

Chenango County Vision 2050 Plan

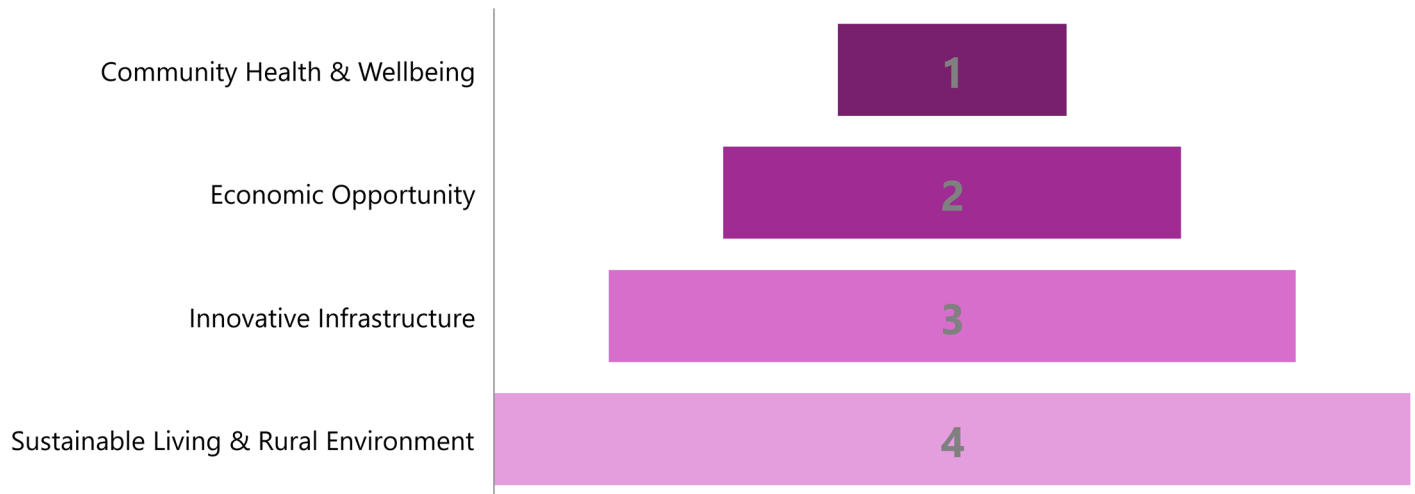
ACTION SURVEY RESULTS

September 17, 2024

The Chenango County Vision 2050 Plan Action Plan Survey launched on July 15, 2024, and was live through August 26, 2024. The survey received 173 responses. The purpose of the survey was to collect public input on key strategies and proposed actions for the Chenango County Vision 2050 Plan. A summary of the survey results, including written comments is provided below.

Overall Goals

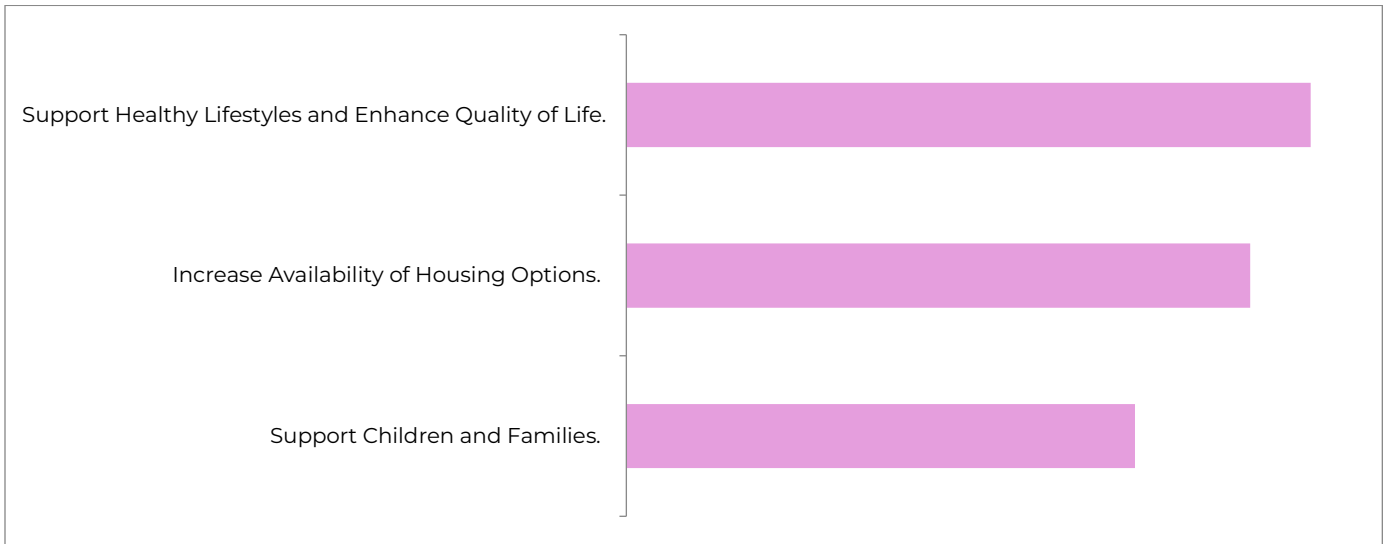
Please rank the goals of Chenango County's Vision Plan from 1-4, from the goal you feel most strongly about (1), to least strongly about (4).



	Rank 1		Rank 2		Rank 3		Rank 4		TOTAL VOTES
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	
Community Health & Wellbeing	10.1%	70	7.1%	49	5.1%	35	2.7%	19	173
Economic Opportunity	8.5%	59	6.9%	48	6.8%	47	2.7%	19	173
Innovative Infrastructure	2.9%	20	6.8%	47	7.4%	51	7.9%	55	173
Sustainable Living & Rural Environment	3.5%	24	4.2%	29	5.8%	40	11.6%	80	173
TOTAL VOTES		173		173		173		173	692

