

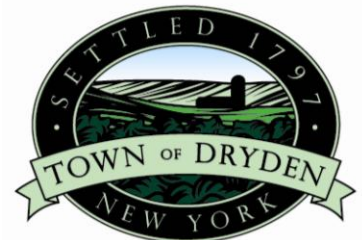
# A COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT: The Dryden Sustainability Inventory

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Prepared by:

Katie Stoner, *Sustainability Planner*

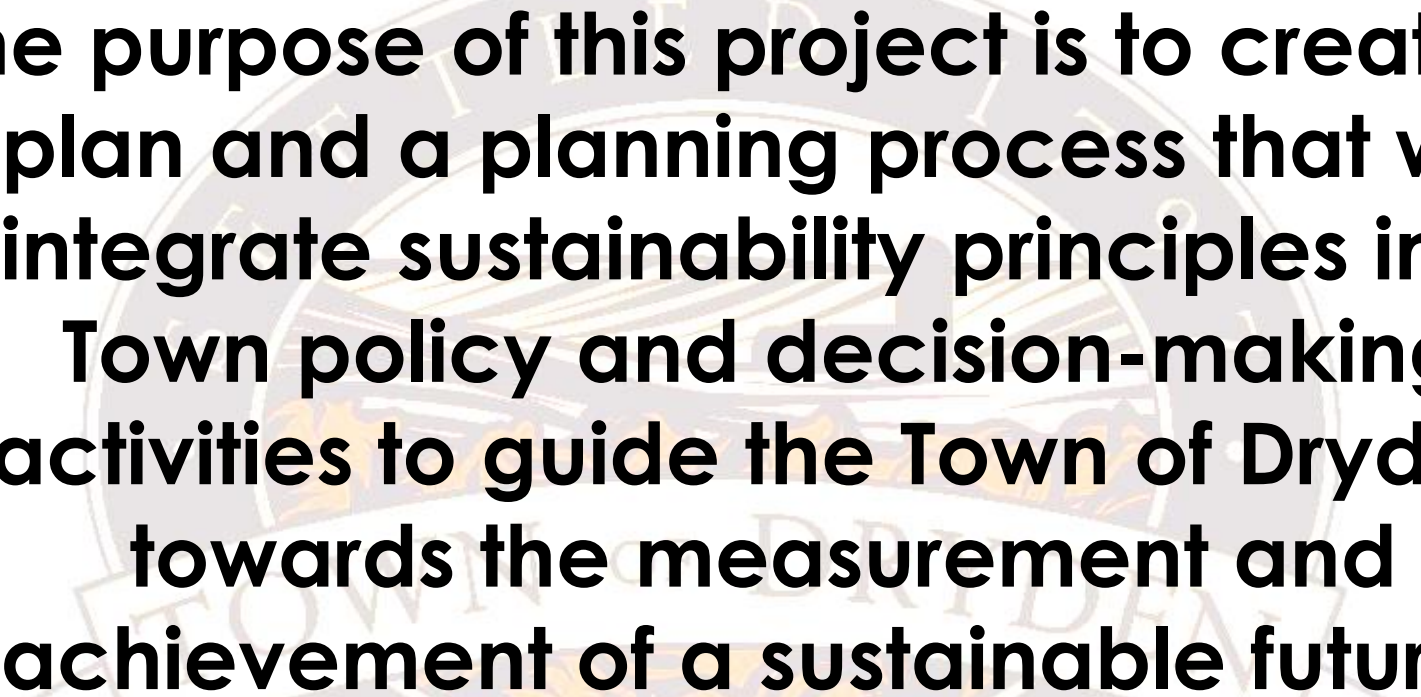
March 29, 2011



# Purpose

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**“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:


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- 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*

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- Define sustainability
  - Gather data on economic, social, and environmental systems
  - Analyze data
  - Compile report and share with the public and town boards
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- 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 and 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***

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- ❑ 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***

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



# Goal #1: Sustainability

## Baseline

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- 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

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### □ **Baseline Report**

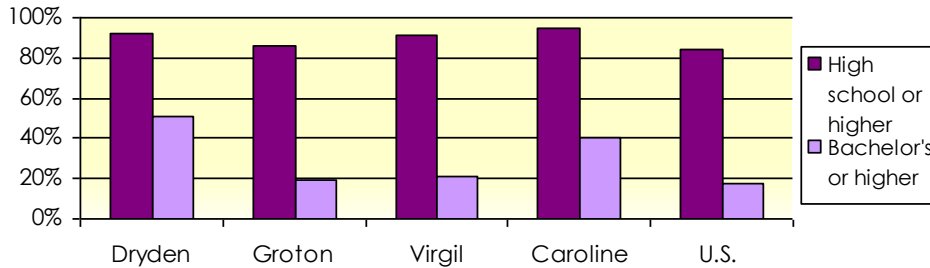
- Where we are today
- Educational tool
- Platform for goal-setting & sustainability planning

