

**APPENDIX B
Public Comments and Responses**

The County received over 300 comments on the Draft Comprehensive Plan during its October outreach efforts. It is important to note that most (but not all) of these comments were received at the open houses held in the community where posters summarizing information from the Plan were displayed. So, some commenters saw only the summary information and not the entire chapter.

Each comment is shown below and the response provided. Similar comments are grouped together. The identity of commenters is shown when the comments were submitted by an organized group. The identity of individual commenters is not shown, even if the commenter provided their name. When a commenter submitted multiple comments, they were assigned an identification number.

Significant substantive changes to the Draft Plan are shown first. Following are the comments and responses organized by Chapter. General comments and formatting/grammatical comments are shown last.

Commenters

	<i>Organized Groups</i>		
AFP	Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board	EMC	Environmental Management Council
CC	Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	ERC	EMC Environmental Review Committee
COG	Tompkins County Council of Governments	HSP	Housing Strategy Partners
CP	Conservation Partners	LP	Local Planning Staff
COG	Tompkins County Council of Governments	RP	Tompkins County Republican Party
ED	Economic Development Collaborative	WRC	Water Resources Council
	<i>Individuals</i>		
C#	Commenter Submitting Multiple Comments	SC	Single Commenter
E#	Email Comment Multiple Comments	OFA	Individual at Office for the Aging Public Hearing
LEG	Individual Legislator		

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CHANGES TO PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES		
Amend Housing Principle to Include Energy Efficiency		
COMMENT 1	pg 11 - Principles of Comp Plan - Housing is affordable, safe and appealing and energy efficient	C20
RESPONSE	<p>The Housing Principle was amended to include energy efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Principle: Tompkins County should be a place where housing is affordable, safe, and appealing. • Final Principle: Tompkins County should be a place where housing is affordable, safe, energy efficient, and appealing. 	
Change the Energy Principle		
COMMENT 2	Seems like having an adequate supply of energy should come before a climate neutral supply in the principle	CC
RESPONSE	<p>The Principle in the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Chapter was amended to include the need to have an adequate supply of energy within the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Principle: Tompkins County should be a place where the energy system is climate neutral. • Final Principle: Tompkins County should be a place where the energy system meets community needs without contributing additional greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. <p>In addition, the text was re-ordered so that the discussion of energy use comes before Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions.</p>	
Add Policy to Address the Needs of Transportation-Insecure		
COMMENT 3	Can there be a <u>policy</u> that prioritizes transportation investments for the ‘transportation insecure’ – young people, children, people without cars, elderly, and especially low-income families with children in rural areas. (Currently no <u>policy</u> deals with question of equity directly).	C11
COMMENT 4	I think it’s important to pay attention to the needs of rural residents. In addition to fixed-route what is possible as a systematic approach to meeting public transit needs.	C12
RESPONSE	<p>The Transportation Chapter includes more information on the needs of the transportation-insecure, primarily people who have limited access to transportation choices - young people, people without cars, elderly, low-income people, people with physical and mental challenges, and people living in rural areas. In addition, a new policy would be added to the Transportation Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Policy: Consider the needs of populations that are particularly challenged by transportation when developing systems and alternatives. 	
Clarify the Policy on Invasive Species		
COMMENT 5	Why are invasive species necessarily bad? With climate change, perhaps these recent arrivals perform valuable functions.	SC
COMMENT 6	Change the third policy to read: Reduce the adverse impacts to native species and ecosystems caused by invasive organisms, pesticide use, and climate change.	LEG
RESPONSE	<p>The policy change clarifies that invasive organisms are not always the result of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Policy: Reduce the adverse impacts to native species and ecosystems caused by climate change, including invasive organisms. • Proposed Policy: Reduce the adverse impacts to native species and ecosystems caused by invasive organisms and climate change. <p>Also, see additional language in Unwelcome Visitors section of Natural Resources chapter.</p>	