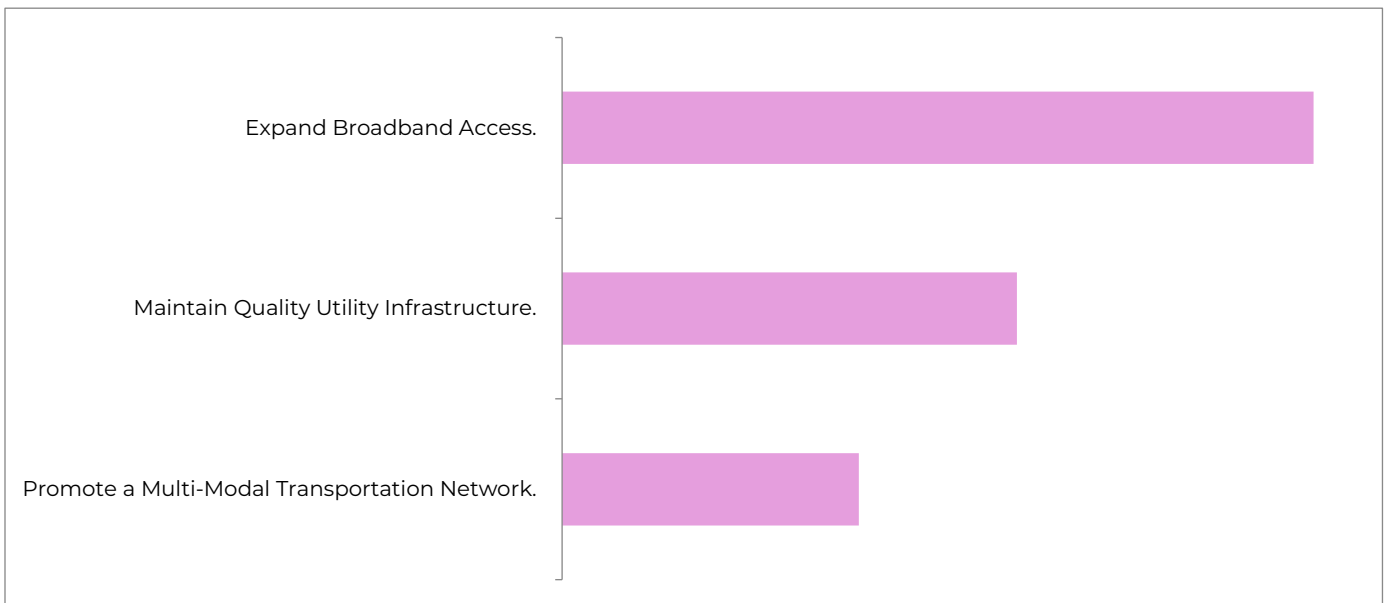
Community Health & Wellbeing

Please rank the **Community Health & Wellbeing** strategies from 1-3, from the strategy you feel most strongly about (1), to least strongly about (3).



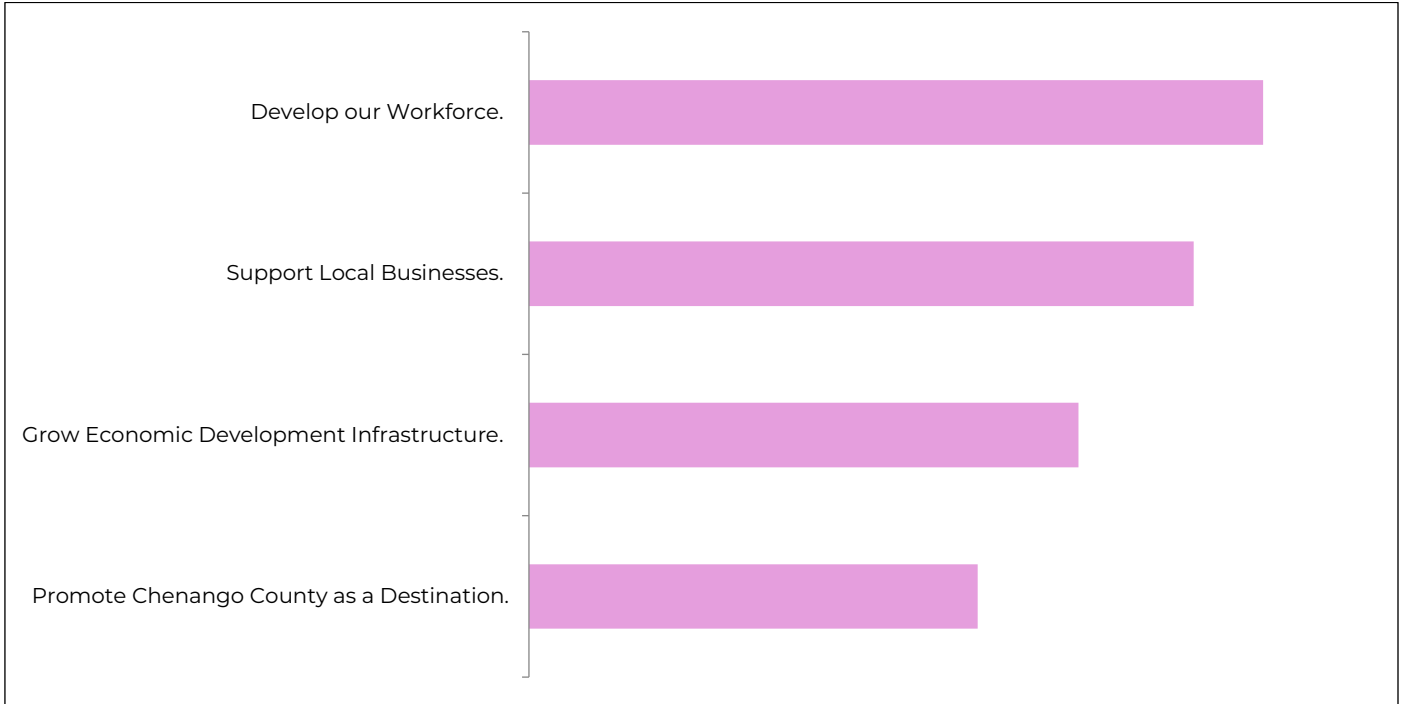
Innovative Infrastructure

Please rank the **Innovative Infrastructure** strategies from 1-3, from the strategy you feel most strongly about (1), to least strongly about (3).



