Tompkins County: Municipal Sustainability and Materials Management

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Overview

• Community’s story
• County government sustainability story
  – County Sustainability Strategy
  – GHG Emissions Inventories
• Next steps
• Climate Smart Communities Grant
County Government's Story

- Waste diversion
- Renewable energy
- County Sustainability Team
- GHG emissions reduction commitment
- County Sustainability Strategy
County Sustainability Strategy

1. Leading by Example
2. Social Equity
3. Transportation
4. Facilities and Grounds
5. Purchasing
6. Sustainable Materials Management
7. Protection of County Lands
8. Employee Engagement
Sustainable Materials Management

Actions:
• Waste reduction reps in each department
• Food scraps recycling at all facilities
• Develop 4Rs training
• Recycling and composting guideline reminders
• Highly visible recycling at all public facilities
• WIFI in meeting/conference rooms to reduce need for printed materials
### County Govt. GHG Emissions (2008-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Buildings &amp; Facilities</th>
<th>Vehicles &amp; Equipment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updated 2008</td>
<td>4,422</td>
<td>1,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,657</td>
<td>1,354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart showing GHG emissions for buildings and vehicles from 2008 to 2014.](chart.png)
Community GHG Emissions (2008-2014)

- Com: Updated 2008 - 513,452, 2014 - 349,579
- Trans: Updated 2008 - 299,822, 2014 - 304,923
- Ind: Updated 2008 - 82,007, 2014 - 48,141
- Avi Travel: Updated 2008 - 13,466, 2014 - 12,172
- Groton: Updated 2008 - 2,305, 2014 - 2,137
Recent Progress
Progress and Recognition
Looking Forward

- Funding opportunities for further progress
- Green Fleet Policy update
- Sustainability Team – grow and focus
- Web presence
- Reduced reliance on natural gas
- Employee/department engagement
Lessons Learned

• Power of mutual reinforcement:
  – Community and political will
  – Government’s plans, policies, strategies

• Keep collecting data and learning

• Life happens...seize the opportunities
Successful Materials Management

- Diversion rate of 58% in 2016
- 4R Programs
  - Food Donation
  - Food Waste Prevention
  - Reuse
  - Recycling
  - Composting
  - HHW Collection

Enhancing community, economy, and environment through ‘ReUse’!
Successful Materials Management

• Incentives and Regulations
  – PAYT- Trash Tags on cans and bags
  – ReBusiness Partners Waste Assessments
  – Enterprise fund
  – Local laws
Food Scraps Collection

• Residential
  – Master Composters
  – 13 Drop Spots currently

• Commercial
  – Natural Upcycling collects
  – 200+ businesses and non-profits
Food Scraps Composting and Marketing

- Cayuga Compost- local topsoil company
- Windrows for food scraps and yard waste
- County pays the processing cost ($55/ton)
- Compost and blends- projects & landscaping
• GOAL- Increase climate resiliency by diverting food scraps from landfills

• PURPOSE- Develop infrastructure to increase food diversion

• FUNCTION- Add tip area to accept food scraps and yard waste, transfer to Cayuga Compost
Next Steps

• Local Food Policy Council
• More funds for food donations
• Hauler commitments
• Options for food scraps collection
• Climate impact of food scraps diversion
• Fund another food scraps composting facility
Thank You!

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