

Click an icon below to share your thoughts on issues, opportunities, priorities, etc. for one of the climate action focus areas. See about (i) bar for general comment directions.



Buildings & Housing



Land & Water Resources



Transportation



Waste & Recycling



Energy Use & Consumption



Partnerships,
Education &
Economy

MONROE COUNTY



Climate Action Plan

Ideas Wall Public Input Summary

RESPONSES FROM MARCH 15, 2023 TO JUNE 23, 2023

Introduction

>> ABOUT THE IDEAS WALL

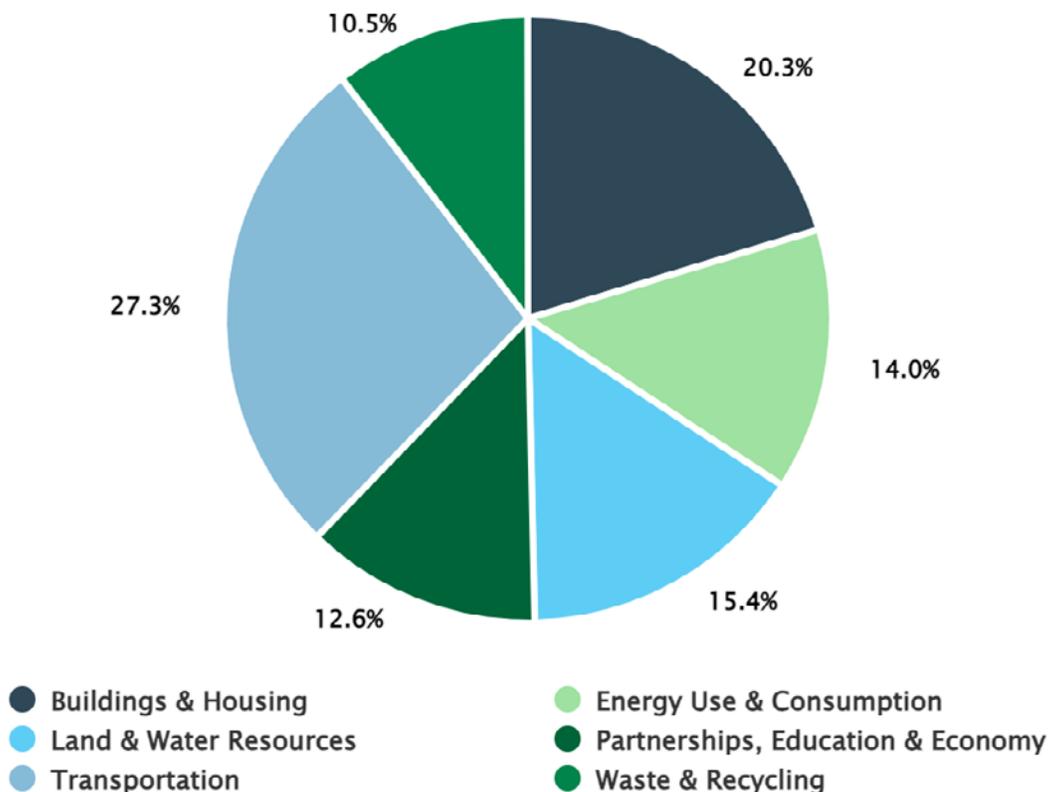
On March 15, 2023, Monroe County hosted a Public Workshop to kick off Phase II of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan. At the Workshop an online discussion board, available online via Social Pinpoint, was launched and all were invited to participate.

Following the Workshop, the Ideas Wall was advertised on the project website and through various media channels. This summary includes all comments made between March 15th and June 23rd. Overall there were 694 unique visitors engaged making with over 1,900 visitors to the site, resulting in 215 comments. The ideas wall is still open and available for public review at: www.monroecountyclimateaction.com/ideas-wall

The purpose of the Ideas Wall was to collect public input on the key issues, opportunities, and priorities for Monroe County's Community-wide Climate Action Plan focus areas. Participants were invited write down their thoughts and respond to each other's ideas on a virtual forum. There were six different categories of sticky notes to choose from: Buildings & Housing, Land & Water Resources, Transportation, Energy Use & Consumption, Partnerships, Education & Economy, and Water & Recycling.

An overview of the comments on the Ideas Wall is summarized in the following pages. For a full record of the discussions see the Appendix.

Share of Responses by Focus Area



Buildings & Housing

Discussions in this topic area focused on encouraging high density and infill development, changing zoning laws to encourage higher densities and mixed uses, and discouraging suburban sprawl. There were multiple conversations that voiced the interest in creating incentives for solar (commercial and residential) and other renewable energy sources. Comments largely focused on potential policy actions.

Top Comments

Single family zoning laws need to be changed. Allow for multi family units to be built on single family lots. These do not necessarily all have to be income limited, market rate units will be equally important as people move to Rochester as a climate refuge city in the next 10-20 years

Upvotes: 9 | Downvotes: 0

Stop using development incentives to subsidize far flung suburban greenfield development- should only be allowed to be used for infill in the city and existing suburban areas that already have development and public transit. and make sure it is walkable in character and density to reduce car usage

Upvotes: 9 | Downvotes: 0

Energy Use & Consumption

In this topic area, participants discussed the desire for the creation of a public utility with the ability to serve the entirety of Monroe County. Other discussion topics focused on improving the energy grid, holding large companies accountable for developing sustainability plans, and public education on reducing energy use. Discussions in this topic area focused on a mix of potential policy actions, and GHG mitigation strategies.

Top Comments

Municipalize our energy provider! Rates are too high and are only expected to go up without any improvement in service. The City and County do an excellent job with water, solid waste, and sewer services and they should also provide our energy.

Upvotes: 5 | Downvotes: 0

URMC is largest employer and they have yet to pass their sustainability plan. We 100% need all residents and employers - but especially large employers - to formulate and pass REAL sustainability goals, alongside accountability tools for making sure they reach goals.

Upvotes: 6 | Downvotes: 0

Land & Water Resources

Discussions in the Land & Water Resources topic area largely focused on habitat and ecosystem preservation and restoration, soil regeneration, rain water collection and rain gardens, and potential incentives to replace lawns with native plant gardens. A few comments discussed reducing food miles and focusing on a regenerative local economy. Discussions in this topic area focused on a mix of potential policy actions, and GHG mitigation strategies.

Top Comments

Prohibit any further development on undeveloped land. Encourage habitat preservation and restoration of healthy, native, functioning ecosystems on these lands by providing tax breaks, grants, no-interest loans, and other financial incentives to land owners.

Upvotes: 7 | Downvotes: 0

The County could make an enormous impact in sequestering carbon, reducing flooding and restoring ecosystems by offering rebates to property owners for removing their lawns and replacing them with native plants. There is tremendous research on the incredibly wasteful nature of lawns, however that is the norm in our public parks, corporate campuses and private homes. Not all lawns need to be removed, but there are acres of precious land is being wasted that could provide solutions to many issues.

Upvotes: 2 | Downvotes: 0

Partnerships, Education & Economy

Conversations in this topic area focused on preparing government agencies and local organizations for future influxes of climate refugees seeking a more resilient climate to settle in. Other conversations highlighted the importance of inclusivity in future policies, especially with BIPOC and deaf communities, and the importance of public education regarding the impacts of climate change. Comments largely focused on potential policy actions.

Top Comments

Work together with municipal governments and organizations providing services to our community to prepare for increasing numbers of people migrating to our county because of the impacts of climate change (including those displaced from their homes as well as those moving here voluntarily). This policy brief from February 2023 suggests eight actions we should take: <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/blog/eight-ways-receiving-communities-can-prepare-climate-migration>

Upvotes: 2 | Downvotes: 0

We need to build a community response team to acute climate migration caused by disasters in other parts of the country. 5000+ people came to Rochester from Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Irma/Maria, partners came together to help serve & settle those folks, we should have a plan already in place for if/when a migration event like that happens again.

