



**MEMORANDUM
COUNTY OF ERIE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

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TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive
Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive
EC Legislature

FROM: Siobhan Maloney

DATE: February 12, 2016

RE: Initiatives for a Smart Economy – 2015 Q3 & Q4 Biannual reports

In January of 2016, departmental staff provided updated reports on the 64 initiatives comprising Initiatives for a Smart Economy for the time period between July – December of 2015. This memo will summarize the reports and highlight the successes already achieved as well as any areas of concern.

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for a complete listing of the initiatives and the status of each. A full compilation of the reports is also available for your review.

Completed Initiatives

To date, 16 initiatives have been fully completed, representing 25% of the total. Including the most recently completed, 4.32 - North Youngman Commerce Center Industrial Park.

In Progress Initiatives

40 of 64 initiatives are in progress, representing 62% of the total. There are initiatives in progress in all twelve sectors. 10 of the in-progress initiatives are at least 75% complete so the total number of completed initiatives is expected to increase again substantially within the next six months. 3.34 M/WBE Participation for Ralph Wilson Stadium Project is 99% complete with only the punch list stage remaining, and will likely be completed by the date of next reports. (Seven of the in-progress initiatives are classified as “on-going” or “annual” obligations and are unlikely to ever be classified as completed.) Bidding for the first phase of construction for 3.11 – Academic Building for ECC should be completed by next reporting period.

See the attached spreadsheet for notes on individual projects, including suggestions by initiative supervisors. Initiatives that have shown measurable progress or movement from one phase to a new phase are highlighted in yellow.

Initiatives Not Yet Begun

11 initiatives have not yet begun, representing 16% of the total. These initiatives are generally evenly distributed throughout the twelve sectors; however, there are no yet-to-be-started initiatives in Tourism, ECIDA Reform, or Land Development.

Areas of Concern

There are no areas of concern to report at this time.

Conclusion

Of the 64 initiatives, a total of 87% or 51 are completed or underway. Substantial progress has been made since the last periodic report and is expected by the biannual reporting period, which will be January 1st – to June 30th, 2016.

**Initiatives for a Smart Economy
January 2015 Progress**

Initiative Number	Initiative	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Begun	% complete at last report	% complete at this report	Notes
3.12	Regional Workforce Advancement Center - Buffalo Billion/Advance Buffalo	X			Pilot phase 100% complete, scale up/permanent facility just beginning	100%	WIB is no longer directly involved but stands ready to assist NYSDOL as the department evaluates the successes and failures of the pilot and makes plans for the future.
3.22	Main Street Blight Demolition	X			66%	100%	Three initial projects are complete. Departmental staff will develop additional candidate sites to use appropriate available resources.
3.24	Niagara River Greenway Funding	X			75%	100%	Completed - 7/21/15
3.32	Support of LaunchNY	X			10%	100%	Board approved disbursement of 2014 and 2015 allocation effective January 2015. 2016 allocation expected in January 2016.
3.43	Food Hub Feasibility Study	X			80%	100%	Completed in June 2015, Eden Valley Growers was selected as the Hub.
3.61	Erie County Energy Management Office	X			10%	100%	Energy Officer has been hired and has begun work of drafting an energy plan.
4.11	Implementation of new State law	X			100%	100%	
4.15	ECIDA Move	X			100%	100%	
4.16	New ECIDA CEO	X			100%	100%	
4.17	ECIDA Local Labor Policy	X			100%	100%	
4.21	Economic Development Office in GTA	X			75%	100%	Contract with PSD Global executed 11/1/14.
4.24	EB-5 Capital	X			100%	100%	
4.33	River Bend Industrial Park	X			5%	100%	Land purchase completed, construction underway.
4.41	Arts and Cultural Institution Funding	X			100% for 2015; funding must be secured on annual basis.	100%	
3.22.2	Former BOCES Building Demolition/ Main Street Reconstruction	x			Phase 1 - 100%; Phase 2 dependent on Lancaster's redesign of road	100%	Village of Lancaster has decided to get more public input and revisit design of road.
3.22.3	City of Lackawanna, Ridge Road Friendship House Demolition	X			100%	100%	
4.34.1	Spaulding Commerce Park	X			100%	100%	
4.34.2	5335 River Road (Former Petroleum Tank Farm)	X			100%	100%	
4.32	North Youngmann Commerce Center Industrial Park	X			40%	100%	Completed 12/31/2015
4.34.3	3445 River Road, Polymer Applications Site	X			98%	100%	
4.34.5	1815 Eggert Road, abandoned dry cleaner	X			90%	100%	
4.45	Division of Park Rangers- Feasibility	X			0%	100%	Completed 8/3/15 when last of three Rangers started. A consultant was not hired, as originally proposed.
3.11	Academic Building for ECC		X		25%	30%	Article 78 challenge resolved. Design went from 30% complete to 60% complete since last report. The next milestone should be achieved in Feb 20
3.13	Apprenticeship Law		X		Ongoing	Ongoing	
3.15	Employment Training Resource Guide		X		Annual	Annual	
3.16	Workforce Development Summits		X		Annual	Annual	2015 events focused in two areas: travel/tourism and construction. See report for detailed info.
3.17	Vocational ESL Program		X		5%	10%	Preliminary discussions held to tie in to Travel and Tourism Training program in development at WDC.
3.21	Smart Growth Fund		X		66%	75%	next milestone 6/30/2016
3.25	Cherry Farm Feasibility Analysis		X		7%	12%	estimated date of project completion is Dec of 2016
3.31	Niagara Region Ventures Fund		X		75%	85%	50% of necessary funding has been secured.
3.32	Support of LaunchNY		X		60%	66%	Anticipate completion in 2016
3.33	Entrepreneurship Boot camp Event		X		0%	5%	Project not prioritized, expected to begin after reactivation of Niagara Region Venture Fund.
3.34	M/WBE Ralph Wilson Stadium		X		85%	99%	Punch list stage remaining.
3.41	Agribusiness Park		X		10%	15%	Clark Patterson Lee was selected as the consultant.
3.42	ECIDA Agribusiness Development		X		25%	25%	
3.44	Food Policy Council		X		90%	90%	Strategic plan has been developed, Board of Health has formally adopted as subcommittee. Grant funding has ended, so staff are exploring other funding mechanisms.