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OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES		
	Add Foreword to Plan that Discusses Rural/Urban Impacts	
COMMENT 7	Overarching principle – looking out for rural landowners (Broaden the idea so people are as important as the rest of it.) All residents matter/ every resident matters.	C19
RESPONSE	A Foreword was added to explain how the principles, policies and actions of the Comprehensive Plan can contribute to a positive future for both urban and rural residents of the County.	
	Provide New Language in the Introduction	
COMMENT 8	<p>On June 27, the Tompkins County Republican Party, speaking through Chairman James Drader, issued its official position concerning possible revisions in the County comprehensive plan. In an Ithaca Journal column, June 17, Ed Marx, Tompkins County Commissioner of Planning, made several assumptions of the issues facing Tompkins, sentiment of its residents, and assumed consensus.</p> <p>From June through October of 2014, we have seen no effort by the County to take into account the views of Tompkins Republicans regarding the plan. The Tompkins County Republican Party represents a substantial portion of the voters registered in a political party in this county.</p> <p>Republican Chairman Drader previously said, "The posing of the questions to be considered suggests that the answers follow a politically correct agenda dominated by environmental interests over development and job growth. The questions suggest their own answers, those planners want to hear. They are designed to steer the outcome into a pre-ordained mold, subordinating individual choices to government control.</p> <p>"Theories on global warming and climate change are a license for advocates to try to force significant lifestyle changes, in line with the Agenda 21 and the Cleaner, Greener New York plans. Our Party favors individual freedom, personal choices, and property rights.</p> <p>In summary, our Party, representing a substantial portion of Tompkins County residents, believes planners are asking the wrong questions and addressing the wrong problems in the wrong way. The comprehensive plan should support development along the lines people choose for themselves. We want the County Legislature to shelve this plan, not in the details, but in its entirety.</p>	RP
COMMENT 9	The assumption that "planners" can design and provide the most desirable lifestyle for the most people is pure hubris. The only reason to make such an assumption would be to totally devalue the viability, indeed the necessity of individual decision making which, in a free society, is expanded not diminished. This document is nothing more or less than an attempt to have the government control everything. The selling point of this approach to regulating land use and every human behavior that occurs on land is to supposedly bring man into a state of existence where he will be the least harmful to the environment. The supposed wanton growth that has ensued in this country over the past 400 years and which threatens the very viability of the planet according to planning experts and supporters amounts to development of 3.4% to 5.2% of land in the continental United States and to about 10% of land in New York State.	E5
COMMENT 10	Private property concerns over expansive role of government	SC
COMMENT 11	Individuals should choose their own life styles. When government puts its heavy hand on the scales of what is a "good" or "bad" life style, it is no longer serving the people. We prefer freedom to the tyranny of the majority and heavy handed "protection."	RP
RESPONSE	Many residents of the County appreciate the vision presented in this plan but some fear that it can only be achieved by more regulation and what is perceived as increased intrusion by government into	

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OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES		
	their lives. The Foreword explains how local regulation has a role to play but that the County does not have such direct regulatory authority over most areas addressed in the plan and the plan relies heavily on voluntary actions by individuals and organizations that the County may be able to collaborate with.	
	Provide More Information on Overarching Principles and More on Social Equity	
COMMENT 12	The City and the Town have each addressed social equity. In the Town Plan it is primarily in the Economic Development section, but also throughout the plan. The City has a definition that they will share.	LP
COMMENT 13	We strongly favor economic development, with due regard to the environment as a factor, among others, in decision making. Consider Cuba, there is much "social equity" --- everyone is equally poor.	RP
COMMENT 14	How did the city deal with social equity?	C19
COMMENT 15	EQUITY should be the fourth overarching principle (or at least one of them).	C11
COMMENT 16	Congratulations on the draft, and thanks for all your work. I have one set of comments that I hope might lead to some changes in the final plan. The draft plan, and especially the section "Overarching Principles," leaves out one crucial emphasis. While it tackles Sustainability, Regional Cooperation, and Fiscal Responsibility, it omits prominent emphasis on Equity. Any adequate comprehensive plan needs to challenge the uneven development that so unfairly burdens households and individuals without funds, without good transit options, without funding for either home ownership or renting. Even many people with full-time jobs struggle with these difficulties. These are problems shared by city, town, and rural populations alike. They cannot and will not be answered by actions by the towns themselves or even the city - the County holds this responsibility, and the plan should be amended to acknowledge that fact, boldly and intelligently.	SC
COMMENT 17	Further, an essential goal of the plan is "social equity" which is discussed numerous times. It is part of the definition of sustainability, a pie-in-the-sky idea which would require extraordinary prescience to have even the slightest bit of meaning. Social equity is an impossible goal and attempts to achieve it always include the use of some kind of force. Social equity is enslavement since it declares that the labor of some and the fruits thereof do not belong to the laborer who is forced to relinquish it. This type of social construct, with which even the Pilgrims began their life on this continent but soon abandoned, has never worked anywhere. It is the antithesis of private property without which there can be no freedom.	E5
COMMENT 18	I wish that for each section of the plan these overarching principles were clearly identified and integrated - not just in the cover page for the section, but in the policies set forth. For example in many sections sustainability components are clear, but for example, not done for economic development and not as strong as it might be in housing section.	C20
COMMENT 19	Sustainability does not work well for two reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The way it is phrased it gives precedence to environmental concerns with resources being made available to present and future. • Sustainability has come to be seen as an environmental, hackneyed, term. Folks concerned about issues of justice and fairness don't see themselves in the word. [Happy to talk more] 	C11
RESPONSE	In the Draft Plan, the Overarching Principles were discussed in an introductory chapter and then as an introduction to the four sections of the plan. This material was moved into the Overarching Principles Chapter and additional information on the social equity aspects of the plan was more clearly identified in the discussion on sustainability.	
	Add Action Items to the Plan	
COMMENT 20	The Plan should also identify actions that need to be taken by others in the community, not just those by the county.	LEG
COMMENT 21	Wanted to document to go further in terms of identifying actions. Maybe just bulleting the list of next	WRC