Upvotes: 5 | Downvotes: 0

Transportation

Discussions in the Transportation topic area largely focused on the need to improve bicycle infrastructure across the county, reducing overall reliance on cars, and replacing car trips with trips on public transit, on bike, or on foot. Discussions also highlighted the importance of higher density development to decrease transportation related GHG emissions. There were multiple discussions about electric vehicles and reducing barriers to ownership. Comments largely focused on potential policies.

Top Comments

Bike transit in the county is a joke. The adage "paint is not infrastructure" absolutely applies here. Anyone who has engaged in vehicular cycling (i.e. riding a bike as a vehicle instead of a car, as opposed to simply for leisure) knows this. Protected bike lanes are an absolute must, and they have to be plowed in winter! They give more people the confidence to make the switch to bike commuting.

Upvotes: 19 | Downvotes: 0

Increasing the number of charging stations for electric vehicles will reduce the barriers to people converting to their use. This could be an increase in charging stations at municipal facilities but it could also take the form of incentives or technical assistance for local businesses to add charging stations to their places of business.

Upvotes: 2 | Downvotes: 2

Waste & Recycling

In the Waste & Recycling topic area, participants proposed the idea of implementing composting programs across the county, along with educational campaigns about composting and recycling. A few discussions highlighted the importance of eliminating food waste. Discussions in this topic area focused on both policy creation and GHG mitigation.

Top Comments

Composting is a way to deal with a large portion of waste from businesses and households. The Village of Fairport kept 20 tons of household organic waste out of the landfill in a one year period with a completely voluntary program. This program was in conjunction with a local commercial composting operation. Monroe County should consider setting up countywide composting programs with sites in the county to reduce landfill usage. We must create the infrastructure to encourage or the behavior.

Upvotes: 10 | Downvotes: 0

Create a County Plan with opportunities to divert all residential and business food waste from landfills, including a food composting facility in the County and access for all residents to redistributed or donated food.