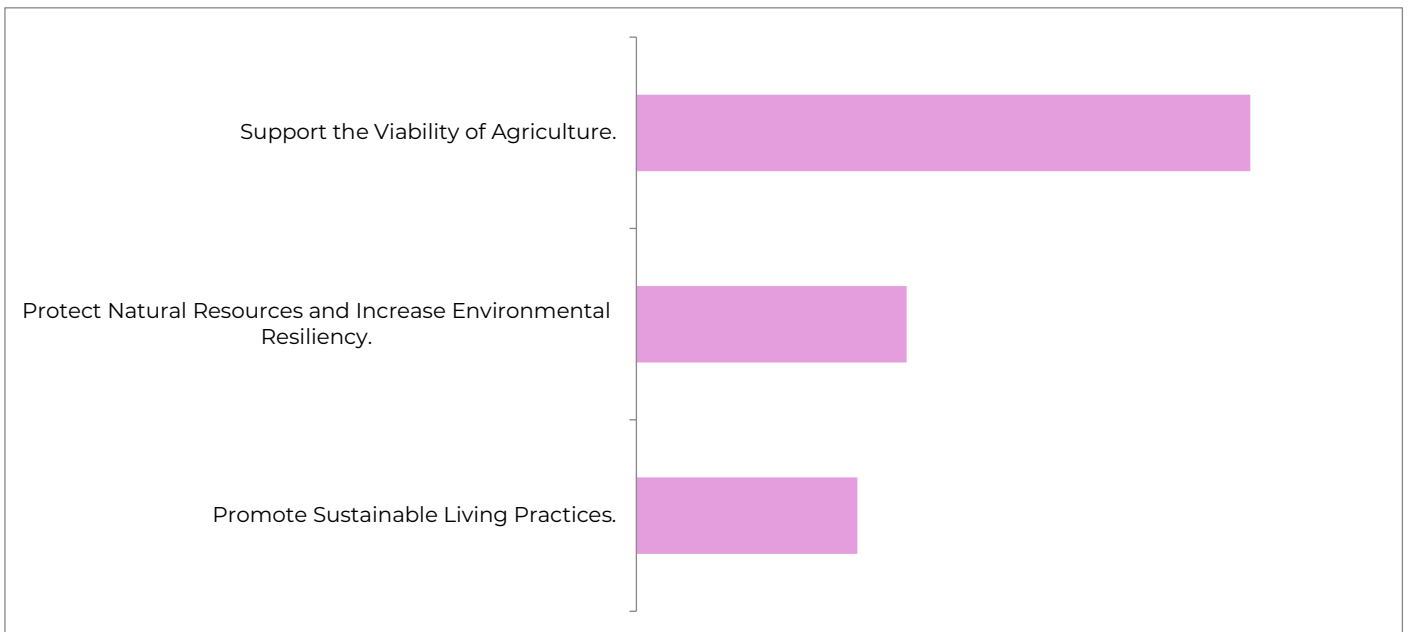
Economic Opportunity

Please rank the **Economic Opportunity** strategies from 1-4, from the strategy you feel most strongly about (1), to least strongly about (4).



Sustainable Living & Rural Environment

Please rank the **Sustainable Living & Rural Environment** strategies from 1-3, from the strategy you feel most strongly about (1), to least strongly about (3).



Overall Goals

Any other thoughts on the above vision and goals you'd like to share?

- More focus on homelessness and addiction if we really want to talk about community wellness
- We need to improve the effectiveness of our governing structure at the county level. This may mean consolidation, expansion in some areas, and contraction in others. An open discussion and investigation needs to occur. A community lead commission needs to explore this over a 2-3 year process, with deliverables, and an action plan.
- There should be more adult living options available....senior apartments, 55 and older mobile home courts,..... affordable, clean, and convenient to community.
- All are necessary and important. However having small business present will help with tourism and encouraging people to visit something that is unique and special. Protecting natural resources also helps to retain that special feeling. Housing and transportation continue to be areas of great need.
- PROTECT our farmland. Work with AFPB to get more farmland protected with ag easements.
- Don't ignore the rural areas of the county including German Smithville Afton and beaver meadow when you're generating all these ideas and spending all this money.
- Rural areas need better access to internet phone electric and transportation choices
- It would be great to see the county prepare and make itself marketable to bring business here. Being proactive and having sites available for business to move in is essential.
- na
- No
- The County needs to prepare and align its policies to support the resumption of natural gas development, and to support natural gas supply to manufacturing sites. The "climate" agenda against fossil fuels is itself not sustainable, as it is based on unsound claims about warming and about weather impact. Also, large-scale solar and wind energy development is counter to the higher priority of preservation of our rural/agricultural/scenic character. No objection to non-intrusive programs to encourage efficiency, electrification, EV charging, etc.
- "We are an aging county.....more and better nursing home options!
- More educational support services for preschool children
- Jobs! Better Jobs! More jobs! Many things will fall into place when job opportunities draw taxpayers to our area!
- Encourage and support current local businesses. Don't encourage another pizza parlor if you already have plenty. Diversify!"
- Need better internet on Route 32 from BOCES to Route 12.
- Lower taxes so people want to live and invest here. Get rid of the rural solar farms and windmills-look up how damaging they actually are. I am planning to leave this county & never would've moved here if I'd realized how bad that is.
- Need to have manufacturing that supports agriculture, need to balance that with push on tourism, need to work with all localities and neighboring counties to promote area as a whole

- I feel our largest concern right now is to figure out how to handle the drug traffic that we have in this county. The second largest concern is to figure out on how to help the homeless population with basic needs for living.
- With how few entries are in the individual lists, I want to emphasize that something being ranked last out of 3, doesn't mean I believe it is unimportant.
- I have a master's degree and no where to work unless I have a long commute. The homeless population and drug addiction rate makes neighborhoods unsafe. Children have no where to entertain themselves- so they fall into bad habits. Renovate and upkeep the parks, more school sports (hockey, lacrosse,) to become competitive with other districts. More opportunity for work besides trades. Incentive or lower rent for businesses to open shop and STAY open. There are too many storefronts that are abandoned and not well maintained. Look to other cities (Syracuse, Binghamton,) for help catching up. Our kids and families deserve better than the bare minimum.
- We need to continue to revitalize unused spaces. And beautify the community.
- Sustainable Living has different definitions for different residents
- "1st- Early childhood intervention. When you know better you do better. This goes hand in hand with youth programs.
- 2nd- Jobs, jobs, jobs. Financial stability DOES equal happiness. Happiness=hope and hope lowers drug and alcohol abuse.
- 3rd- Affordable housing and the elimination of slum lords in Norwich. These property owners don't live here, don't check on their buildings or tenants and rake in millions over charging HUD. Also wouldn't hurt to find some money to repair the homes in Chenango county for the MIDDLE class owners.
- "Get the homeless off the streets. Provide them a safe place for them (including their pets and children). Drug addicts should be made to go to mental health care facility where they have choices of either rehabilitation or a mental hospital(permanent until the decide to stay clean)
- Half way houses that are supervised for those who are recovering addicts."
- I would like to see access to more affordable gyms and fitness centers. There's nothing where I live and would have to travel 30 mins or more to have access to an indoor place to shoot hoops or have access to an indoor gym. It makes no sense that schools have fitness centers that the public who assists in paying to support the school cannot access. Why is there no community centers like the Y outside of Norwich?
- Emergency Services, Provide funding to support full time county wide ems system. Offer livable wages and continuing education so it will attract quality providers to stay and work in our county.
- These are great goals!
- Must deal with the homelessness, drugs, and excessively high rent!
- We need to address the homelessness created by drugs and enabling government programs.
- Give kids something to do!!! And more affordable housing.
- none at this time
- Think bigger! Expand SUNY Morrisville into a 4-year college with student housing opportunities, Creation of a large amphitheater or conference center that can host large concerts and events (3,000+)