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OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES		
	steps to pull them out from the text and highlighting future actions better in the chapter would suffice.	
COMMENT 22	The Streams Committee reviewed the section on Water Resources and, if I can encapsulate its feeling correctly, felt that it lacked specificity. Action points should be bulleted. The reference to the Tompkins County Water Quality Strategy is insufficient.	E7
COMMENT 23	It's surprising not to see some form of timeline with objectives or specific goals to accompany the 'strategies.' Each should be added.	C4
COMMENT 24	The strategies are not specific enough.	LP
COMMENT 25	Incorporate a bulleted list of action items in each chapter or something to identify specific next steps more clearly.	LP
COMMENT 26	A "plan" needs to be just that – something to accomplish over a specific period of time, and that includes, where possible, goals and steps to reach those goals. Recall: this has been a serious criticism of the NYS energy plan. There is a difference between a "vision" and a "plan."	LEG
COMMENT 27	The Comprehensive Plan should include goals, objectives, action items, and a timeframe to take action.	LEG
COMMENT 28	We have reviewed the current draft of the County Comprehensive Plan update and in general we were pleased with the breadth of the issues discussed, the emphasis on preserving our environment, and the background material provided for each topic. However, the plan is so generally written that it has the feel of a vision or educational piece rather than a plan. The ERC was looking for more specifics in the comprehensive plan itself, to include goals and specific action steps to achieve those goals.	ERC
RESPONSE	The plan was amended to include specific action steps for the County to take immediately to implement the Plan.	
Expand Discussion of Needs of People with Disabilities		
COMMENT 29	The county's economic and workforce development entities and their strategies should be more disability cognizant, and to the extent possible the county should support workforce strategies which get people with disabilities, irrespective of "severity" into, integrated, competitive, and minimum wage/living wage jobs.	C12
COMMENT 30	In the principle about access be explicit about access for people with disabilities and that the county is willing to invest the intellectual and financial resources to improve access.	C12
COMMENT 31	In the principle about access be explicit about access for people with disabilities and that the county is willing to invest the intellectual and financial resources to improve access.	C12
RESPONSE	Several chapters of the Plan were amended to more specifically address the needs of people with disabilities.	
Address Wealth Retention		
COMMENT 32	Unstated policy – wealth retention in Tompkins County	C8
COMMENT 33	Define sustainable economy – trading of wealth (time to resurrect [?]) sustainable is no wealth leaving, no wealth hoarded. Tompkins County must make wealth retention within Tompkins County a priority. Will impact big box stores and other non-locally owned business. Also must create minimum wage that is a living wage so everyone can participate in economy – i.e., have wealth to trade. Minimum living wage plays a role in "affordability calculation" Economy principle is not economic "prosperity" but economic "participation."	C8
COMMENT 34	Moment is now to capture wealth of older residents for philanthropic purposes.	C5
COMMENT 35	Define sustainable economy – trading of wealth (time resources) not hoarding; local economy – focus on wealth retention – less big box and income tax; minimum wage living wage so person can participate (helps consumers and producers) Also is part of "affordable" equations.	C8
RESPONSE	The Economy Chapter includes expanded discussion of the benefits of focusing on wealth retention within the County and possible ways to encourage additional retention.	