Upvotes: 6 | Downvotes: 2

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Comment	incentivize residential solar use- it's expensive!	7	1
Buildings & Housing	Reply	We invested in solar panels at the tune of \$25,000 6 years ago. Recently the zoning board approved the building of a house that will block our usage, not to mention the house is too large for the lot size. And, the contractor told us on 2 occasions that he would not block them. In California this would never happen as pre-existing solar panels are well respected.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Agreed. But also include rooftop solar on commercial/industrial. And even before incentivizing, stop disincentivizing. Some municipalities have too many restrictions on rooftop solar due to alleged "aesthetic" concerns.	1	1
Buildings & Housing	Reply	There government incentives to help curb the price.	1	1
Buildings & Housing	Reply	To complement this, we should improve access to community solar - especially for those for whom rooftop solar is not doable because of location or affordability.	2	1
Buildings & Housing	Reply	I agree in theory but honestly it's not expensive at all. quite cheap these days, only like 5000-7500 for most people and it pays back so quick that even if you put no money down, the payments are smaller than the savings monthly	1	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	I would love for the County to host various community forums around the county and online to educate and guide people to find the incentives and savings for energy efficiency and electrification and solar. Maybe hire a couple of "energy tax credit navigators."	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Would love to see incentives, but public money might be better utilized on other initiatives (energy use reductions thru insulation & electrification are way cheaper than residential production)	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	FWIW Community Solar can be a more equitable, efficient & accessible option. Economies of scale make it cheaper to implement for the community and spread the benefits further.		
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Stop wasting our tax dollars on solar panels from China.It does nothing but ruins the countryside, hurts wildlife, and leave fields full of e-waste.Our current local solar fields barely put out 10% of what was promised. Meanwhile, corp energy companies like Joule (owned by a Russian oligarch) walk away with our money. The trace element CO2 is not a problem.This whole reduce carbon issue is a Hoax! Going from 4 molecules to 5 molecules of CO2 in 10,000 in our air is not going to be catastrophic.	0	1
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The numerous "preservation districts" within the city are a disincentive to green improvements. Many old house owners are shackled by architecture rules that prevent them from making improvements that would increase energy efficiency. These outdated rules need to change, to accommodate building adaptions that may not look attractive but will stop the planet from boiling.	6	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Curious as to how many properties are impacted by preservation districts and what the exact limitations are. My understanding it that most of the design limitations are on the outside of the house and property, not inside. I am guessing that folks can still put in air-source heat pumps and an EV charging station.	1	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The "SEQR" (state environmental quality review) process is frequently abused and ignored by large developers with deep pockets and "friends" in city hall. As an example, the "Environmental review board" of the city government has not met in months, and when they do the agendas minutes are not posted on time, stifling the opportunity for public input. A more robust SEQR process is necessary to prevent poor quality developments on green spaces.	9	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Connect people in our community with jobs doing energy efficiency and electrification of buildings. Prioritize people who have historically been excluded from opportunities (e.g. people of color and people living in previously redlined communities) to get these job opportunities. We need more funding for programs like MAPP and for HVAC and electrician businesses to hire and train more workers on the job.	9	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing people too! This is a group that has been historically under/unemployed due to systemic barriers and discrimination.	3	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	We will need significant support and incentives from Federal, state and local government to assist low income homeowners as well as renters/landlords to make the necessary investments to weatherize their dwelling and shift to energy efficient heating/cooling. It shouldn't be just the well off who have heat pumps and save on energy costs. GHG driven climate change affects us all and all have a necessary role to play in dealing with it.	2	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	In this city, many of these folks are renters, not homeowners. How can get educate and incentivize the landlords to make these improvements to their properties so lower income tenants can enjoy the benefits, and landlords, too--especially when they sell the property. Maybe that would be some type of benefit--to show the increase in value of the property and delaying any reassessments and tax increase as a result of these types of improvements.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Small landlords with one or two properties provide locally owned low cost rentals with relationships to tenants. I have a property and we put all the funds back into care of the units. We have taken no funds out of it. If we are forced to pay for expensive heat pumps we would have to sell. Likely would be sold to commercial apartment rental agency and that is a loss to the rental community as rent would indeed increase.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing people too! This is a group that has been historically under/unemployed due to systemic barriers and discrimination.	3	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	High density housing could be constructed in the many empty shopping plazas in Henrietta, similar to the planned development adjacent to the new orthopedic center. Southtown plaza is one example of wasted space, nothing more than a heat island. Planned well, they could be attractive, have green space and amenities to make them desirable places to live, close to shopping and other services. Jefferson Road could become an attractive walkable town center instead of a race track.	5	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Creating in-fill housing close to jobs/shopping would be a major win, and vice-versa, creating shopping/retail job hubs in the middle of large housing complexes/neighborhoods could go a long way to reducing car dependency in the suburbs.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Single family zoning laws need to be changed. Allow for multi family units to be built on single family lots. These do not necessarily all have to be income limited, market rate units will be equally important as people move to Rochester as a climate refuge city in the next 10-20 years	12	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Stop using development incentives to subsidize far flung suburban greenfield development- should only be allowed to be used for infill in the city and existing suburban areas that already have development and public transit. and make sure it is walkable in character and density to reduce car usage	14	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The urbanists have already swarmed this with density comments and they're overwhelmingly right, but I think the desire for density everywhere is misplaced - Nobody's going to choose to be transit-dependent if they're living in chili, and the transit service that we would need to make that viable is probably impossible.	3	1
Buildings & Housing	Reply	We ought to focus densification pushes on Rochester and places that are or could easily be connected with frequent transit (everything in walking distance of 11L, perhaps?)		
Buildings & Housing	Reply	I don't see why we can't focus on creating better walkability in our suburban and rural communities while also in our urban ones. By ending Euclidean zoning, the County has so many opportunities to incentivise the creation of pocket neighborhoods that foster small businesses, walkability and community. I don't think we can ever get completely rid of our cars in the near future, but through changes to zoning policy, we have the oppotunity to decrease our reliance on them.	1	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Density can come in many forms. It can be urban density as mentioned, but it can also be urban density in already dense nodes, mostly - but not exclusively, the villages of Monroe County. Density not only benefits transit, but it can also provide additional customers for businesses within that denser area. This in turn makes for more successful businesses that are open on a more regular basis, thus drawing more people to the dense area. Or a positive feedback loop!	2	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	1. Provide support for homeowners to transition to air source heat pumps, geothermal, and electric cooking appliances and hot water heaters. 2. Allow for and encourage "No Mow May" by removing restrictive laws and penalties. 3. Allow homeowners to transition yards to meadows w/our penalties.	6	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Provide education around and wide ranging support to building/home owners, landlords and neighborhoods to transition to clean energy. This should include opportunities to weatherize, install electric heating and cooling and for whole neighborhoods/campuses to develop micro-grids using thermal networks etc. This will not just improve indoor air quality and comfort, but also savings on energy bills. In many ways this is regenerative, giving more regional control over renewable energy sources etc.	4	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	We have navigators for health insurance & finance councilors at the Financial empowerment center... it might be cool to have NYSERDA navigators to help with the paperwork for insulation & electrification.	1	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Neighborhood thermal networks or microgrids would be cool too!		
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Substantial low interest loans can help to make locally generated renewable solar and rooftop wind accessible to a wider range of households and it should be expanded to local landlords.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	All new buildings/housing implements solar panels.	0	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Transit-oriented development in the suburbs must be considered! These homes should be quality and affordable, but they must also allow for increases in density in order to sustain not only our public transit system, but local businesses as well. Single family home development should be discouraged in all towns/villages, as well as sprawl of any kind.	5	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	If sidewalks and bike paths were completed so that biking to transit lines were safe and feasible, suburbanites would be more interested in transit.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Home insulation/electrification are desperately needed in our building stock but are too hard for most people to bother doing on their own. There are companies that try to handle this in some simpler cases (this comment was prompted by https://sealed.com/), but people don't know about them. And the incentive structure makes it even harder with multifamily. The county should try to help this by connecting people with whatever resources are necessary for reducing their home emissions.	4	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Such a great opportunity all around here. Job Development to get more contractors & labor locally to do this work Energy savings from the insulation installations Improved housing stock quality & quantity from re-habbed homes.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Every dollar invested in this will yield major multiplied returns for our community. NYS set aside funds from electric bills to provide free home energy audits and low interest loans for work to be done, but few were aware of it and they were not offered to those who owned rentals. Details of programs were not disseminated well. Now some of those funds are subsidizing large renewable developers often opposed by the local community. Energy conservation is the low hanging fruit. NY missed that opportunity. We need to refocus and use those funds as they were intended.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The county should partner with municipalities & local orgs to create simple & easily digestible infographics & social media posts that educate the citizenry about how they can access the various climate rebates/incentives included in the Inflation Reduction Act. There are no caps on many IRA programs, & the funds amount to free money (& jobs) for the region, if we avail ourselves of them. Without proactive leadership by the county & municipalities, the Fed dollars will wither on the vine.	5	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	This is already available at https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator The problem is making people aware of it. I'm giving a presentation at Webster Rec Center to try and help, but most people aren't thinking about it. It would probably help to make sure that HVAC companies are well informed.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Rochester has a once in a century opportunity to make the Bulls Head/West Main/Genesee Area a densely mixed use & car-lite development. Reducing car dependence & adding job/shopping/grocery opportunities in that area could be an enormous benefit and transform the whole north-west side of the city. We just have to trust that the area can thrive with more space for people and less space for storing & moving cars!	6	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Every municipally-owned building should be covered with solar panels and most should be converted to geothermal heating and cooling. Schools, rec centers, town halls, all the county office buildings, the Blue Cross arena. The municipalities should be leading the way to show citizens how the economics have shifted so that solar and geo-thermal are sound investments. When the city does "buy the block" development, they should create geothermal systems that could service the whole block.	7	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	There are so many terrible landlords in Rochester with buildings with all sorts of code violations. The city should be aggressive about enforcing codes and cease those buildings and bring them up to code including with better insulation and heat pumps. It's time for investment in the formerly red-lined neighborhoods.	