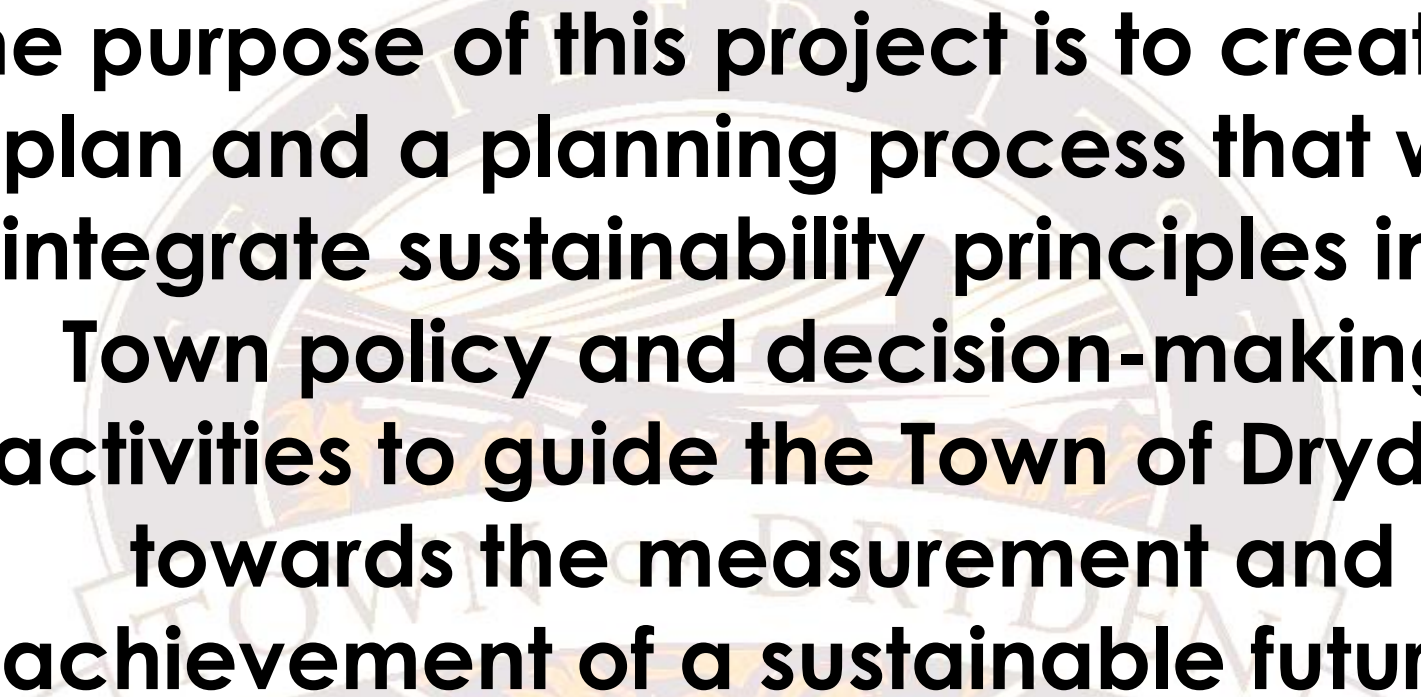
Katie Stoner, *Sustainability Planner*

March 29, 2011



Purpose

“The purpose of this project is to create a plan and a planning process that will integrate sustainability principles into Town policy and decision-making activities to guide the Town of Dryden towards the measurement and achievement of a sustainable future”




Dryden Strives for:

- A strong local economy
- Vibrant, healthy communities and people
- Healthy, protected ecosystems and natural environment



Goal 1: *Create a baseline measurement of sustainability in Dryden*

- Define sustainability
 - Gather data on economic, social, and environmental systems
 - Analyze data
 - Compile report and share with the public and town boards
- 
- A photograph showing two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a small, green tree. The hands are positioned as if they are supporting the tree from below. The background is a bright, slightly cloudy sky over a green field.
- Establish system for ongoing measurement, benchmarking and reporting of sustainability in the Town of Dryden

Goal 2: Set goals for progress towards a more sustainable future



- ❑ Public, board, and interdepartmental participation to identify and propose goals
- ❑ Community engagement and visioning
- ❑ Build consensus, create timelines
- ❑ Establish Sustainability Action Team