- Development of our workforce through connection with local educational resources - SUNY Morrisville, BOCES, school districts - to promote opportunities for careers in Chenango County and encourage young people to build their lives here in Chenango County.
- All of the goals and visions are worthy and I found it difficult to prioritize. Broadband infrastructure and child care/education should be a top priority.
- Volunteer workshop classes where experienced employees can train and teach residents basic skills from their fields i.e. A salesperson teaching people on how to sell, promote product in order to help that person(s) to obtain a job.
- Excellent start!
- The county should focus on training our workforce with the skills needed for the future. With a trained and ready workforce top quality business will relocate to the community hiring those workers. All that spending a tax money will come back to the community building an even stronger community.
- Self-sufficiency should be a goal. We should strive to create a local economy that is not dependent on state and federal funding. Being dependent on state and federal funding creates rules which local communities must follow rather than have the freedom to decide for themselves.
- All of these are excellent goals for the vision of Chenango County. However, I question the efficacy and long-term effects of growing this area as a tourist spot. Let's focus on those of us actually living and creating a life here.
- Chenango County needs a shelter for our homeless with care managers/social workers that can assist those that are homeless with engaging in and following through with service providers to improve their overall wellbeing. Despite the opinion that it will drag the community down, it will do the opposite if it is managed appropriately.
- Glad that sustainable, renewable energies are a component and the coming changes caused by climate change are also mentioned. Climate change will change farming so the need to adapt food production to a warmer climate will affect agriculture here. Public transportation can reduce carbon emissions as well as provide a needed service to residents. I would suggest local school districts offer evening computer classes to business owners and seniors and students who are proficient could offer tutoring as needed.
- I am in a community where a wind turbine project was approved even though the majority of the community didn't want it. How about supporting farmers in using their land for farming instead of a misplaced turbine project that is only helping 21 families across the entire county?
- As long none of there environmental issues use the green new deal
- Lack of qualified physicians in our area
- Any businesses that we help grow/incubate cannot be allowed to hold the county hostage by threatening to leave, that is to say overreliance on a single source is futile lest we repeat what happened to Norwich multiple times on a grander scale, cultivating a wider net will be harder, of course, but would be ideal to help prevent this.
- Addressing food deserts
- Clean up the awful unsightly trash homes and trailers in the county! Who wants to drive through East Pharsalia to see what a 3rd world country looks like in their own county? You have to start with making people want to see East Pharsalia and what it can offer.
- Can't think of anything.

- The wellness section ignores the drug crisis facing every community in Chenango county. It's not sexy, but if the drug (and related crime) problems are not addressed in a serious and overarching way, none of the other items in this vision will be realized.
- We need raw material conversion industry. This type of industry creates the most jobs, community wealth and opportunity. Service businesses cannot survive without wealth creation by these industries. Chenango has had a massive decline in manufacturing and it shows. Industry that converts raw materials create jobs for non college grads that are careers with good benefits and perks. Retail, restaurants, entertainment all need many industrial complexes to ensure a steady clientele and trade to support the jobs within these sectors.
- Access to better mental and physical health is extremely important! The lack of services for all income levels is disappointing.
- Bring some industrial employment opportunities in to keep everyone from leaving.

Community Health & Wellbeing

GOAL STATEMENT

We are committed to improving the quality of life for our residents through the enhancement of community services and resources that support the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of all. Our ultimate indicator of success will be the satisfaction of basic resident health and safety needs and ability for all to achieve their fullest potential in terms of personal growth and self-sufficiency. Through these efforts we seek to foster a resilient spirit and strong sense of pride in our community.

STRATEGY 1: Support Healthy Lifestyles and Enhance Quality of Life.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Community Health & Wellbeing	
Strategy 1: Support Healthy Lifestyles and Enhance Quality of Life	%
Expand service level and awareness of drug addiction and mental illness support services.	37%
Partner with local producers to reduce food deserts, promote locally grown food, and increase access to healthy food.	32%
Increase the number of walking, biking, and hiking opportunities with continued trail development and outdoor recreation amenities.	31%
Establish a task force of community members and public health and safety organizations to lead direct outreach and education efforts on mental health and drug addiction services and programs.	28%
Follow NYS guidance to identify and designate Medically Underserved Areas or Populations to target program action and open funding opportunities.	27%
Encourage shared or collaborative municipal public safety and service delivery.	26%
Evaluate opportunities to improve availability and access to health (telehealth) and medical services.	20%
Continue to work with community service partners to evaluate and adapt to changing resident needs.	20%
Provide support for nonprofits to establish shared services agreements across agencies to reduce operation costs and build capacity.	20%
Expand efforts to accept food stamps at farmers markets across County.	12%
Foster the creation of more public parks in populated areas accessible to residents by foot, bike, or car. E.g. City of Norwich.	11%
Actively recruit new volunteers and leaders for public health and safety services and initiatives.	10%
Partner with local food producers like Chobani to promote nutritious food products and improve community access to nutritious food.	10%
Pilot local initiatives to reduce consumption of junk food; this includes addressing barriers to eating healthy due to poverty.	9%

Answered: 98. Skipped: 75.

STRATEGY 2: Increase Availability of Housing Options.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Community Health & Wellbeing	
Strategy 2: Increase Availability of Housing Options	%
Establish a Land Bank in Chenango County to formalize efforts bringing vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties back to productive use and foster additional housing investment.	56%
Support home rehabilitation, renovation, and maintenance efforts through local education, programming, and securing grants.	52%
Explore programming that would assist unhoused individuals with securing more permanent shelter and employment.	39%
Work with municipalities to identify where there are viable parcels for housing development and develop a checklist to prioritize the inventory of parcels.	24%
Assist municipalities in becoming NYS recognized “Pro-Housing Communities” to ensure eligibility for housing grant programs.	22%
Continue to encourage the formation of public/private partnerships for the development and delivery of housing and rehabilitation.	20%
Expand access to and awareness of home improvement programs for low-income and market-rate housing stock.	19%
Create a tool-library and/or neighbor-supported home service program for small-scale home improvements.	19%
Work with agencies to support tenants at risk of eviction to prevent increases in the rate of homelessness. Consider implementing emergency rental/mortgage assistance programs.	17%
Work with municipalities to identify barriers in land use codes to build or redevelop housing.	13%
Continue the Chenango County Housing Council and work to expand capacity in membership and programming.	2%

Answered: 98. Skipped: 75.

STRATEGY 3: Support Children and Families

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Community Health & Wellbeing	
Strategy 3: Support Children and Families	%
Collaborate with schools and recreational programs to expand afterschool care and activities.	70%
Work with local employers on creative ways to provide more high-quality affordable day care.	65%
Secure funding to programs supporting disconnected youth to address chronic absenteeism and early interventions.	50%
Explore opportunities to support home-based childcare and/or shared services with community partners.	43%
Use ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) household data to identify gaps in services and connect families to resources that augment and/or lessen financial burden on basic family needs.	34%
Support programs promoting access to public benefits, such as SNAP, federal Child Tax Credits, etc., for residents and students that are underserved.	19%

Answered: 98. Skipped: 75.

Community Health & Wellbeing

Do you have any thoughts or feedback on these strategies and actions?