1	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The should be a focus on mixed used buildings, have shops, grocery stores, etc on the main floor and housing on top will reduce the need for cars and increase the walkability of neighborhoods. This will lead to people interacting with stores as they walk past which will help local business to flourish	6	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Mixed use is definitely the name of the game and it doesn't have to be complicated, basically just build infill of the stuff people need in under-utilized parking lots! Infill can go both ways! Infill underutilized retail parking lots with housing, infill sprawling single-use apartment complexes with small retail (convenience stores/ small grocers)	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	I firmly believe that without more impactful countywide regional and at least inter/multi-municipal land use and development planning, it will be much, much harder to avoid the inefficient land use and development patterns that predominate-- patterns that raise individual and collective carbon footprints substantially. I know this is a tough sell in our "home rule" system and tradition, but our current land use/development patterns, practices, policies are not climate friendly.	2	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Increase mixed use development zoning areas to create more walkable areas	9	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Sprawl-driven development looks like growth in our community, but when you aren't growing the population, it really isn't. It simply creates more infrastructure that requires maintenance over time and further burdens a tax base that needs to support this. I'd like to see more policy decisions that encourage redevelopment within our already built-up areas rather than sprawl.	5	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	Let people live closer together if they want to! Let's reduce minimum lot sizes, reduce required setbacks, reduce parking requirements, speed up permitting processes, etc. All those requirements do is increase the cost of housing while at the same time make it really difficult to do small-scale infill development. By allowing more building to occur in the city and our inner-ring suburbs, we can both keep housing prices in check and reduce vehicle miles traveled and car dependency.	7	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Not just living closer together, but putting shopping closer together. Small relatively cheap retail/restaurant spaces make it possible for folks to start the quirky little businesses that give neighborhoods their character. Imagine tiny bakeries, cafe's & bars that serve mostly walking clientelle. We love walking around festivals checking out little retailers, let's make urban spaces that feel like that year round!	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	All new projects or rehabilitation projects that receive government money (e.g. like COMIDA) must be all electric. The county will not support additional fossil fuel infrastructure.	1	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Buildings & Housing	Reply	Absolutely. I was told recently that the average timeline for permitting of a new house or residential building in the city of Rochester is just under 2.5 YEARS!! People are not going to invest their money into climate-friendly, equity-friendly, urban housing in the city and inner suburbs if they can take their money and run out to Farmington and have their project APPROVED AND BUILT faster than the city will issue a permit approval	1	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The county needs to stop using its business development subsidies to supercharge greenfield sprawl development. Invest in redevelopment of existing sites and increasing density in the city and along major axial corridors in suburbs (i.e. Monroe and Clinton Ave in Brighton, St Paul and Culver in Irondequoit, w&e Henrietta Rd, Lyell in gates, etc. A comprehensive and logical plan instead of willy nilly sprawl wherever some company finds a cheap parcel of land	6	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	We need to push development of housing units for working class folks who may not qualify for rental supports, but can't find decent housing they can afford. Fancy downtown condos are lovely, but we need more options for folks who need to get out of substandard housing owned by neglectful landlords.	4	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	We HAVE to urbanize. The sole reason that Europe's average GHG emissions per person is nearly 50% lower than the US is that they do not build suburbia like we do. 90% of residents live right in the city or in similarly dense towns (Think like if all inner ring suburbs here were built up to 3-4 stories)	5	0
Buildings & Housing	Reply	We need the policies to allow and encourage this development to happen Agreed! We need an overhaul of our zoning laws to allow more dense housing.	0	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	All new developments should be electric only; and include in its development plan a project for a renewable energy microgrid--solar, ground source, wind, etc. to provide resiliency when there are power outages, brownouts, and other grid issues. A town in Puerto Rico was able to do it, so should we!	3	0
Buildings & Housing	Comment	The Monroe County Green Building Policy requires a significant update. Where it references green building standards, it must be updated to the reflect current rating system version and relevant standards. New sustainability rating systems have also been established. Some of these may be more applicable to the County's efforts and goals. Additionally, as greenhouse gas reductions are commonly prioritized today, the County would do well to state specific targets for carbon and energy reductions.	1	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	URMC is largest employer and they have yet to pass their sustainability plan. We 100% need all residents and employers - but especially large employers - to formulate and pass REAL sustainability goals, alongside accountability tools for making sure they reach goals.	12	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	LED lighting improvements were mentioned in the meeting. Has the temperature/color of the lighting to protect insects and bats been included in those improvements?	1	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Plan to insist there be a public utility co. See list of contacts.Without this change the cost and use of fossil fuels will continue to go against required goal of stopping dangers of climate control.	3	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	The dominant focus on Greenhouse Gas metrics is a fatal error. GHGs reductions can only slow warming. Focussing on this will send lots of money to emitters, and little to those who suffer from warming.	3	2
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	In contrast, eco restoration cools, and mitigates climate change and it can benefit underserved communities in over-paved environments.		
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	I'm co-founder of the EcoRestorationAlliance.net and I work with a global network of scientists and practitioners. We want to help. jshull@gmail.com . As a physician, I can say with 100% confidence that fossil fuel combustion in underserved communities causes more damage than overpaving and underforestation. Yes, eco-restoration needs to be part of the solution, but it is CRITICAL that greenhouse gas metrics be a focus. Without benchmarking, how can we measure our progress? Besides, even optimal ecosystem management can't increase plant CO2 uptake enough to reverse global warming without drastically reducing CO2 emissions from fossil fuel.	1	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	GHG is a hoax. Going from 4 molecules of CO2 in 10,000 to 5 molecules in 10,000 is not going to change the climate of the Earth in any catastrophic way. Scientists are yelling this but are just being ignored. Do your homework. Get away from mainstream media. Please! Your tax dollars are being unbelievably wasted because everyone is brainwashed into accepting this hoax.	1	1
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Ultimately, without addressing redesigning our financial and corporate systems, other efforts will do little to nothing to curb emissions, let alone prepare our community and other communities for the impacts from climate chaos.	1	3
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	The County can take our tax payer money out of corporate banks that are financing the extraction of fossil fuels and put our community's money in a municipal public bank where the community can decide to invest this money in green energy and a climate resilient economy. To learn more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ47RwMIPR4	0	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	The city of Toronto has an enormous geo-thermal loop into Lake Ontario which they use to heat a large portion of the city adjacent to the lake. If it works in Toronto, it should work in Rochester! We could cut a lot of emissions and provide free heating and cooling to much of the formerly red-lined neighborhoods. https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2021/toronto-deep-latke-water-cooling-raptors/	1	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Provide support to homeowners and small businesses to convert to green energy. Expand the electric car charging infrastructure greatly.	8	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Webster, Irondequoit and Greece should also use large geothermal loops into Lake Ontario. We could provide heating and cooling to many of the buildings on the lakeshore. https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2021/toronto-deep-latke-water-cooling-raptors/ It could be that we'll need a new municipally-owned utility to make this happen.	0	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Geothermal HVAC can go a long way to halt and reverse our momentum towards worsening climate catastrophe-- but much more and better incentives, subsidies, and workforce development are needed to get a positive tipping point mass of geothermal systems deployed out there.	6	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	Yes to this, esp around workforce development. And any positive and negative incentives the county has to support more ground source HVAC, including any land use regs; modelling how to include ground source HVAC any time ground is dug up for any project next to buildings.	0	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Bring stakeholders together to make a solar roadmap for Monroe County like the Nature Conservancy did for Long Island. The Long Island Solar Roadmap aims to advance deployment of mid- to large-scale solar power on Long Island in a way that minimizes environmental impacts, maximizes benefits to the region, and expands access to solar energy. The Roadmap identifies low-impact sites for commercial and utility scale solar arrays without impacting forests, wetlands, and prime farmland.	3	1
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	We often overlook the simplest way to cut fossil fuel use and reduce GHG emissions is by conservation of energy. Educate the public to reduce their energy use and we will need to produce less renewable energy. We all use more energy than we need to.	4	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	If you look at power generation in New York, we use a lot of mixed fossil fuel (natural gas/oil) sources. I'd love to see county policies make it easier to add renewable production, such as wind, solar, and hydro to our grid to cover baseline usage and reserve the fossil fuel sources to help manage peak demand.	4	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	We need major investments in our electrical grid and our skilled trades if we are going to take the necessary actions to move our energy intensive lifestyles off of fossil fuels. Nobody is going to live in a cold house in the winter - the grid needs to handle the load from all the new heat pumps and EVs that are coming!!	9	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	Yes, AND we need to educate and provide incentives for folks to install ground source rather than air source heat pumps. Ground source heat pumps use much less electricity, esp at very cold and very warm temps. This will reduce strain on the grid.	0	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Include in the plan an end date in the near future where MC will no longer approve projects for/with NEW fossil gas/natural gas lines. At the MOST, we should only be maintaining the current gas lines, we should NOT be building new ones.	1	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	I think we need a robust community conversation/community education and engagement process about the future of our energy grid that really helps people understand and explore the pros and cons of different utility system structures. This conversation shouldn't begin with the assumption that there are only two possible choices (RG&E or a public utility). The conversation should also be structured in a way that prevents the loudest voices (on both sides) from dominating.	4	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Reply	I would like to see more discussion about efforts at rooftop solar and wind to enable people to create their own energy. I would also like an honest and non-ideological discussion about the local and statewide cost, land and wildlife impacts and expansion needed for utility renewables. How many thousands of acres of forest removal will we deem acceptable? Much is unknown as we push forward for all electric. We need to get this right.	0	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Identify (map) and incentivize suitable (potential) sites for renewable energy projects, especially solar projects, on brown fields, industrial sites, rooftops and parking lots instead of on prime agricultural lands, open space and parkland which are vital for resiliency. The County could review available degraded or already built spaces within the “existing human footprint” for such projects.	3	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Community Facilities and infrastructure like schools and gov't buildings can shift to renewable sources of energy by installing solar on rooftops and underused public land and brownfields.	2	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Municipalize our energy provider! Rates are too high and are only expected to go up without any improvement in service. The City and County do an excellent job with water, solid waste, and sewer services and they should also provide our energy.	5	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	Something we can do to drastically reduce our emissions is to municipalize RG&E! By removing the capitalist profit motive from the energy system, we can both lower costs and put funds toward more climate friendly energy systems. Not only that, it will also retain and create even more local union jobs that will improve people's quality of life and put more money into the local economy.	4	0
Energy Use & Consumption	Comment	We need a democratic publicly run power utility to replace RG&E's corporate ownership. RG&E's owner AVANGRID has a record of lobbying against the NY fracking ban, against rooftop solar in Maine, and against the NY 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, etc etc. They will fight tooth and nail to protect their methane gas infrastructure in Monroe County and we need to move away from gas. Public utilities across the country are an important tool for confronting the climate crisis.	3	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	I hope the spectacular natural & cultural resource that is Lake Ontario will be central to MoCo's climate planning efforts. The lake's water quality receives inadequate attention as it is, and climate warming will only exacerbate problems affecting lake health. I think this planning process can serve as a spur to the county and it's residents to better manage and promote beneficial use of Lake Ontario, which will increasingly serve as a magnet to climate refugees in future decades.	5	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Healthy ecosystems (co-adapted suites of native species in their natural habitat) don't just sequester carbon. They also lower temperatures, moderate extreme weather--at scale--reverse global warming. Rochester is headquarters for EcoRestorationAlliance.net, a global network leading the way on this. Monroe County could be a world leader, and we could begin by putting all the County's restoration sites on our http://tinyurl.com/bigmaptosavethefuture . Please be in touch! jschull@gmail.com	6	2