Goal 3: Create a sustainability plan to guide implementation of the practices, activities, and policies that will support the achievement of the goals

- ❑ Develop strategic objectives and recommendations to achieve goals
- ❑ Adoption of Sustainability Action Plan
- ❑ Integrate Sustainability Action Plan in Comp Plan



Goal #1: Sustainability

Baseline

- We're aiming to evaluate the progress of our community with respect to performance in the arenas of **economic, community and environmental** health
- Must have defined **boundaries** (organizational or geographical) and **metrics** which allow us to **measure and evaluate progress**

A Community Snapshot:

The Dryden Sustainability Inventory

□ **Baseline Report**

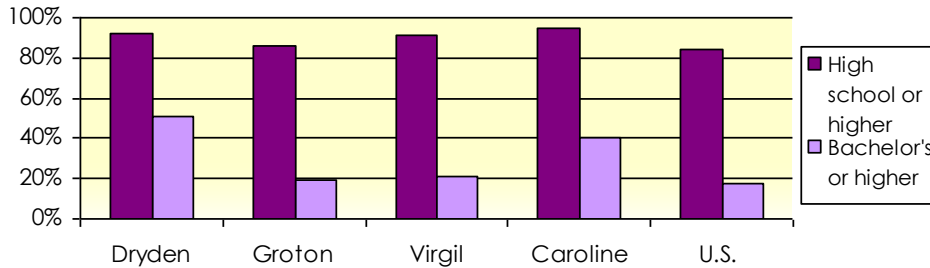
- Where we are today
- Educational tool
- Platform for goal-setting & sustainability planning

□ **Indicators**

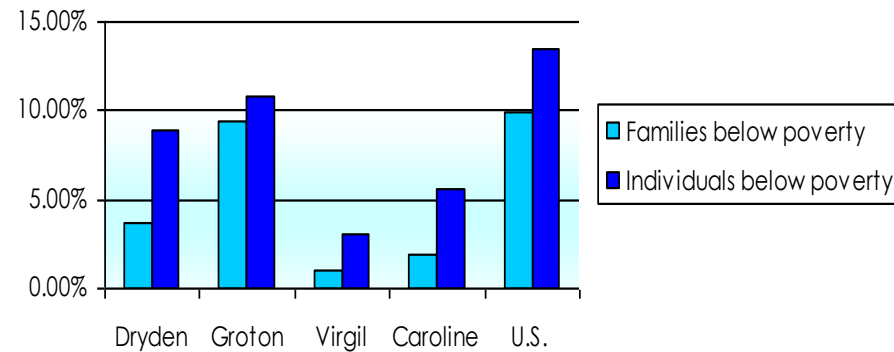
- Identify gaps
- Articulate goals
- Highlight opportunities
- Facilitate and leverage action