- We need to improve the effectiveness of our governing structure at the county level. This may mean consolidation
- make sure that viable ag land is NOT used for housing!!! or any other industry; PROTECT OUR DISAPPEAR FARMLAND!!!!
- Our children/grandchildren/aging population should be our number one concern. What they are being exposed to daily is absolutely horrible way to have to live.
- Provide more education for potential landlords in the area that may want to rent a property, but don't know how or are concerned about their rights.
- "Amazing mix of government trying to fix issues. Rather than addressing the free support to those who take it vs earn it. 'No one has ever washed a rental car' No ownership in rehabilitation. no results from government led rehabilitation "
- Support families with senior family members and disabled family members who they are trying to care for.
- Make people accountable for their situations. People who qualify for assistance need to step up and help pay, get a job, not use drugs etc....
- Specifically expand youth programs for children under school age.
- Work with local employers on job sharing. Like Chobani, Raymond, Amphenol. With daycare being scarce and family members taking care of aging parents. Job sharing may be a great option.
- Need affordable rent!
- We need to stop enabling addicted drug users and stop disincentives to working for a living.
- "Parks: the number of parks seems sufficient but all need better amenities, equipment and maintenance. We need an inpatient facility for mental health and substance use treatment and comprehensive aftercare for those returning from inpatient services"
- Renovate the vacant and deteriorating "Victory" building into a homeless/rehabilitation center. A location where workshops, alcohol/drug abuse counseling can take place.
- Community members should get jobs to help themselves and not just expect to have all things provided for them. Children, however, must be supported with our best efforts to help them to be safe, well-educated and fed.
- We need to empower people, and teach them the skills on how to provide for themselves and their families, while being less dependent on government
- Too much money is allocated to social programs when there are no evaluation tools or measurements to justify spending. Each social program should have itemization of all expenses and third party evaluation of how successfully a program meets its mission, goals and objectives. If it isn't working, stop funding it and work toward a more effective use of funds. Every social program should have an annual audit and evaluation of services.
- Chobani can help access to nutritional resources by paying their fair share of taxes to Columbus (instead of wiping them out in court fees) and also by paying every full-time employee no less than \$75,000/year. PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF CHENANGO have higher expectations for billion-dollar companies and CEOs. Can you imagine how that kind of change alone would impact our local economy????

- All of these options are beneficial.
- If you are looking out as far as 2050 you should be considering the consolidation of school districts from the standpoint of superintendents and administration. The funding gained by this consolidation could be used to strengthen programs aimed at improving student outcome and future opportunity. In addition, with the exodus of people from upstate NY the volunteer fire departments are no longer viable in many communities. A plan for 2050 MUST include the consolidation or county-level oversight of a county-wide response network (fire and medical).
- Focus on the strategies that have been most successful in reenergizing similar communities
- No
- None of these are important as compared the economic viability of the county. These are all political hot button topics. None of these truly improve a communities ability for citizens to take care of themselves. They all are aimed towards government subsidies and coddling of people. You cannot balance a budget without subsidies with programs like these. They are not self sustaining. I would rather see more money spent on bringing viable companies into the area that employ people with honest jobs that allow families to thrive. Creating giveaway programs and all sorts of government agencies and organizations to prop people up is the exact opposite of what you should be doing. Do any of you in the county government know how a large business really works? It is not by baby sitting the employees and families.
- For the Support Children and Families, maybe work on creating a blueprint or support for parents that want to homeschool their kids
- Housing is a significant problem. The cost of living is too high. Not only for those receiving public assistance, but those who are outside that level of need. Oftentimes, those above the threshold also struggle with childcare, housing, and regular household maintenance. A lot of times, even those who are "middle class" find themselves having to prioritize needs because after everything, they barely make it pay check to pay check. There's such a focus on those in "the system" that increasing taxes, cost of living, childcare, amongst other needs has them at more of a disadvantage

Innovative Infrastructure

GOAL STATEMENT

We are committed to working with community partners to provide a multi-modal transportation network and reliable broadband service that encourages the use of modern technological advancements. Our goal is to promote pedestrian friendly environments that enhance the quality of life for residents and the experience of visitors. Meeting the needs of local businesses and attracting new ones is essential. As the County continues to grow and develop, we will ensure now and in the future that the necessary infrastructure meets the needs of the community.

STRATEGY 1: Promote a Multi-Modal Transportation Network.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Innovative Infrastructure	
Strategy 1: Promote a Multi-Modal Transportation Network.	%
Continue efforts to implement the Chenango County Coordinated Transportation Plan.	49%
Seek funding to develop new and expand existing walking trails/sidewalks and bike lanes for use of alternative transportation.	48%
Explore opportunities to raise funds, connections, and ridership for public transportation options between city, town, and village centers.	61%
Support transit-oriented development practices in the City of Norwich, villages, and hamlets.	38%
Identify best delivery routes for tractor-trailer traffic to decrease burden on local roads and infrastructure.	38%
Support the development of Active Transportation Plans and complete streets policy guidance in populations centers to foster more pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity.	22%
Promote NYS 511 Program to serve residents and commuters with information about transportation services and conditions.	17%

Answered: 95. Skipped: 78

STRATEGY 2: Expand Broadband Access.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Innovative Infrastructure	
Strategy 2: Expand Broadband Access.	%
Continue to implement and extend quality and reliable broadband services throughout the County and the last mile	84%
Expand access and services using electronic and fiber optics networks.	75%
Consider and prepare for cybersecurity needs of utility infrastructure investments that move to "cloud based" management (e.g. off-site metering of water/sewer facilities).	40%
Develop digital literacy and cybersecurity programming to help residents better access, navigate, and utilize online resources.	35%
Connect local businesses and entrepreneurs with online marketing and tech resources to expand accessibility for residents and visitors.	31%

Answered: 95. Skipped: 78

STRATEGY 3: Maintain Quality Utility Infrastructure.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Innovative Infrastructure	
Strategy 3: Maintain Quality Utility Infrastructure.	%
Consider supporting diversification of energy generation and supply models county-wide (i.e. utilizing commercial properties to generate energy rather than agricultural lands).	42%
Consider regional wastewater treatment facility to compost septic, organic waste, and wastewater sludges for beneficial reuse.	42%
Incentivize the installation of solar panels above parking areas and rooftops.	42%
Pursue certification in NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program to open up additional clean energy infrastructure planning and implementation funding opportunities.	41%
Develop and/or update local alternative energy system (solar, wind, battery storage, etc.) regulations to guide investment, where appropriate.	27%
Work with New Energy New York programming to expand energy generation and promote industry expansion.	23%
Provide more electric vehicle charging stations (Level 2 and/or Level 3 service) at key destination points like parks and the airport.	20%
Continue to evaluate appropriate sites for alternative energy facilities, such as large-scale solar.	16%
Encourage participation in community choice aggregation and demand response programs.	6%

Answered: 95. Skipped: 78

Innovative Infrastructure

Do you have any thoughts or feedback on these strategies and actions?