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Per this article: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-15/a-dire-report-on-us-storm-risks-maps-tomorrow-s-floods?srnd=citylab , Monroe County is likely to see much stronger storms, both wind and rain in the coming years. We need to EXPAND green spaces to soak up more of that water to reduce flooding, and bury or fortify our electric infrastructure to keep it reliable.	7	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	It would be great if we had a "Green Code" like what they have in Buffalo to require climate-smart development and land use decisions.	10	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Protection of open space is vital, especially forested areas. New plantings must consist of native plants to be most effective at providing habitat for native insects and birds. Highway medians are ideal for habitat connection and should, at the very least not be mowed, be planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering plants.	10	0
Land & Water Resources	Reply	Yes! I would love to see the county provide rebates to property owners for removing lawns and replacing them with plants that support our local ecosystems. How much land at county parks are dedicated to unnecessary lawns?	0	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	We need to regenerate our soil. We need to bring balance back to our ecosystems. Rich soil, not tainted by an abundance of fertilizers and the use of pesticides that only benefits, the human population with safer and more nutritional food and land, but also improves the health of all other species, which is critical for biodiversity and the health of our region and planet.	9	0
Land & Water Resources	Reply	Yes! We can sequester so much carbon by taking steps to increase the health of our soils. By doing that you are also building habitat, reducing water runoff, and more!	0	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Healthy ecosystems (co-adapted suites of native species in their natural habitat) don't just sequester carbon. They also lower temperatures, moderate extreme weather--at scale--reverse global warming. Rochester is headquarters for EcoRestorationAlliance.net , a global network leading the way on this. Monroe County could be a world leader, and we could begin by putting the County's restoration sites on our http://tinyurl.com/bigmaptosavethefuture . Please be in touch! jschull@gmail.com	11	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	It's important that Monroe County, and the City of Rochester, consider our community as part of a larger bioregion, i.e. that of the Great Lakes. To learn more, read this blog in the Rochester Pachamama Alliance newsletter. https://mailchi.mp/11b0858c730c/para-newsletter-april-2023#blog	3	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	By stopping the cutting down of the plants on the side of the Canal, we'd have so many more milkweed and other plants that native pollinators love and need :]	5	1
Land & Water Resources	Comment	The County could make an enourmous impact in sequestering carbon, reducing flooding and restoring ecosystems by offering rebates to property owners for removing their lawns and replacing them with native plants. There is tremendous research on the incredibly wasteful nature of lawns, however that is the norm in our public parks, corporate campuses and private homes. Not all lawns need to be removed, but there are acres of precious land is being wasted that could provide solutions to many issues.	10	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Create much more strict requirements for development that include rain gardens for water runoff and permeable surface parking lots and driveways.	6	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Our forests are not regenerating. Trees that die from old age or invasive insects are not being replaced. Walk thru any county park and you'll see almost no waist-high trees that aren't invasive shrubs (e.g., honeysuckle, privet). These invasives provide poor habitat for the biodiversity that remains, and capture less carbon than larger native trees. We need creative deer management strategies & high quality jobs programs for youth to remove invasives & plant native flora before it's too late.	6	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Land & Water Resources	Comment	It's a big dream, but having a transparent to the community process for evaluating and mitigating the largest polluters of the Genesee river & Erie Canal... folks used to swim in (and drink from!) the river... now it's a polluted and stinky mess. Could my daughter or grandchildren swim in the Genesee if we made a concerted effort to stop commercial interests from externalizing the costs of their runoff & sewage?	5	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Prohibit any further development on undeveloped land. Encourage habitat preservation and restoration of healthy, native, functioning ecosystems on these lands by providing tax breaks, grants, no-interest loans, and other financial incentives to land owners.	7	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Reducing food miles is critical. Reviving the abandoned farm on Westfall Road would provide an opportunity to begin restoring a local food system.	4	1
Land & Water Resources	Comment	We should generally focus on having a regenerative economy with as much bioregionalism as possible to ensure resilience and reduce long transportation of basic items.	0	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Preserve and improve the natural and native ecosystem in the Monroe County Park system and the significant plant collections contained within the arboretums, as well as the Frederick Law Olmsted designed areas that are part of the rich horticultural legacy of Highland, Durand Eastman, Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks. The natural environment in our county parks is an important part of the health and quality of life in Monroe County as well as stemming the loss of biodiversity.	2	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Encourage residents and businesses to adopt rainwater collection and greywater systems!	6	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Preserve and improve the natural and native ecosystem in the Monroe County Park system and the significant plant collections contained within the arboretums, as well as the Frederick Law Olmsted designed areas that are part of the rich horticultural legacy of Highland, Durand Eastman, Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks. The natural environment of the county parks is an important part of the health and quality of life here.	4	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Discourage the widespread use of manicured lawns and encourage the planting of native plants in yards and parks. Discourage the watering of those manicured lawns and save water by planting native plants that our pollinators depend upon.	8	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	We need to reduce use of pesticides and solvents that harm plant life and water quality and which also are associated with neurological diseases like Parkinson's. Paraquat should be banned at the federal level.	2	0
Land & Water Resources	Comment	Monroe County should take measures to eliminate the use of herbicides like Paraquat, which can increase the risk of Parkinson's by 150%, and has been banned in over 30 countries. A manicured lawn is not worth exposing our children to deadly chemicals.	1	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	More education about the impacts of climate age will cause more impactful results in the future.	1	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Work together with municipal governments and organizations providing services to our community to prepare for increasing numbers of people migrating to our county because of the impacts of climate change (including those displaced from their homes as well as those moving here voluntarily). This policy brief from February 2023 suggests eight actions we should take: https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/blog/eight-ways-receiving-communities-can-prepare-climate-migration	4	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	It seemed like the overwhelming majority ranked this category as being the least important. My belief is very different. Obviously, first we need to nail the basics and implement constructive frameworks in the other categories. However, if we don't create communal buy in, only the people drawn to this topic out of their own self-interest will be engaged. We must inspire collaboration and bring all relevant stakeholders to the table for true change. Thank you for tonight's information!	6	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Henrietta again! Our schools here have massive lawns, few trees and even fewer habitat plantings. Too much bright white lighting on school properties is everywhere. How can we engage schools to make changes? Of all places, schools seem very appropriate for implementing environmental protection on school property.	9	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Commented elsewhere, I believe our greatest contribution in the space is to redesign our financial and corporate systems. Otherwise, the current model of continuous economic growth will only add more and more activities into our societal makeup that require energy to power and maintain. Therefore, we will only continue to see emissions grow — exponentially.	3	1
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	With the large number of deaf people in Rochester, are there plans to incorporate DeafSpace and other universal design accessibility frameworks into Rochester's eco-friendly designs?	9	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Reply	Engineering lecturer Chris Brucker at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf would be a great resource related to this -- his recent thesis revolved around DeafSpace.	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	To curb waste and reduce energy-required output, we need to localize our Konomi. We need less reliance on and incentive to go outside the local area — let's say 100 miles from county-center — to meet our community needs.	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	There is a growing opposition to utility scale solar production by people living in rural areas across the US and here in out county. How can we start a dialog with people who live in those areas to find common ground on building our solar generating capacity?	4	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Reply	I live there. You can't! Solar energy is a waste of resources. Go away.	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Switch to a regenerative economy framework. Incorporate the Regenerative Economy language/ framework into the CAP.	7	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	This is a great effort but it needs much more publicity! There should be many more comments!	0	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	I'd like to see Monroe County's CAP explicitly call for a regenerative local economy and describe how that differs from an extractive economy.	8	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Reply	And to explain what is meant by regenerative v extractive, so people know what is meant, and the County will know the goal.	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Reply	Yes! This would be huge for our region	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Reply	Agree: this is a must, both for the County (would save us big \$\$ in waste disposal and pollution costs), and for the world.	0	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Public Health ties into all of these areas. We should ensure that cross cutting issues, such as public health and equity are drawn into each of these Sectors. These could be lens' we use to help understand the multiple benefits of taking action on Climate Action.	3	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	We need to build a community response team to acute climate migration caused by disasters in other parts of the country. 5000+ people came to Rochester from Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Irma/Maria, partners came together to help serve & settle those folks, we should have a plan already in place for if/when a migration event like that happens again.	5	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Education is important. There is too much misinformation, leading to public opposition to programs which would benefit everyone. Sustainability should be the main focus, as it relates to all aspects of our economy. This should probably begin in public schools. Every student should learn about recycling, composting, the health of forests, energy production, and the long-term prospects for a petroleum-based economy.	1	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Partner with local educational institutions and industries to come up with creative technologies and siting for renewable energy generation projects that resist sprawling into agricultural, rural, tourist and open space areas.	2	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Educate the children. Is Climate Change taught in schools? If not, it should be part of their curriculum as well as their habits regarding waste disposal in school and home, recycling stations at school and home, and how they can encourage their parents to take action NOW to mitigate climate change effects, There are many organizations that can partner with the schools to teach recycling, food waste management, creating healthy yards for pollinators, growing their own vegetables, sharing.	5	0
Partnerships, Education & Economy	Comment	Need to ensure that the County's CAP is equitable and supports lower income and BIPOC households and communities. As developed by the Justice40 initiative at the federal level, the County should ensure that at least 40% of County investments in climate policy flow to historically disadvantaged and overburdened communities. For more , https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2023/06/01/the-us-cant-achieve-environmental-justice-through-one-size-fits-all-climate-policy/	1	0
Transportation	Comment	support and incentivize work from home, at least partly- not driving to work even 1 day a week would have a big impact	7	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	Bike transit in the county is a joke. The adage "paint is not infrastructure" absolutely applies here. Anyone who has engaged in vehicular cycling (i.e. riding a bike as a vehicle instead of a car, as opposed to simply for leisure) knows this. Protected bike lanes are an absolute must, and they have to be plowed in winter! They give more people the confidence to make the switch to bike commuting.	24	0
Transportation	Reply	100%! We don't expect everyday drivers to get on a racetrack with formula 1 drivers, but we expect the equivalent out of cyclists. Cyclists are forced to mix with faster more powerful vehicles that are focused on winning the race to work, home, etc.	1	0