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OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES		
Discuss the Connection Between Jobs and Renewable Energy		
COMMENT 36	<p>The County still suffers from lack of economic demand – which is a nationwide malady. One way to partly remedy this ailment and also stem the export of money out of the county (and resultant job loss) could be a sensible renewable energy-economic growth policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime unused assets: pumped hydroelectric energy storage (PHES); wind energy; biomass • Prime manufacturing/agriculture potential: biomass to liquid fuels; biomass growth, biomass to heat and electricity; heat pump manufacture/installation (replaces natural gas, oil, propane) • This can be done via spending taxpayer money on local vs. imported fuels and via county/municipal/NYPA owned wind turbine arrays and PHES units (plural). <p>Potential job creation approximately 6,000 to 10,000 jobs. Needs low cost FINANCING!</p>	C2
COMMENT 37	Economic development – It should be an explicit policy of the County to encourage development using job-rich sources of renewable energy rather than fossil fuels which are both capital rather than people-intensive, polluting and promote climate disruption with global warming.	C4
COMMENT 38	Tie in concept of green jobs from energy, efficiency, renewables, etc. To support efforts to reduce/eliminate poverty.	SC
RESPONSE	The Economy Chapter includes additional language on the potential for job development in the renewable energy sector and how such jobs can promote multiple policies within the plan.	
Opportunities for Business Incentives and Support		
COMMENT 39	Need an additional policy in the economy section that deals with incentivizing behaviors we want to see, concern is that we keep adding “confines” to business and development but don’t discuss incentives adequately	CC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Quality of Life and Growth.	
Add Discussion of the Relationship Between Rental Housing and Energy Efficiency		
COMMENT 40	The tight housing market is a primary issue; landlords have little incentive to improve the quality and energy efficiency of units given extremely low vacancy rates. More beds for students is a step in the right direction if they result in a net gain of units for the community. We should encourage more of any kind of construction to ease the vacancy rate.	HSP
COMMENT 41	Improving Energy Efficiency (p. 82): Ithaca has, relatively speaking, a low percentage of home ownership rates, and high rental rates. Many of these units are also old and energy inefficient. The incentive for non-resident owners and renters to make energy improvements is often minimal. This may leave vulnerable populations in difficult circumstances as energy costs rise. As climate change continues there will be more 90+ degree days in summer and a corresponding greater need/desire for air conditioning. As energy improvements are proposed and implemented some consideration may be necessary of limitations imposed on building envelopes in historic districts.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Housing Chapter includes language about the importance and challenges of upgrading the high proportion of rental housing in the county to be more energy efficient.	
Add More Information on the Quality of Housing		
COMMENT 42	Need to call out issue of the poor quality of much of the local housing stock, especially that of rental and affordable units, because choices are poor and code enforcement is inconsistent.	HSP
COMMENT 43	Home maintenance concern – with the economic downturn, people are stretched too thin financially to undertake home maintenance and the growing population of seniors and 1-person households have trouble undertaking home repairs themselves.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Housing Chapter includes additional information on the quality of the existing housing stock in the county. See Housing Supply.	
Add More on the Need to Provide Middle-Income Housing		
COMMENT 44	Missing the middle of the housing market – more emphasis needs to be placed on this lack, particularly in the city.	LP

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OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES		
COMMENT 45	Focus more on the need for more middle income housing which is becoming scarce in the urbanized area without any significant new units being added. All development seems to be either high end single family or subsidized affordable units for income-eligible households.	ED
COMMENT 46	There is no clear strategy to help those above the “middle” income range who also struggle with housing costs.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Housing Chapter clarifies the housing needs of various income levels. See Housing Affordability.	
Add Issue of Loss of Rural Transit Service		
COMMENT 47	The county needs to address the loss of rural transit systems due to the loss of Medicaid dollars.	OFA
COMMENT 48	Under bus service, include information on the latest about providing service to West Danby – van service?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Transportation Chapter provides additional information on the loss of rural transit in surrounding counties and the impacts on Tompkins County.	
Provide Explicit Discussion on a Funding Strategy for Conservation Efforts		
COMMENT 49	Suggestion to provide added specificity on proposed long term conservation funding strategy, not just strategy to develop strategy	CP
COMMENT 50	With Kingdom Farm listed for \$3 million and 100 acres near NYSEG listed for \$1 million, the funding conversation/plan? Should be a priority as the comp plan’s conservation goals won’t happen without a change in the funding picture.	E2
RESPONSE	The Natural Resources Chapter provides additional discussion on the need for a coordinated funding strategy for the protection of key natural lands.	
Identify Land Areas Needed to Provide Connectivity of Open Space Resources		
COMMENT 51	Open Space connectivity plan sorely needed some of the forested natural resource focus areas are isolated from one and another and not likely to hold up well to projected long term changes. Gap between Danby State Forest/gorge parks and Connecticut Hill is a particular gap that deserves attention.	E2
RESPONSE	The map of the Natural Features Focus Areas identifies areas that provide important connections between Focus Areas. See Also Fragmentation.	
Address Impact of Roadside Ditches on Water Quality		
COMMENT 52	Include information on Rebecca Schneider’s work on the significance of roadside ditches on watershed hydrology, especially in light of climate change and increasing storm intensity and frequency.	C10
COMMENT 53	Should include information on how roadside ditch clearing impacts downstream streams/watershed. (name withheld) will send link (see below) Rebecca Schneider’s research. Countywide planning issues – changes hydrology.	C10
COMMENT 54	At the Planning Department’s open house today on the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan we talked briefly about Rebecca Schneider’s work on the significance of roadside ditches on watershed hydrology. You seemed well aware of the general issue but not of Rebecca’s recent work on this topic. I’ve heard a couple of Rebecca’s talks in the past month which impressed on me how I had not fully understood the significance of the issue. Since I didn’t see specific mention of ditches in the County’s draft plan, I’m sending a link to one of Rebecca’s recent presentation slides http://cardi.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/training/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=1127789 Her talk was given at a conference on water and sewer infrastructure that CaRDI organized recently (see http://cardi.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/training/index-cdi.cfm). The slide show includes a summary of some survey work done of highway departments in NYS.	C10
COMMENT 55	In the introduction, include something about natural runoff in ditches that humans “improve” to the detriment of the system.	LEG

