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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 28, 2014

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016)**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning requesting authorization for the County Executive to execute a two-year agreement to accept \$179,630 in United States Environmental Protection Agency funding through Empire State Development, establish a budget, and create an Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9) position.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner, Thomas R. Hersey, Jr. at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/cw  
Enclosure

cc: Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Environment and Planning  
**Re:** Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016)  
**Date:** October 28, 2014

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## **SUMMARY**

The Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) is seeking authorization for the County Executive to execute the necessary agreements to accept \$179,630 in grant funding, establish a program budget, and create an Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9) position. The grant funding is available from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through Empire State Development (ESD) to support and expand the Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (WNYSBR).

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no fiscal impact on the county budget. The requested staff position and program expenses will be funded by the United States Protection Agency grant.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The anticipated benefits associated with the proposed resolution are as follows:

After this two-year project, it is anticipated that the WNYSBR will become self-sufficient, providing a resource to businesses in our region to reduce their environmental impact by becoming more sustainable.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The strategy for the WNYSBR has been guided by more than 40 businesses and organizations that participated in four exploratory meetings between June 2013 and January 2014. Those meetings, along with dozens of meetings of an ad-hoc steering committee, have led to a call to formally establish a WNYSBR to serve as a central resource for Western New York businesses to tackle challenges and opportunities related to reducing environmental impact and improving local quality of life.

ESD submitted a successful grant proposal to the USEPA to oversee and administer this business-driven WNYSBR jointly with Erie County, the sub awardee, which will provide a forum for training opportunities, technical assistance, measurement and documentation of pollution prevented, as well as assistance in identifying and pursuing opportunities for state funding for large project implementation. ESD will have a sub-award agreement with the DEP to provide the staff for this project. DEP has been identified as the sub-awardee for this project because of their distinctive position working towards the establishment of the WNYSBR. Due to the work DEP has already invested in this effort, as well as their extensive history of pollution prevention technical assistance, DEP is uniquely qualified to implement this project.

It is important to understand that this is an innovative, “place-driven” effort. That is, the business community is looking to work together to make significant improvement to the health, ecosystem, and quality of life in Western New York. It is the observation of the participating businesses that while varied business sectors are represented, they have many of the same local needs, concerns and questions. Being involved in a region-wide concerted effort would not only

assist a business in their greenhouse gas reduction and pollution prevention goals, but if taken as a whole, the group's effort will achieve significant measurable results. This is a model that can be replicated elsewhere and which the project will seek to share both regionally and nationally.

The funding of this program will allow DEP to create an Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9) position to manage the grant and provide staff support to the WNYSBR.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The DEP will forfeit USEPA funding and be unable to access the grant resources to support and assist in the expansion of the WNYSBR.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The necessary contracts with ESD and USEPA will be executed, a budget will be established, and an Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9) position will be created.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

**RE: Western New York Sustainable  
Business Roundtable  
(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016)**

**WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) has played a crucial role in pollution prevention and sustainability issues throughout the region for decades and has more recently played an important role in the formation of the Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (WNYSBR); and**

**WHEREAS, the DEP is committed to provide staff support and conduct work to assist and expand the WNYSBR; and**

**WHEREAS, the United States Protection Agency (USEPA) provides grant assistance to state agencies to implement pollution prevention projects; and**

**WHEREAS, Empire State Development (ESD) applied for USEPA and was awarded grant funds to support the WNYSBR; and**

**WHEREAS, ESD and USEPA named Erie County as a sub-awardee within that grant to receive \$179,630.00 in funding to assist businesses in reducing their environmental impact through the WNYSBR; and**

**WHEREAS, this necessitates the execution of a sub-awardee agreement with ESD and USEPA, the adoption of a grant budget; and the creation of an Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9) position within the DEP which will be 100 % grant funded.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements to accept a grant of \$179,630.00 from the USEPA and ESD for the purpose of establishing a two-year “WNYSBR” project; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the grant budget and project period for the “WNYSBR” project is hereby created in the DEP, Business Area 162, Fund 281 as follows:**

**Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable Project  
(October 1, 2014 –September 30, 2016)  
SAP Grant Account #162WNYSBR1416**

**REVENUE:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
414000	Federal Aid	\$179,630
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$179,630</b>

**APPROPRIATIONS:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$198,000

502000	Fringe Benefits	\$ 62,230
505000	Supplies	\$ 400
510100	Out of Area Travel	\$ 2,000
516020	Professional Services Contract	\$ 16,000
530000	Other	\$ 1,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$179,630

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following position, for which sufficient funding through NYSDOS grant funding for personal services and fringe benefits exists, will be created in the above grant:

Environmental Compliance Specialist (JG-9)  
 B-100 No. 7971  
 Budgeted Annual Salary: \$49,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to implement any budget adjustments as required to comply with State and local funding requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the County Attorney; the County Comptroller; Maria R. Whyte, Commissioner of Environment and Planning; Thomas Hersey, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Planning; and Bonnie Lawrence, Coordinator – Pollution Prevention Program.