Transportation	Comment	Flying is perhaps the most damaging type of travel, and yet the county spends millions on revamping the airport every few years. How is this compatible with the goal of GHG reductions? A simple way to lower overall number of flights is to avoid duplication with nearby cities. Coordinate ROC with SYR and BUF, with rapid train connection between the 3 cities, so if people absolutely must fly they can go in/out of a choice of airports.	11	0
Transportation	Reply	I would love to see better train connectivity in our state! I would add that we need to improve bus connectivity as well. In June of 2022, I tried to take the Greyhound to Buffalo each day of a three-day conference I attended there and the bus was so late on two of the three days, that I had to rent a car one day and borrow my sister's car another day so that I wouldn't miss the conference. On the first day, the bus was 8 hours late!	1	0
Transportation	Reply	This Comment right here! NYS trains are already pretty nice, but could be so much faster & more frequent with some investment... imagine if we'd spent what we spend subsidizing flying on high speed rail connections Thru NYS to NYC & Boston... we'd cut so many GHG's!	1	0
Transportation	Comment	There are very few safe biking options in Henrietta. With a new county plan to improve Calkins Rd between E Henrietta Rd and Pinnacle Rd, there is no plan to include a safe biking lane. I was told this is the responsibility of the town. The town said it's not possible because of mailboxes along the road. Seems like an opportunity to solve this issue is being missed, and perhaps it's happening elsewhere as well.	7	0
Transportation	Reply	Building Densely & Taking full advantage of in-fill (housing into retail spaces & vice versa) will make preserving green-spaces much	1	0
Transportation	Reply	Especially creating safe & low stress connections from RIT to lehigh valley trail (the Jefferson/John st crossing feels like frogger even with the pedestrian signal on...) and retail plazas would be a major benefit to students & commuters	1	0
Transportation	Reply	It's an absolute joke that we can not safely ride a bike on E&W Henrietta Rd. Jefferson Rd. Townline road.	1	0
Transportation	Comment	Incentivize developers to locate new housing, places of employment, and essential services (e.g. medical care and grocery stores) in locations easily accessible via RTS. In addition, work with major businesses already in operation and RTS to make it easier for their staff and clients to get to them via RTS.	5	0
Transportation	Comment	I own an electric scooter and would happily scoot to work and other locations; however, I'm not always sure what the road rules are for me re: my safety and traffic rules. I think there needs to be. A public education effort around alternative forms of transportation re: rules of the road, for example.	9	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	The Riverway and adjoining trails...from RIT all the way to Lake Ontario...should be one continuous car-free network optimized for bikes, pedestrians, wheelchairs, and strollers. This crucially includes a passage through High Falls that does not require one to cross streets and dodge motor vehicles.	13	1
		It's eminently do-able and would transform the City and the County		
		https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/all/?keywords=schull%20mist%20opportunity&origin=GLOBAL_SEARCH_HEADER&sid=_(%3B		
Transportation	Reply	We should join all of our bike trails into a continuous loop. Then promote these trails locally and through the NYS tourist webpage. Connect the Greenway, to the Lehigh Valley trail, to the Auburn trail, to the canal path and an extension to the lake.	1	0
Transportation	Reply	Kinda dumb and a waste.A trail all the way through from RIT to the lake serves no real transportation purpose, as locations are not RIGHT on the trail. Needing to get off the trail for a few blocks downtown is no different than the streets you will bike on if you are ever biking somewhere. The only benefit of a long through trail is for recreational bikers	1	1
		These low-stress trails are the true "free-ways" that form the backbone of our transportation network.		
Transportation	Reply	I detour an extra mile every day to get to the river trail instead of riding up genesee & west main. Could I get to work faster? maybe... but the river is worth the detour. And thats while I still have to take the lane downtown to get to high falls.	0	0
		Imagining being able to get through downtown 100% on the river trail... it would be a dream come true!		
Transportation	Comment	I would love to see increased walkability. Safe, shaded, goes to UR.	8	0
Transportation	Comment	The true measure of how safe it is to bike is to see how many women are doing so, and that number is abysmally low. This is a civil right that women are being denied in Monroe County! Bike infrastructure MUST be made so safe that a 72 year old grandmother would reasonably take her 8 year old granddaughter out cycling on our streets.	9	0
Transportation	Comment	If Buffalo can do it, we should be able to. Niagara Street's redevelopment includes a protected bike lane, rain gardens, trees, etc.	12	0
Transportation	Reply	More rain gardens please!	1	0
Transportation	Comment	Widespread public transit use will be crucial to reducing our car dependency and help to lower emissions. In order to have a reliable, usable system buses must be frequent. Sprawl must be curbed and density increased around RTS routes as well. Electric and zero emissions vehicles will be necessary down the line, BUT RGRTA/ the County should not wait until the entire fleet can be replaced - increasing ridership now should be priority, and the improvements to vehicles should follow.	7	0
Transportation	Comment	Encourage large retailers (like Wegmans) to install charging stations for EVs Support School districts with financial support needed in their effort to convert to Electric school busses.	1	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	<p>Transportation in Monroe County can be greatly improved in three ways</p> <p>1) Protected bike lanes</p> <p>2) Ending right on red turns</p> <p>3) Reducing vehicle speeds with speed bumps, speed monitoring cameras, adding traffic roundabouts, and narrowing lanes.</p>	9	0
Transportation	Reply	*HUGE* yes to protected bike lanes, narrower lanes, and roundabouts!	3	0
Transportation	Reply	Speed bumps around school zones would be awesome!	1	0
Transportation	Reply	Agreeing here, improving design and reducing design speeds (instead of increasing enforcement) is a critical next step for improving safety on our streets and encouraging more multi-modal transport.	0	0
Transportation	Comment	We could try encouraging more electric cars economically by working towards electric cars being cheaper. In addition, we could try to work more public transportation like trains and subways especially into urban areas, that would be a big initial cost to make but long term is a lot less emissions for the atmosphere.	3	2
Transportation	Reply	public transit yes, but no not electric cars. theyre at best a mildly better cop-out	1	0
Transportation	Reply	Electric cars are not solving any problems. Focusing on Electric cars is not addressing the issue and just making things worse.	0	0
Transportation	Comment	It is critical that the County invests and builds a low-stress, high comfort bike network that enables all different kinds of cyclists to get around. Without a major modeshift away from cars - both EVs and ICEs - we will not be able to adapt to changes in our environment and reduce our emissions. There are many people who would love to switch from using their cars for trips to ebikes or bikes but do not feel safe or comfortable without protected infrastructure!	12	0
Transportation	Reply	We've already got a great start with the river trail & canal path & Lehigh valley trail, completing the river trail & being thoughtful about "off-ramps" into low stress neighborhood streets/bike boulevards could make a lot of our county much more accessible without very much investment at all.	0	0
Transportation	Reply	There is no safe way to bike into the city from Webster or Penfield. It would make so much sense to have a couple of bike paths to connect to the city.	0	0
Transportation	Comment	End single family zoning and encourage denser development. No more cul-de-sacs	7	0
Transportation	Reply	Yes! The restrictive nature of single family zoning really limits our ability to grow regenerative and equitable communities.	1	0
Transportation	Comment	If we want people to use public transit, walking, biking and rolling as an alternative method of getting around, then we need to build the infrastructure to support the switch to more sustainable transportation (ex: more street trees, increased bus frequency, bike lanes and bike racks). Inspiring people to SWAP car trips with walking, biking or taking the bus is how we will move the needle to meet our climate goals.	9	0
Transportation	Reply	Completely agree, Rochester is behind the times and having proper infrastructure would transform this city & residents into a more sustainable community.	0	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	Road diet on every 4lane county road under 20,000 AADT	13	0
Transportation	Reply	Road Diet's combined with safe facilities for cyclists of all ages and abilities. No one wants to ride to their destination fighting for space on a road versus 2000+lb vehicles. It's an inherently scary and dangerous proposition. Better facilities will get more people on them!	4	0
Transportation	Reply	There are so many more pedestrian and bicycle accidents in the formerly red-lined neighborhoods. Making the streets safe for cyclists would really increase quality of living.	2	0
Transportation	Comment	I would love for our public transportation system to be more robust and efficient. I live fifteen minutes from my work, but it would take 2 hours to get there by bus. I would gladly take the bus to work everyday to lower my carbon footprint and not have to rely on driving so much. Examples like France, Japan, and Toronto all have excellent methods of getting people to and fro. Public transportation can help transform the future if we invest in it!	6	0
Transportation	Comment	We need to stop thinking of transportation as something people only do in a car. Not only is that exclusionary, but its ever changing and there are many forms we ignore. Most jurisdictions have Departments of Transportation that are solely focused on automobiles, they should expand their mission to build transportation solutions for all modes or change their name to the "Department of Motor Vehicles - Roads Division."	4	0
Transportation	Comment	RTS service is still far too infrequent and slow for anyone not just going to/from Downtown Rochester to use. There isn't an easy fix to this beyond substantially increasing their budget and near-doubling service, but I think it's a necessary step for any serious climate action	6	1
Transportation	Reply	Agreed. So let's start with people who are going to/from downtown. How many people would prefer NOT to park for the Jazz Festival? Make the walk from Parcel 5 to the Transit Center a pleasant and safe one. Dedicate all of the county's COMIDA funds to improving the Clinton Avenue and St. Paul Street corridors from Main Street to the Transit Center. Turn the vacant buildings into innovative and multicultural commerce.	1	0
Transportation	Comment	Electrify the mass transit fleet. Add many more routes and more frequent buses on those routes. As of now it is very difficult to get anywhere in a timely manner using mass transit in Monroe County. If we want to encourage more people to use mass transit we have to make it work for people. It shouldn't take my an hour and a half to get to a doctors appointment on the opposite side of the county.	6	0
Transportation	Reply	Totally agree. We should also be working towards developing homes and businesses around mass transit stops, so there is more reason to use mass transit.	0	0
Transportation	Reply	Agreeing Especially on Frequency & Dedicated infrastructure. There are *many* trips that I make in the city where it is significantly faster to bike or even walk than take the bus.	0	0
Transportation	Comment	Transportation is by far the largest source of carbon pollution in our county. We must ensure that people can get where they need to go safely and without using a car.	5	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	Can't wait to bring our daughter out on bike trails, but our range pretty much stops at the river/canal trails since even the connections to bike boulevards from there have high-stress/high-traffic crossings that I wouldn't feel comfortable navigating with a trailer (or with her on a balance bike.)	0	0
		Designing for year round trails smooth & low stress enough for mobility scooters would go a long way to making our city more accessible to everyone		
Transportation	Comment	Having better bike lanes will go a long way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while giving people a healthy and convenient option for transportation. On top of that including bike racks on public transport like what the uofr shuttle bus do will help when biking isn't as convenient	3	3
Transportation	Comment	let's revive our historic subway system and reclaim lost connections. The old subway, with iconic stops like Court Street and Main Street, can be a sustainable solution for our transportation needs. By utilizing existing infrastructure, we minimize environmental impact and reduce traffic congestion. Reviving the subway will boost economic growth, preserve our heritage, and foster community. Together, let's create a brighter future for Rochester.	8	0
Transportation	Reply	THIS!!	0	0
Transportation	Comment	We have to start building more densely so that we rely less on auto travel and more on bicycles and good, reliable, consistent public transportation. Sprawl isn't helping anyone and it's ugly.	4	0
Transportation	Comment	Increasing the number of charging stations for electric vehicles will reduce the barriers to people converting to their use. This could be an increase in charging stations at municipal facilities but it could also take the form of incentives or technical assistance for local businesses to add charging stations to their places of business.	2	2
Transportation	Comment	Car companies want to sell everyone electric cars. Let them pay for the infrastructure for them. It's continuing a broken system to have people/governments continuing to subsidize the car industry rather than stripping away those funds and using them for things that are better for the environment like public transit and bike infrastructure. The small marginal improvement in emissions from electric cars is not worth spending public money on	3	0
Transportation	Comment	Public transit reduces pollution compared with the typical one-person driving in one-car model prevalent in our community. Making public transit easier to use and by a broader cross-section of our community will increase its adoption rate and increase the pollution-reducing effects that public transit provides. Schedule frequency and convenience drive a lot of this. I'd also like to see some sort of "badge" for employers that are transit-friendly (sort of like Energy Star).	7	0
Transportation	Comment	The RTS route restructuring has cut a lot of suburban residents/workers out of dependable transportation options. RTS On Demand services have definite advantages in some situations, but also require travelers to request a ride every single time they use them instead of catching a bus on a regular route. Counting on this access to get to work can be challenging and limits a job seeker's ability to apply for and keep employment.	2	1
		People need options to get to jobs without buying cars.		