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COMMENT 56	We believe that some mention should be made in this section of the need to adopt best practices for roadside drainage systems. Many of our roadside drainage ditches are deep, unvegetated, and, in steep areas, have no check dams. The resultant sediment load finds its way quickly to our streams and our lake.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Water Resources Chapter includes a discussion of the impact of state, county, and municipal roadside ditches on water quality. See also the Adaptation Chapter/Protecting Natural and Physical Infrastructure.	
Identify Arsenic as an Issue in Public Drinking Water Supplies		
COMMENT 57	Some of the work the WRC has done over the past few years should be highlighted in this chapter, for example salt-levels and arsenic levels.	WRC
COMMENT 58	Include information about arsenic found in wells (details can be found in the WRC’s draft brochure.).	LEG
RESPONSE	The Water Resources Chapter includes a discussion of the natural occurrence of arsenic in the county’s groundwater.	
Address Energy Infrastructure Needs and Growth vs. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals		
COMMENT 59	Document states “energy infrastructure deficiencies” I assume fossil fuel infrastructure. Let’s change language to infrastructure opportunity for renewable. Fossil fuel use must stop.	C8
COMMENT 60	Add a paragraph to “Energy Infrastructure”: Many businesses and developers assume they need and must use natural gas. But the most recent climate change analyses (incl reference) make clear that to avoid reaching the out-of-control feedback of increased greenhouse gas emissions virtually all existing carbon-based fuel sources (gas, oil, natural gas, must remain in the ground. The best way to deal with this is to work with each individual business or developer to figure out how to substitute renewable based energy to meet their needs.	LEG
COMMENT 61	pg 36 Energy Infrastructure. Energy infrastructure <u>has a dual role with regard to economic development. An adequate energy infrastructure is necessary for</u> also plays a role in allowing certain job-creating projects and investments to move forward. <u>At the same time, development of distributed and other renewable energy systems creates jobs. State regulatory agencies and utilities play a lead role, but the local community can also be proactive in identifying and communicating energy needs and opportunities to ensure that growth in key sectors can occur. Deficiencies in our energy infrastructure have already impacted the ability of businesses to expand locally. The Energy Roadmap currently being developed will detail a path for transition to a renewable energy economy that supports local job growth while ensuring adequate energy supply to meet current energy needs as well as future growth. Local efforts to promote a strategic approach to energy infrastructure that considers both supply and demand solutions and is consistent with community energy and development location goals are important to achieving other goals for the local economy.</u>	126
COMMENT 62	Concern expressed about gas supply limiting new construction and what exactly “energy efficient housing” means. Efficiency shouldn’t make housing unaffordable; the Aurora Pocket Neighborhood and/or INHS examples could help illustrate this in the text. Emphasize need for adequate infrastructure in DFAs	HSP
COMMENT 63	Energy – Infrastructure deficiencies – I assume fossil fuels – change to opportunity for renewables. Climate change, must stop greenhouse gas emissions.	C8
COMMENT 64	Page 34 of the plan seems to recognize the importance of energy infrastructure in our community/economy... NYSEG is proposing to make improvements to the natural gas supply, so does this plan support improving the supply?	CC
COMMENT 65	Role of natural gas in our future questioned... don’t want to go towards renewables if it comes at too great a cost for our economy, housing, etc.	CC
COMMENT 66	We should not be adding any new fossil fuel infrastructure of any kind in order to avoid trap of dependency and wasted investment.	C17