### □ **Indicators**

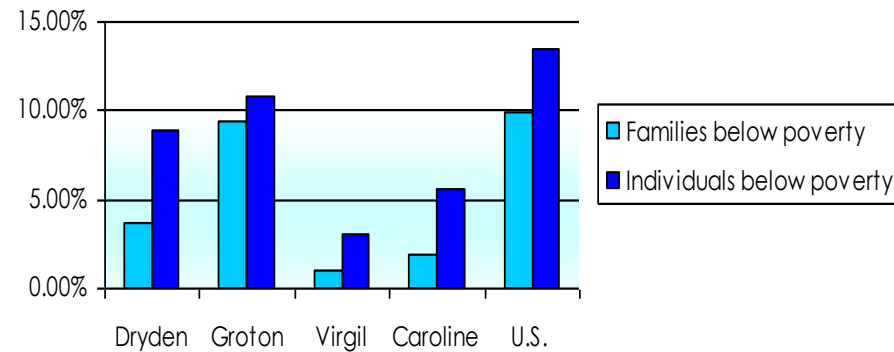
- Identify gaps
- Articulate goals
- Highlight opportunities
- Facilitate and leverage action

# Snapshot - General Trends and Demographics

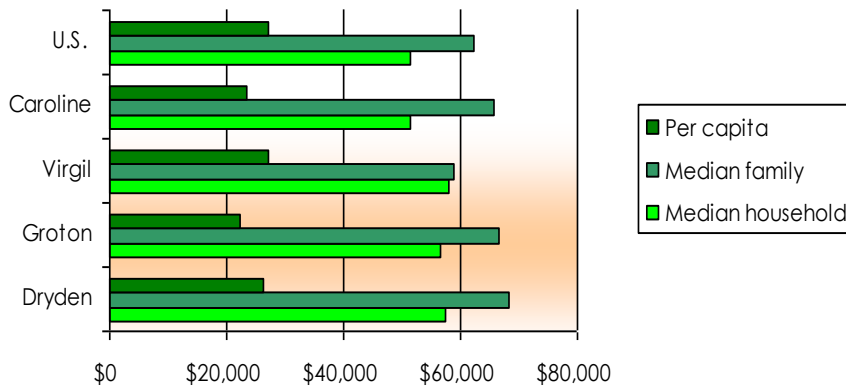
**Education**



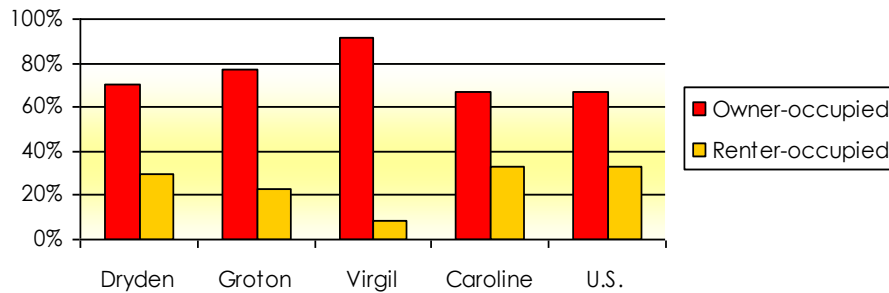
**Poverty Levels**



**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

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

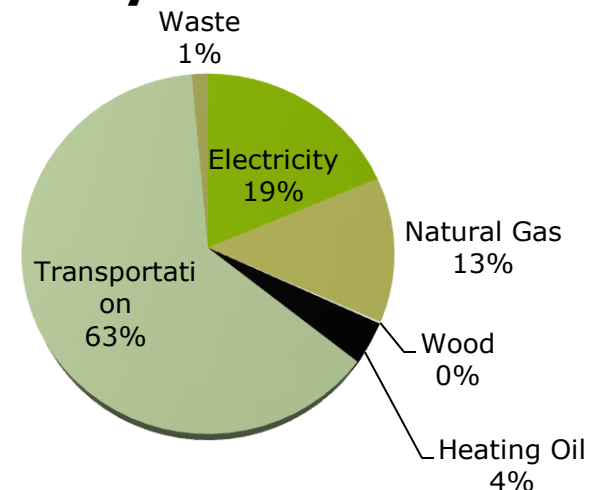
	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Crime</b>
<b>Murders</b>	0	0
<b>Rapes</b>	1	1%
<b>Robberies</b>	0	0
<b>Assaults</b>	6	7%
<b>Burglaries</b>	5	6%
<b>Thefts</b>	69	85%
<b>Auto Thefts</b>	0	0
<b>Arson</b>	0	0

# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Residents exposed to traffic impacts
- ENERGY/GHG EMISSIONS/CLIMATE CHANGE

## Community GHG Emissions



# Next Steps

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- 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

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- 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