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	The bus costs a dollar per ride, and a max of 3 dollars a day. That is better than some bus systems (Cleveland OH, \$2.50/ride, \$5.00 max/day), but some cities offer Zero Fare (like Kansas City Missouri). I think it would be wonderful for Rochester to work toward Zero Fare, both for the environment and for economic equity. I understand that this would require research on logistics, but I think it is worth investigating.	2	0
Transportation	Reply	RTS is already struggling to offer a good service (30 minutes between busses is waaaaay too long) and I don't think taking away funding from them is a good idea. A frequent and reliable bus is much better than a free bus that you wait 30 minutes or an hour for.	3	0
Transportation	Reply	Agree with the other comment. If we make transit more reliable, more people will use it which can help with funding. We should focus on that before making it free.	1	0
Transportation	Comment	It's critical to engage private partners in reducing car dependence. The benefits are win-win, but employers & housing complexes need to be sold on it. Imagine a grocery in the middle of a large apt. complex cutting hundreds of car trips a week b/c residents can walk/roll to the store. Imagine a large suburban employers investing in van-pools from the transit center to give city residents opportunities to earn.	7	0
Transportation	Reply	Gov't doesn't have to do everything, and we all need to work together! Yes! Our local chamber of commerce could easily work with local employers to help fund things such as a subsidized transit pass, which would increase ridership, expand service and reduce the number of cars on the streets. Plus it would be a nice employee benefit and save them on things like gas	1	0
Transportation	Comment	I'd love to see more bike lanes connected throughout the city so me and my wife can go to restaurants and stores without driving.	7	0
Transportation	Comment	Protected bicycle infrastructure and more flexible zoning to allow daycare centers and grocery stores walking distance from neighborhoods would be very good to reduce car trips. This would make our neighborhoods safer, quieter, more communal, and more environmentally friendly.	6	0
Transportation	Comment	Reduce requirements on new development (lot size requirements, parking minimum requirements), and make it easier to convert single family housing into 2-4 unit housing. We need to reduce sprawl, pull people in to the core of the city. This will allow public transportation projects to make more sense, and also increase the vitality of our neighborhoods.	6	0
Transportation	Comment	We have to change the transportation culture, by *giving people or their employers more incentives to car pool *creating safer bike paths throughout the county as incentives to use those to get to shopping areas, work, etc. *starting the change with children in schools, especially those who will be needing transportation themselves soon. *creating a public transit system that uses the Interstate 490 and 590 corridors with stops at exits and north/south routes from there.	3	0
Transportation	Comment	We need to drastically improve our transit system. An entire hour between buses is unthinkable. Our transit system should be so good that you don't even need to check a schedule. A diesel bus is much more climate friendly than electric cars, we must move away from car centric infrastructure. While we're at it, improve conditions at bus stops. No more of those plastic cubes, put in genuine benches. The people of this city/county deserve better!	4	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Transportation	Comment	Narrow roads that have more capacity than the traffic that they service. Slow traffic and add more protected bike lanes and sidewalks, making the streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. And more walkable city and county will make the area more livable and a more pleasant place to live and working, especially for younger people. People of my generation, millennials and younger, aren't interested in needing to drive everywhere. They want to live in a place that is easy to walk around.	5	0
Transportation	Comment	Protected bike lanes, protected bike lanes, and protected bike lanes! More commuter bike trails would be nice, too. For example, the east-west rail trail, and the rail trail heading north from Barnard Crossing Bar and Grill all the way up into Greece/Charlotte. The commuter bike trails should be plowed in the winter as roads are, so that fat-tire bike commuting is at least possible.	6	0
Transportation	Comment	No more disappearing bike lanes!! They are incredibly dangerous and scary for even the most seasoned hard-core cyclists. Protected bike lanes that are separated from the car lanes (like the beautiful bike boulevard on Union St.) are the only way that cyclists and pedestrians can be really safe from being killed by motorists. Also, since 1/2 of all bike accidents in Rochester are caused by cyclists not knowing the rules, cycling education should be added to K-12 health and Phys Ed classes!	5	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	In Toronto they have used large roll up bins to take in only the recyclables, and they come more often than the trash. As for trash, it is a smaller bin. This will encourage people to properly disperse the papers/metals/plastics rather than just throwing them in the trash. I also am wondering if there are any problems getting the recyclables to be repurposed more often. I am not sure if they're still going to the dumpsters, but I would like to see more recycled products.	4	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Composting is a way to deal with a large portion of waste from businesses and households. The Village of Fairport kept 20 tons of household organic waste out of the landfill in a one year period with a completely voluntary program. This program was in conjunction with a local commercial composting operation. Monroe County should consider setting up countywide composting programs with sites in the county to reduce landfill usage. We must create the infrastructure to encourage or the behavior.	13	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Henrietta is exploring options for a town composting facility.	5	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Without redesigning our financial and corporate systems, continued economic growth (GDP) models will only lead to increased waste. Therefore, to reduce waste, we need to reduce consumption as well as the waste that is a byproduct of a national and global supply chain. We need to localize our economy within 100 miles of city/county center.	0	1
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Educate people on the benefits of composting and the importance of reducing waste. Incentivize businesses on the use of sustainable packaging. Require the use of compostable packaging in all "to-go" food sales and supermarket packaging. Move to county-wide composting.	6	0