- Develop SMALL scale wind and water power (GET AWAY FROM SOLAR!!!!!!). We have streams in Chenango County that USED to provide electricity (Plymouth)!!! We are using wind power & gravity fed irrigation on our farm to pump water and irrigate our fields!!!!!!
- Don't forget what makes money in the name of bunny hugging.
- Locate solar development on commercial properties, over parking lots, on rooftops, closed landfills, etc rather than on agricultural land or in natural areas.
- Do not promote or support industrial wind turbine projects as they are inefficient and will destroy the quality of rural living and provide virtually no meaningful benefits to the host community.
- We need more adequate cell phone coverage For all carriers.
- Complete Streets programs will allow the elitists to feel good about themselves - while removing auto lanes from use by those who are productive members of the community
- Stop ruining our rural areas with solar panels. Use the parking areas and rooftops un the cities and towns.
- I don't like seeing beautiful fields/land covered with solar panels. I like the idea of solar panels on top of building roofs.
- No more solar farms!
- Work with NYSEG to increase resilience and capacity of our electric grid/network.
- Green energy is great but using land where houses could be built or could be used for agricultural or manufacturing sites isn't the best use of the land. Consider building small parking garages in Norwich so that some of the larger lots can be repurposed for development
- Our area seniors need viable transportation options as MLT and A&D are unreliable, leave them stranded and this impacts their healthcare needs. I see this all the time in my professional life and I feel its a travesty. I left multiple messages at The Office of the Aging as a professional and they never bothered to return a single call I made.
- Support famers with bio-digester installations. Solar is not efficient enough yet, don't waste taxpayer money on its use/installation until the efficiency is > 70%. Also, remember whatever "sustainable" energy source is determined to be installed/used there needs to be a long-term look at what the plan is to do with the waste generated from them (i.e. old solar panels, windmill blades). Along with the reality that most of the recourses needed to build the "sustainable" energy source is less sustainable then using oil to begin with. Lets be smart about picking and choosing sustainable energy sources.
- Plant trees as oppose to investing in toxic solar power and alternative energy technologies which are far more devastating to the environment than traditional gas/oil/coal. Forbid solar farms due to the fact that they are forever destructive to the land and water, kill off wild life and provide a small life span while giving a small amount of energy.
- "Fast speed internet development strategy should be multi-pronged. As the technology of satellite broadband enters the market it should be included (at least at a pilot level deployment). Also, with ""IoT"" becoming more and more common place and necessary to manage data/information, networks that support these devices for various industries (especially outdoor activities like agriculture and forestry where connectivity is remote/non-

existent).

- For infrastructure: we should encourage more micro-type PV solar installations for individual home owners to gain more energy independence (via nyseg credits). The industrial scale deployments are fine but have very few financial beneficiaries while smaller scale deployments democratizes and provides more autonomy for solar energy"
- If climate change is in fact an "existential threat" then the state should be willing to utilize state land (or allow the counties to do so) for renewable energy projects instead of offering unrealistic rewards to poor, rural communities who agree to these projects only because they think they will reap great financial rewards and jobs (which never materialize). I am absolutely disgusted by the way the county has handled the High Bridge wind project and I think the entire process, from the state-level down, is grossly negligent and rife with nepotism. If the county is going to be transparent about alternative energy opportunities, then the county should drive the state to do a realistic survey of sites which are BEST SUITED for these projects because those sites will provide the highest energy production in the long run, not because they will be cheapest for the industry.
- Technological literacy is often considered a need for older populations, however is quite necessary for the younger groups as well. Many school-based technology programs are either no longer in use or involve only part of the very basics, even during my time learning in the 2000s and early 2010s. I believe this would be important to keep in mind while developing the aforementioned programming.
- No
- Get rid of these pie in the sky eco warrior dreams and get down to building a viable economy in this area. If you do, all of the social problems will take care of themselves. Further, green energy is a lie. Without tax money none of these projects, either solar or wind, are economically feasible. Stop spending money on social and green issues and get back to creating an environment that is lucrative to heavy business. This is the only way to save this county from becoming a huge retirement home as well as a county full of section 8 housing and the crime problems that are associated with many of the people who are in these programs.
- Does this plan include getting away from agencies like NYSEG and their expensive, inconsistent, and questionable billing? Support agencies like Sherburne Electric to provide more affordable services to the rest of the county??

Economic Opportunity

GOAL STATEMENT

Chenango County will continue to work with local and regional partners to grow existing businesses, establish new businesses, expand tourism, and attract investors and people from outside the county to ensure goods and services that the community requires are available and attainable. It is essential to foster a healthy economy that provides a wide array of employment opportunities for our residents and supports the growth of business and industry from within our community.

STRATEGY 1: Develop our Workforce.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Economic Opportunity	
Strategy 1: Develop our Workforce.	%
Create partnerships with educational programs like BOCES and SUNY Morrisville to promote specialty and higher education opportunities within the County.	76%
Support efforts to diversify entertainment, cultural events, and other amenities that will retain and attract the workforce needed to grow the economy.	53%
Identify and promote pathways for manufacturing careers that are in-demand by the private sector.	48%
Encourage regional educational Institutions to identify ways to expand educational programs and services making them more effective and accessible for residents (e.g. with the use of technology).	36%
Pilot industry-led workforce training initiatives to expand across the county.	35%
Engage with statewide resources, like NYS Economic Development Councils, to access training and networking opportunities in and around the county.	31%

Answered: 95. Skipped: 78

STRATEGY 2: Promote Chenango County as a Destination.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Economic Opportunity	
Strategy 2: Promote Chenango County as a Destination.	%
Expand lodging options and event spaces to draw local and regional interest and special event offerings (e.g. hotels, wedding venues).	54%
Develop a Rail Trail through the County and support agri-tourism.	48%
Develop a County-wide Tourism Plan to ensure a cohesive approach to implementation of these actions and new opportunities.	33%
Leverage anchor events like Taste Chenango to cross-promote other activities in the region and direct visitors to the upcoming events.	33%
Utilize outdoor recreational assets as a method to attract more visitors.	29%
Connect with regional metro tourism agencies to market Chenango as a rural getaway alternative or a day trip in both NY and PA.	22%
Create enhanced “day trip” experiences for visitors that connect the City and nearby villages and towns.	18%
Provide digital and physical material to demonstrate how to spend a weekend/day in Chenango County.	16%
Assist local farms to partner with tourist destinations in the development of weekend vacation packages.	15%
Use a large regional event as an opportunity to learn about the market and conduct a quick visitor survey to get real-time information on clientele.	9%

Answered: 91. Skipped: 82

STRATEGY 3: Support Local Businesses.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Economic Opportunity	
Strategy 3: Support Local Businesses.	%
Prioritize business retention and expansion efforts with existing businesses across the County.	66%
Investigate the feasibility of a business incubator program that can assist smaller local businesses with start-up and ongoing success.	54%
Regularly engage the business community to gather real-time feedback on their experiences and opportunities in the sectors. Ensure that a cross-sector of businesses is represented throughout the engagement.	42%
Assist the local business community in a process that will allow them to define a “community vision” for the economic future of Chenango County.	33%
Increase awareness of succession planning tools, and if demand is present, seek ways to match exiting business owners with the next generation of ownership.	22%
Leverage the existing local economic development groups around the county to align regional and local efforts.	19%
Brand the Chenango County community, highlighting broadband access along with lively downtown and authentic local amenities.	16%
Connect with small and medium-sized businesses and maintain a record of what information is collected as part of the visit or digital outreach.	13%
Create peer learning networks to demystify internet sales and marketing.	5%

Answered: 91. Skipped: 82

STRATEGY 4: Grow Economic Development Infrastructure.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Economic Opportunity	
Strategy 4: Grow Economic Development Infrastructure.	%
Work with regional economic development leaders who can help identify opportunities spinning out from Micron and the supply chain/workforce needs. Promote what role Chenango County is poised to play within a 5-, 10-, or 20-year timeframe.	47%
Continue to foster manufacturing, agricultural production, food/beverage manufacturing as the County's target sectors.	45%
Define the message for what role Chenango County plays in the regional economy and the sectors of industry that are well-suited to grow based on the existing industry mix. Use market data to make the case for the business environment in the county.	36%
Designate a project development team that can shepherd emerging economic development projects through a process of preparing them for CFA and other funding opportunities.	36%
Identify publicly owned land that could be suitable for expansion or new projects. Identify what infrastructure exists and what is lacking on each site and pursue feasibility studies to advance the project-readiness of the sites.	33%
Evaluate with Southern Tier REDC leaders how Chenango County can support the region's five investment pillars.	22%
Create an inventory of "shovel-ready" sites to attract new business and industry.	22%
Determine what parcels will become viable as business opportunities as water/wastewater infrastructure is expanded in Norwich.	19%
Bring in speakers or visiting economic developers to discuss the long-term potential of Micron to this region.	7%

Answered: 91. Skipped: 82

Economic Opportunity

Do you have any thoughts or feedback on these strategies and actions?