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COMMENT 67	Add a sentence on the age of thermal infrastructure – maybe along these lines: “Much of this infrastructure is more than 50 years old Any expansion or modification of this infrastructure will lead the community to continue to rely on hydrocarbons which would work against our achieving climate neutrality.	LEG
COMMENT 68	The “root causes” for inaction on steps that result in big cost savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions are the continued expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and the notion that energy for development must come from fossil fuels. This should be admitted, made explicit. Strategies to foster development based on renewables should be detailed and linked to time-specific goals and objectives.	C4
COMMENT 69	Climate Impact Information. Shouldn’t the County be sharing information with the public and town officials on the impact of local infrastructure (i.e., natural gas infrastructure expansion) on the climate as well as vice versa as proposed in the draft Plan? (Reference is the Adaptation poster)	C4
COMMENT 70	Re Policy #3: Shouldn’t the Plan, the Legislature, and TCAD be promoting the use of renewables to generate energy at Cayuga Power Plant, to heat and “energize” development in Lansing and discouraging the “new markets” expansion of the Borger Compression plant to be consistent with #3.	C4
COMMENT 71	How does the Legislature’s tacit support for gasifying the Cayuga Power Plant, the West Dryden gas pipeline and Dominion’s expansion/alteration of the Borger Compressor station to handle more methane (typically frack gas) comport with its “Energy and Emissions” goals, objectives and policies as described in the draft plan?	C4
COMMENT 72	Based on current practices of the Legislature and TCAD in encouraging development based on methane rather than renewables. The county’s aspirations for carbon-neutrality and greenhouse gas reduction cannot and will not be met. Methane-based development means fewer jobs than reliance on renewables, more pollution, and a greater contribution to global warming.	C4
COMMENT 73	New industries (biomass to liquid fuels crops to food AND energy) require a known market; this can be provided by <u>long term</u> supply contracts eliminating price uncertainty and price insecurity is a key aspect to such capital intensive operations. It is via biomass growth and transport that most of the new job creation potential is centered upon. Most housing in Tompkins County uses fossil fuels for heat. This needs to be generally switched to ground sourced heat pumps dependent on renewable, affordable electricity (i.e., wind turbines, hydro, pumped hydro storage). Landing a heat pump manufacturing facility based on a steady demand for heat pumps (made affordable via low cost financing) would eliminate this fossil fuel demand.	C2
COMMENT 74	Encourage new development to incorporate alternative energy systems.	C18
COMMENT 75	Need for balance between long-term energy and greenhouse gas emissions goals and near-term efforts to create new jobs and housing.	ED
COMMENT 76	Need to take account of in-commuters in our GHG reduction goals and quantify, since improvements in housing, etc. might mean more move into Tompkins County and seemingly increase our emissions levels through population increases	CC
COMMENT 77	pg 26 The Economy <i>THIS SECTION NEEDS MUCH MORE INTEGRATION WITH SUSTAINABILITY GOALS, as well as regional coordination goals. Here are some thoughts on how to do this.</i> It is the policy of Tompkins Co to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Support the development of a green energy economy that creates local jobs and supports sustainability goals.</u> (this ties in to overarching goal of sustainability) • <u>Prioritize economic development that utilizes sustainable energy resources and minimizes growth of GHG consumption/emissions.</u> (this ties in to overarching goal of sustainability) • <u>Coordinate with neighboring communities, counties and regional organizations to ensure</u> 	C20

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	<u>synergistic regional economic development.</u> (This ties in to overarching goal of regional cooperation. I raise this because, for example, while converting to Cayuga to gas may preserve 30 jobs here, it could well be the straw that breaks Nucor's back, causing them to leave the state because of higher electric costs. Nucor employs over 250 people...)	
RESPONSE	The Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Chapter includes a discussion of the implications of continuing to build an energy infrastructure system that relies on fossil fuel energy sources. See new sections entitled Consider Energy and the Economy Together and Explore Infrastructure in Energy Focus Areas. Also, see The Economy chapter Energy Infrastructure.	