Category	Type	Comment		
Waste & Recycling	Comment	I think the education on how recycling works in Monroe County to reduce contamination, and also expand on recycling so that it becomes more accessible and so we can recycle a wider variety of materials.	4	0
Waste & Recycling	Reply	The Monroe County website has a great video in English and Spanish to educate the public on how recycling works. https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-mcrc-video	0	0
Waste & Recycling	Reply	There is a great video in English and Spanish on the Monroe County website that shows how recycling works. https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-mcrc-video	0	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	To encourage composting, why not offer composting bins or vermiculture bins to homeowners at a discounted price? This process has a smaller carbon footprint than trucking buckets of food waste to another location for composting. I realize this won't work for everyone, but it will work for many people. Could offer composting classes thru local municipalities with option to purchase the bins at a reduced price!	4	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	I have little clarity around what is *actually* recyclable or whether anything actually is recycled or not.	12	0
Waste & Recycling	Reply	Community could trust us a bit more to sort our recycling so it can be more efficient... I wouldn't mind having a bin for plastics, paper & metal to put out. Can't help but think single-stream is inefficient and mostly ending up in a landfill somewhere...	0	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Make composting as easy as possible. For everyone.	4	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Create a County Plan with opportunities to divert all residential and business food waste from landfills, including a food composting facility in the County and access for all residents to redistributed or donated food.	6	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Food waste is the simplest problem to solve. The city's compost program is an amazing and free way to encourage residents to divert their food waste from landfills. I would love to see this program significantly expanded so that more people can make an impact!	6	0
Waste & Recycling	Reply	Completely agree! I would love to see more effort put into implementing these programs to make it easier for people to participate. The problem is it's still easier to throw things away than it is to compost. I would to see our systems make it easier to make the environmentally responsible choice.	0	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	We participate in the city's kitchen waste composting program. It may not be for everyone, but expanding a program like this across the county can divert a lot of food waste into productive use for those who want to use it.	6	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Offer composting opportunities along with trash pick up for citizens.	9	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Let's do what South Korea is doing with food waste! https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/14/world/asia/south-korea-food-waste.html Around the world, most of the 1.4 billion tons of food thrown away each year goes to landfills. As it rots, it pollutes water and soil and releases huge amounts of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases.	1	0
Waste & Recycling	Comment	But not in South Korea, which banned food scraps from its landfills almost 20 years ago. Here, the vast majority of it gets turned into animal feed, fertilizer		
Waste & Recycling	Comment	Check out what South Korea is doing with food waste! No sure about charging people for their food waste. This may encourage people to hide food waste in their regular garbage. https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/14/world/asia/south-korea-food-waste.html	0	0