- Commerce Chenango needs an attitude change. Along the lines of: forward, supportive, promotional.
- What is "Micron"??? Keep in mind 1/2 the farms still do not have adequate internet or cell phone service to keep current or to do "text messaging"!!!
- A good first step would be to get rid of the abandoned houses... nothing says a 'lively downtown' and 'bring your business to Norwich' quite like a bunch of squatters cutting heroin in a home code enforcement hasn't visited in years.
- "Let's not limit our industries to manufacturing and agribusiness. Financial services, engineering, healthcare and education are vital too."
- Our job market is stunted and pays pennies to the dollar of nearby cities. I could move an hour away and make \$5 more an hour doing the same work. Why? We cannot retain quality professionals in our area when we cannot compete with nearby salary. This impacts education, medical resources, and so on. We should be working to expand local amenities- the bowling alley is such a waste. There needs to be more to draw people in and keep them. Everything buttons up here early on weekends. Families are traveling elsewhere to find things to do. Nothing to do unless you want to go to a bar. Young professionals find it an unfulfilling and underpaid area and leave.
- Ask local businesses what they need for success, sustainability and expansion. Lower taxes for businesses. Become a self-governed community by breaking away from state mandates as stated in the NYS constitution.
- I wonder if local small businesses would need this much support if it was regular practice in our culture that giant, billion-dollar companies paid their employees higher wages?
- Strategy 2 Provide digital and physical material to demonstrate how to spend a weekend/day in Chenango County: We could gameify or provide some other incentive, such as digital badges to show someone has completed all recommended activities, or other badges/keepsakes to represent completing certain individual or batches of activities.
- For tourism: Rail Trail, Rail Trail, Rail Trail!!!! Also for tourism: Have more of a regular social media presence with upcoming events in our local towns (ie festivals, concerts) with a ""press release"" every month. Also, after attending 4 towns forward and Bainbridge CoC meetings: leaders would love training in social media. A county effort to do this for our various CoC's could really help them!
- If you want Chenango County to be a "destination" you need to do something about the fact that much of it looks like a third-world country (and I have been to many of them in 29 years in the military) with vacant homes and farms, formerly beautiful old barns collapsing in on themselves, homeless drug abusers on the street corners etc, If you want people to come here there must be evidence of PRIDE in the community. People here have no hope and it shows. Relating to that, I am curious why you would focus on Micron (which is 90 minutes away) instead of looking at industry in the immediate area (Chenango and Delaware counties) such as Chobani, GE Aerospace, Amphenol, McDowell-Walker, Unalam, Golden Artists, Alvogen or even Mirabito and Preferred Mutual. We have industry in the local area. Why not partner with them to expand opportunities and bring a source of pride back to Chenango County? This is a BLUE COLLAR region. The development efforts need to acknowledge and serve this population.

- We should add the CleanTech Battery development, in addition to Micron, to the third initiative above.
- I am sure you do not need to be reminded that the education in Chenango County beyond high school is lacking. Whilst I believe that the opportunities offered by BOCES, SUNY Morrisville, and Cornell's extension in the area are great and should be encouraged to grow further, the net needs to be wider. BOCES has a variety of programs however, at least from my experience growing up here, is widely considered just where they send students who cannot make it in regular high school, while in reality that is only a side project essentially. Morrisville offers programs in agriculture and human resources almost exclusively in their Chenango County campus, and Cornell appears to focus on agriculture as well. As an agriculture-heavy area this is awesome, however as an individual who does not want to be involved in either of these fields, my only choice was to continue my education outside of Chenango County, and upon returning I found my opportunities lacking, something that I will attribute, not wholly but in most part, to the lack of these other skills in the area. I believe that more nearby educational institutions should be invited to participate nearby, even if they do not open buildings directly inside Chenango County and offer reliable pipelines to reach the skills that companies that will be encouraged to move here will want to see from their employees. I would point to how Wolfspeed in Utica has fostered their partnership with the nearby schools as an example of how this can build that path.
- No
- Need to work to reduce flood prone lands and make lands developable along route 12
- "Shovel ready" is the biggest joke from the Obama era. Please do not ever use that term again. It is a farce that represents government wasteful spending on nothing. If I had friends coming from out of state to stay here where would they go? Most of the motels are full of section 8 housing. How on earth can you attract legitimate business people when you cannot even offer a decent room for them? What is wrong here is you in the county have created a haven for deadbeats, drug addicts and criminals who all sop up off the system at the expense and safety and security of the tax paying residents. Get these bums out of here. Foster more jobs and make the choice of living off the teat of government or working an honest job one that the job always wins. I hate parking in town because of the thefts that go on. I worry about strangers on my road because in the last few years, rural thefts and violence has gone up massively. This used to be a safe place, Chenango County. Now it is full of drugs, violence and unsavory people. Put the citizens back to work. Stop driving businesses out with excessive regulations. Get the no bail laws repealed. Bring law and order here and we will prosper as a haven that is safe and a proper place to make a living.
- There are so many vacant, deteriorating buildings that could be used for so much good. I like the plan of keeping small businesses while desperately correcting the numerous 'eye sores'.

Sustainable Living & Rural Environment

GOAL STATEMENT

We are committed to investing in our towns, villages and the city in a manner that revitalizes our communities while sustaining the beauty and value of our natural and rural environment. Over time, Chenango County will strive to make public and private investment decisions that protect our natural resources, foster resiliency in our citizens and our lands, and enhance the livability of the places we call home. We will continue to support the local agricultural industry, recognizing its role in building economic opportunity, protecting soils, and maintaining our bucolic and pastoral setting. It is our responsibility to make mindful decisions that capitalize on these environmental assets while reducing our impact and conserving lands for future generations.