INTRODUCTION		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Public Outreach Efforts	
COMMENT 78	Also, efforts to acquaint citizens with this plan which will, by design, touch each and every resident of Tompkins County are pitiful to non-existent. There were 4 meetings attended by a total of 70 individuals out of a Tompkins County population of 101,570. There may be objections to this number because it includes children. But in a survey to critique the TC Plan conducted in the fall of 2013 there were 915 responses of .9% of the county population. Of these, a large number were from Participation in Government classes in four local high schools. The session with Planning Department officials I attended earlier this month in the TC Library also seemed poorly attended. This is a laughable attempt at having an informed electorate. Yet, this plan will be voted on nevertheless.	E5
COMMENT 79	such low survey response and what percent students.	C3
RESPONSE	Listening to Community Voices describes the considerable efforts to involve the public at three separate stages in preparing the Comprehensive Plan: defining the scope of the plan, commenting on the first draft of the Principles and Policies of the Plan, and in reviewing the Draft Plan. On-line surveys, written surveys, public presentations, open houses, and meetings with organizations and focus groups all helped shaped the contents of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan. Our email contact list for outreach included over 500 names, including municipal officials, advisory board members, and interested citizens. See appendix on the survey results.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 80	The “Principles of the Comprehensive Plan” mentions the county mission and vision statements. They should be included.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to include the mission and vision statements.	
COMMENT 81	Principles of the Comprehensive Plan (p. 9): The three overarching principles here should be made clear. The hierarchy should be made apparent to the reader.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Principles of the Comprehensive Plan.	
COMMENT 82	Define the purpose of the comprehensive plan.	LEG
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Plan. The broad purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is already included in the Plan. It includes a basic comprehensive description of Tompkins County, from its establishment to its current status with current issues and possible ways to address them identified.	
COMMENT 83	This section says the plan “outlines ways the community can address intermunicipal issues cooperatively.” Is that one of the purposes of the Plan?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Coordinating with Other Efforts.	

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OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Loss of taxpayer dollars	
COMMENT 84	Fiscal responsibility – taxpayer dollars are not in a closed system. Income tax at both Federal and State leave with infinitesimal amount returning. NYS Finance Law Section 54 [or 5&4] says 8% of income tax returns to local government – in fact > ¾% does in 2014. Federal Corporate tax decreases and NYS follows Federal so business taxes not collected.	C8
COMMENT 85	Fiscal responsibility – drain of income tax, Section 54; Federal Corporate Tax hardship need plan [?] by Tompkins County, but Tompkins County Lower [?] left to respond	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 86	Under Other Local Initiatives, add an example of an innovative solution. Also, give examples of sustainability initiatives at each of the three campuses.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Sustainability.	
COMMENT 87	Add an example to the first bullet on page 16 – the contract with Johnson Controls.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Sustainability.	
COMMENT 88	For other sources of income, identify fees and grants.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Fiscal Responsibility.	
COMMENT 89	Mention that Tompkins County established the first Health insurance consortium and identify the amount of tax dollars saved.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Fiscal Responsibility/Working with Other Levels of Government.	
COMMENT 90	Text refers to hydraulic fracturing; use the full correct phrase.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Regional Cooperation/Initiatives.	
COMMENT 91	Facilities Management and Workplace Environment Policy should include the word “healthful.”	LEG
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan. The policy adopted by the Legislature does not include the word “healthful.”	
COMMENT 92	Note that Tompkins County has many more in-commuters than out-commuters.	LEG
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan. The Plan already shows the numbers of in-commuters and out-commuters.	
COMMENT 93	Regional map could highlight the six surrounding counties.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 94	Maintaining infrastructure. There are new state regulations(?) requiring local governments to assess the value of capital assets, depreciate them, set up reserves to maintain them, etc.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 95	Identify examples of cooperative efforts between municipalities.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 96	There has been a re-focus at federal and state level on transportation projects to maintain infrastructure as it was originally built, not to build it the way it should have been done the first time.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 97	In addition, the financing and decision making processes involved in implementing a wide ranging plan portends the inception of regional action. Think Cleaner Greener New York from which this plan undoubtedly draws its direction. Regionalism effectively disenfranchises those whom it affect s because it enacts regulations and policies without regard for discrete political boundaries. While locally elected officials are answerable to a local electorate, regionalism is administered by appointed officials who are answerable to no constituent body. Another loss of freedom is the result.	E5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The Draft Plan talks about working cooperatively with other levels of government and with surrounding communities to address regional issues. It does not recommend	