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3.45	Regional Agricultural Brand		X		20%	20%	NYS Ag & Markets has indicated that regional efforts should be put on hold in light of state efforts. Still awaiting direction from Ag & Markets.
3.51	Downtown Convention Center Feasibility Study		X		10%	10%	Draft RFP prepared.
3.52	VBN Funding Advisory Board		X		10%	10%	
3.62	Interdepartmental Green Team		X		0%	Less than 10%	Project has been funded and staff are working with NYSERDA to develop a final work plan for grant contract.
3.63	Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Program		X		25%	25%	Staff are exploring the risks/rewards of the PACE program as well as opportunities to collaborate with SolarCity.
3.64	WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable		X		50%	75%	Received two years of USEPA grant funding.
3.71	EC International Marketing Campaign		X		33%	90%	ECIDA and EC are in the process of finalizing the funding for the opening of a Canadian office in Toronto, and the hiring of Canadian Marketing consultant. Cost is est. at \$100K
3.72	Manufacturing Distribution Capacity		X		35%	35%	
3.74	Portageville Road Bridge		X		30%	40%	Final design and engineering complete. Funding is secure.
4.12	Adaptive Reuse Policy		X		20%	20%	High project volume has slowed policy development.
4.13	"But-for" Test		X		10%	15%	High project volume has slowed policy development.
4.14	Cooperation with Town IDAs		X		50%	Ongoing	Improved collaboration on policy work, especially Senior Housing Policy
4.22	Cross-border Influence		X		Ongoing	Ongoing	
4.25	ECIDA International Program		X		50%	75%	Focus on effective marketing of Foreign Trade Zones and collaboration with WTCBN.
4.31	Bethlehem Steel		X		35%	Phase I complete	Phase II is 5% complete. Next milestone will be in July 2016
4.34	Brownfield Remediation		X		Ongoing	85%	Four of five projects are completed and the fifth is 25% complete. Staff will continue to identify additional candidate sites for remediation.
4.42	Buffalo Bills Lease		X		86% (renovations); annual obligations ongoing	100% (renovations); annual obligations ongoing	
4.43	New Stadium Working Group		X		5%	5%	On hold following purchase of team by Pegulas.
4.44	Erie County Parks Master Plan Update and Implementation		X		5%	10%	Funding is secure.
4.51	Lackawanna Wastewater Treatment Plant		X		15%	15%	Awaiting comments on draft final study from NYSDEC. Next milestone Spring 2016
4.52	Rush Creek Interceptor Project		X		65%	75%	First phase of construction in progress. Should be complete by 2016.
4.53	Southtowns Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility		X		10%	10%	
4.54	Beach Closure Forecasting		X		90%	90%	Weather related delays and technical difficulties lead to need for additional year of data collection to produce workable statistical models. 2015 effort will be scaled back from 2011-2014 work, but still significant. Next milestone is expected to be achieved on 10/30/15
4.57	Buffalo River Habitat and Corridor Public Access		X		20%	25%	Timing problems presented by City of Buffalo and NYSDOT projects at Bailey Avenue site.
4.34.4	5565 River Road unlicensed landfill		X		25%	25%	Remediation design for brownfield has been completed.
4.57	Buffalo River Habitat and Corridor Public Access		X		0%	35%	
3.14	Employment Resource Coordinating Council			X	0%	0%	Project not prioritized, expected to begin 2016.
3.23	Erie County Complete Streets Policy			X	0%	0%	Re-scheduling of work flow due to staff loss in Planning Division. expected to begin 12/1/16
3.35	M/WBE ECC STEM Building			X	0%	0%	Contract agreement nearing final stages.
3.46	Agritourism			X	0%	0%	Project not prioritized. expected to begin Q2 2015.
3.65	Feed-in-Tariff Feasibility Study			X	0%	0%	Funding not secured. There seems to be a move away from this initiative by the environmental community as the PSC is working on other ways to promote renewables through REV.
3.66	Climate Smart Communities Coordinator			X	0%	0%	Funding not secured, will apply through 2016 CFA. If funding is secured through 2016 CFA, work could begin 1/1/2017
3.73	Canadian Pacific Draw Bridge			X	0%	0%	Funding not secured.
4.23	Insourcing Initiatives			X	0%	0%	Funding not secured.
4.45	Division of Park Rangers-Feasibility			X	0%	0%	Requesting 2016 Operating and Capital Budget support.
4.55	Identification of Beach Bacteria Source			X	0%	0%	Funding not secured.

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4.56	Eliminate Bacteria Sources			X	0%	0%	Project dependent on outcome of Initiative 4.55.