Snapshot - General Trends and Demographics

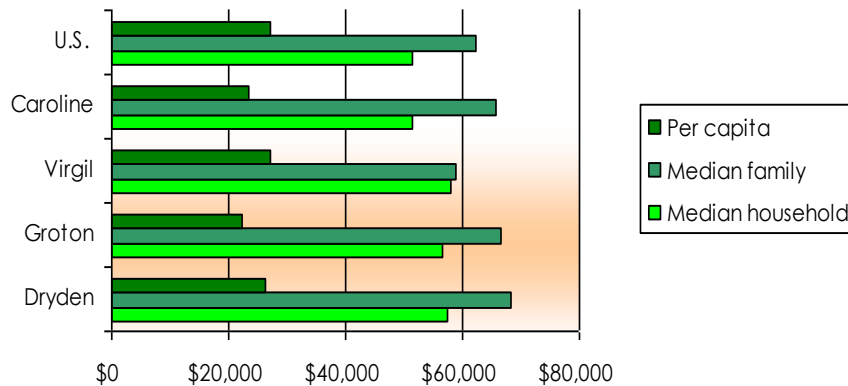
Education



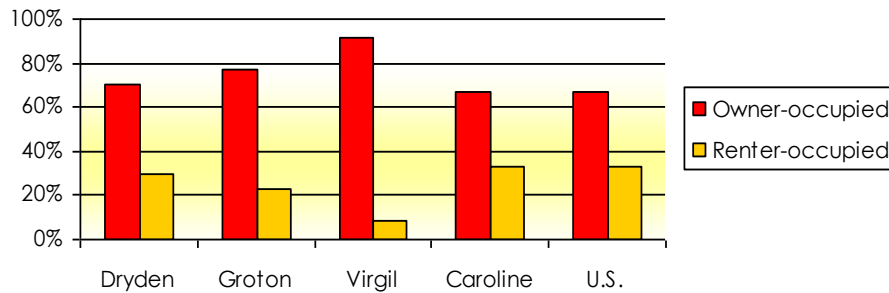
Poverty Levels



Income



Housing



- 16,191 residents
- 94% white
- Growing population
- Well-educated
- Mostly home-owners
- Low levels of poverty
- Income higher than U.S. average

Snapshot – Social Indicators

- ❑ Civic engagement & community-building opportunities abound
- ❑ Strong faith community
- ❑ Robust education system
- ❑ Safer than NY and U.S. averages
- ❑ Human services provided by county
- ❑ Lack of health data/trends
- ❑ Beginnings of healthy/local food movement
- ❑ Youth opportunities available
- ❑ Public parks/recreational/fitness facilities lacking

School Enrollment	4,151 over 3 years old in preschool-grad school
Educational Attainment	93% of population has high school degree or higher; 41% of population has bachelor's degree or higher
Student-Teacher Ratio	11:1 (NYS is 13:1)
Drop-out Rate	3% in 2008 (national average was 4.4%)
Graduation Rate	96%

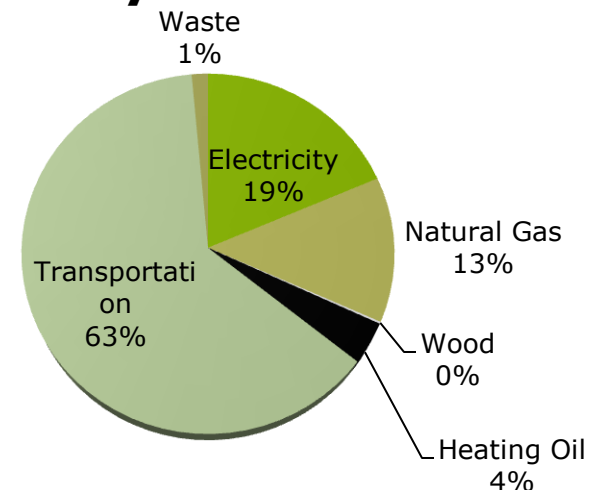
	Occurrence	Percentage of Total Crime
Murders	0	0
Rapes	1	1%
Robberies	0	0
Assaults	6	7%
Burglaries	5	6%
Thefts	69	85%
Auto Thefts	0	0
Arson	0	0

Snapshot – Environmental Indicators

- ❑ Lack of local, town-level data
- ❑ WATER
 - Abundant water resources – recreation and drinking
 - Watershed quality – very good overall, many areas of concern
- ❑ AIR
 - Regional air quality “Good,” higher than U.S. average
- ❑ ECOSYSTEMS/BIODIVERSITY
 - Prominent and valued lands, habitat, and species
 - 57 Unique Natural Areas in Dryden
- ❑ LAND USE
 - Development has affected quality of life
 - 90% of land is ag, woodlands, wetlands, meadows, or brush

- ❑ TRANSPORTATION
 - Largest source of CO₂ emissions
 - Residents exposed to traffic impacts
- ❑ ENERGY/GHG EMISSIONS/CLIMATE CHANGE

Community GHG Emissions



Next Steps

- Present to other boards, elicit feedback
- Finalize and share with community
- Engage stakeholders in visioning process
 - Community/neighborhood associations
 - Local advocacy/education groups
 - Existing structures
 - Schools
 - Citizens
 - Board members (Town Board, Planning, Conservation, etc.)
 - Town of Dryden staff
 - Village of Dryden and Freeville

Next Steps

- Establish system for ongoing tracking, monitoring, and reporting
 - How often?
 - 2 year cycle?
 - In tandem with Comp Plan updates?
 - Who is responsible?
 - Indicators and metrics to monitor achievement of measureable goals?
 - What systems do we need to establish today to start tracking for next update?
- Establishment of Sustainability Advisory Team