STRATEGY 1: Promote Sustainable Living Practices.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Sustainable Living & Rural Environment	
Strategy 1: Promote Sustainable Living Practices.	%
Promote and seek funding for clean technology upgrades to residential and commercial properties (e.g. heat pumps, geothermal, etc.)	44%
Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a Countywide program to reduce waste, including household recycling, hazardous waste recycling, composting, and farm waste reduction programs.	31%
Pursue certification in NYSERDA's Climate Smart Communities program to open up additional climate action planning and implementation funding opportunities.	28%
Provide training to community officials and board members on environmental policies and land use best practices.	28%
Promote collaboration between neighboring municipalities for shared sustainable waste management practices.	24%
Provide education and resources on the conversion from lawn space to native plantings and/or low or no-mow lawns.	23%
Support and promote repair cafes and reuse centers.	19%
Provide guidance on green infrastructure implementation and consider incentives for incorporation of green infrastructure in public and private projects like development bonuses, grant funding, and awards and recognition programs.	17%
Identify grants and educational resources for businesses and homeowners to install rainwater collection and graywater systems.	16%
Develop a County-wide Climate Action Plan to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and identify necessary climate mitigation measures.	13%
Support shift to electric small equipment and tools (leaf blowers, lawn mowers).	12%
Promote conversion to LED lighting and help coordinate bulb trade-in programs.	10%
Develop a Green Procurement Policy and support the implementation of green building code practices.	6%
Educate and encourage consumers and businesses to use reusable products, like refillable containers, the reuse or up-cycling of used goods, goods repair, etc.	6%

Answered: 86. Skipped: 87

STRATEGY 2: Support the Viability of Agriculture.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Sustainable Living & Rural Environment	
Strategy 2: Support the Viability of Agriculture.	%
Promote a branding campaign for products grown or produced in Chenango County.	59%
Ensure local land use regulations provide reasonable protections to agricultural lands from development pressures and protect the right-to-farm.	58%
Continue efforts to implement the Chenango County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Program.	52%
Secure funding through the NYS Climate Resilient Farming program to increase sustainable farming practices, such as biomass plantings, cover cropping, and upgraded irrigation systems/reservoirs.	40%
Continue administration of the Agricultural District Program through NYS Agriculture and Markets.	31%
Pursue new biofuel options in the agricultural industry to ensure sustainable development.	20%

Answered: 86. Skipped: 87

STRATEGY 3: Protect Natural Resources and Increase Environmental Resiliency.

Choose **up to 3 initiatives** you feel most strongly about.

Sustainable Living & Rural Environment	
Strategy 3: Protect Natural Resources and Increase Environmental Resiliency.	%
Encourage the redevelopment of underutilized sites and direct development near existing infrastructure to reduce pressure on undeveloped lands and green space.	38%
Identify opportunity areas for expanding public access along the Chenango River.	31%
Continue to work with local environmental and conservation organizations to educate local decision makers and residents on environmental stewardship efforts that apply to their geographical region (i.e. watersheds, forestry).	30%
Coordinate land use management efforts between municipalities to help direct development towards existing infrastructure.	24%
Track severe weather events and impacts to community services, property values, and cost of infrastructure maintenance/repairs.	24%
Support programs to increase tree cover, establish tree canopy goals across the County, and consider creating a tree fund, prioritizing planting trees in vulnerable areas.	23%
Ensure local land use regulations prohibit inefficient development patterns and fragmentation of open space. Consider additional regulations that protect environmentally sensitive features and scenic vistas.	22%
Support programs to conserve more land in collaboration with land trust organizations and conserve more wooded lots.	21%
Support municipalities in participating in and securing funding through the NYS Brownfield Opportunity Area Program, where applicable.	19%
Create policies for the removal and/or relocation of impervious surfaces and buildings in floodplains, wetlands, or other areas prone to flooding. Prohibit replacement of such infrastructure in vulnerable areas.	16%
Identify opportunity areas for ecorestoration that could increase biodiversity and offset or sequester greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. restore wetlands on unused agricultural lands).	15%
Inventory large impervious surface areas and consider alternative development practices to reduce stormwater run-off.	10%

Answered: 86. Skipped: 87

Sustainable Living & Rural Environment

Do you have any thoughts or feedback on these strategies and actions?

- Planning department Needs an every 5yr State of the Environment assessment with prioritized plan recommendation.
- Get plant-based bio DIESEL (not gasoline) in the county AGAIN!!! Switch buses/tractors to biodiesel NOT electric! The technology is ALREADY well used and CHEAPER. We can grow willow, soy, sunflowers, etc. Solar is NOT sustainable and will contaminate our farm land!!!! Do NOT use municipal waste water for food production!!! This research was done in the 1980's!! NO to electric motors!! Go with biodiesel! The research was done in the 1970's!!!
- Education and appropriate treatment of Japanese knotweed is needed. You can see it taking over many areas along waterways.
- I have no words for the amount of silliness and virtue signaling by those who have never worked outdoors in rural America to just get by, entertaining such lofty government programs that *if* they get off the ground will fail... the say way every elected leadership fails our county. At least the elite can feel good about it though...
- Drinking water should be the purest form possible, going far beyond accepted limits but as clean as possible. Zero fluoride because it's industrial waste and not beneficial for human consumption.
- The "hydrogen economy" is still in it's nascent stages but dedicating some county time/resources to pull any hydrogen infrastructure our way will help our odds of being part of any future pipelines which would then draw in more industries. NYS has released some money for investigating applications for hydrogen generation and infrastructure development. Would be a shame to pass on this while getting, in the long run, bypassed with pipelines being built in corridors not including Chenango county
- Bring more industry opportunity to Chenango county to open up the job market in this region to tech, and creative pursuits.
- No
- None of the liberal agenda items on these pages ever create wealth and opportunity. They are all government managed boondoggles that waste money and have little if any positive effects on the environment or energy sector. The tone of this questionnaire is so embedded in the democrat agenda that I believe if followed it will lead to the ruin of what little is left to this once prosperous county. In the 23 years I have been here I have seen many industries leave creating massive holes in our workplace where people cannot find decent jobs as a result. This is due to excessive taxation and regulation at both the local and state levels. These are the obstacles to the rejuvenation of this area. Going green will not fix the lack of quality career jobs in this area except for those who are employed by the government. Everyone else pays these people at their detriment. While most of the liberals detest industry barons who created our nation, it is these people whose vision and desire to create and build that put our nation and this county on the map. Now, you are walking away from these concepts and dreams and adopting eco policies that will do nothing to help bring jobs to this community. Fast food jobs are not ever meant to be family supporting and they do nothing to improve the lifestyles of the community. We need industries that use railroads to haul in raw materials and haul out finished products. We need infrastructure that makes their existence in the regulatory hell easier. From what I can tell you are moving this county into being a bedroom community for jobs outside our county and also a rest home for the elderly as well as a haven for the homeless and drug users and criminals. If you do not act to try to change this, this will continue until no one

can afford the taxes here and you will see another 5 thousand people leave in the next census and the one after that and the one after that. You either lead the county to prosperity or you lead us to hell. Green policies do not bring any prosperity except to those who are employed or own them.

- Should be implementing large flood prevention projects instead of removing developed buildings and lots unless those areas can be replaced elsewhere where not prone to flooding
- No mow lawns, seriously, how?? Policy on people buying land, logging it, then selling the property after they destroy the land and cause significant emissions issues, flooding from the topography being changed (don't know how but it's happening, need an environmental expert for that one), and loss of animal habitats?