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OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES		
	ceding control to regional organizations.	
COMMENT 98	The Overarching Principles are similar to those in the City Comprehensive Plan.	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	

THE ECONOMY		
Multiple Comments on the Same Subject		
Population/Jobs/In-Commuters Chart		
COMMENT 99	Chart of population/jobs/in-commuters mixes different data sources. Can this be done better?	LP
COMMENT 100	Population, Jobs, In-commuter graph not telling the story well! Show me the real numbers.	C14
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The chart was removed.	
Clarify Charts		
COMMENT 101	Implan pie charts, “over 100 million in sales” agriculture made more sales, 2012 in title misleading. Affects believability of other numbers – footnotes with \$71 million at least twice that for agriculture	C3
COMMENT 102	asked for clarification on graphics source information	AFP
COMMENT 103	commonly see figure of \$78M contributed to local economy from agriculture, #2 industry in the state (likely when combined with food industry) – ag is however clearly not our, or NYS’, #1 industry	AFP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The \$100 million reference in the text was amended to provide consistency between the table and the text.	
Transfer of Wealth		
COMMENT 104	Transfer of Wealth Study	C5
COMMENT 105	Local philanthropy/endowed funds as piece of local economy.	C5
COMMENT 106	Older Americans (living longer) accumulate, return, give; not so with younger generations.	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended in response to these comments. We believe the first comments refers to the Transfer of Wealth Study (2011) prepared by the Community Foundation. While interesting, the role of foundations is mostly outside the scope of this Plan.	
Individual Comments		
COMMENT 107	As you note on p. 27, underemployment is an issue in Tompkins County. It would be great if you would take that discussion one step further and point out the impact this has on those who possess the fewest qualifications and lowest-level work skills. As frustrating as it is to feel you can only find work for which you are over-qualified, it's a much bigger problem when you discover you can't find any job because all of the jobs for which you would be qualified are occupied by people who are over-qualified.	E3
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Jobs and Wages.	
COMMENT 108	I always worry a little that the living wage is thought of as something that would translate into real economic stability. Actually, anyone earning the current AFCU living wage will be housing-cost burdened by HUD standards. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual Out of Reach report, on the other hand, includes a calculation of the "housing wage", or the amount a worker would need to earn per hour in order to afford a unit at FMR. In 2014 for Tompkins County the housing wage for a studio apartment is \$14.79; for a one-bedroom it's \$18.13. That's considerably higher than our local "living wage" and might be worth noting, either in your section on Housing Affordability (p. 39) or in the section where you discuss the local living wage (p. 32).	E3
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to acknowledge that there are other ways of measuring living wage. See Prosperity for All.	
COMMENT 109	The introduction to the Economy, housing and transportation section should start with a sentence: The economy, housing, and transportation are inextricably linked.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	

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THE ECONOMY		
COMMENT 110	Explain what is meant by “economic diversity”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Key Sectors.	
COMMENT 111	In Prosperity for All, indicate that livable wage with and without benefits means health care benefits.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 112	Localization section, do we want to talk about local consumption more as well?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 113	Traded sectors left out of local sectors.	C3
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The charts differentiated between local sectors and traded sectors, with traded sectors defined as those sectors which “primarily sell their goods and services outside Tompkins County.”	
COMMENT 114	Household net worth in Tompkins County considerable!	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 115	Mention/maintenance [?] a portion [?] in local economic development funds for local non-profit organizations.	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 116	Social engagement/student volunteers forces [?]; have [?] food bank social justice interest	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 117	Technology transfer? Say another way?	C6
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Technology transfer is the accepted term and the text provides adequate context.	
COMMENT 118	#8 open and transparent – reconsider	C6
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 119	Using “living wage” can be misleading	C7
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The existing text provides an adequate description of the term.	
COMMENT 120	No substitute for community engagement	C7
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 121	Education – tax arrangement	C7
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 122	Policy #6 land based economy = creating wealth from land resources- sustainable means leaving soil in usable state; critical to increasing rural employment.	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. This is partially addressed in the Natural Resources Chapter.	
COMMENT 123	Principle not economic prosperity but economic participation	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Prosperity is seen as a stronger aspiration than participation.	
COMMENT 124	Policy – land-based rural economy=farming – critical to employment concern. Can occur in urban areas as well.	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 125	County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan 2014	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 126	recommended stressing agriculture as both an economic industry and also important land use	AFP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Various aspects of agriculture are addressed in The Economy chapter and in the Natural Resources chapter.	
COMMENT 127	should note that agriculture “pays its way” in terms of paying its share of taxes and not requiring as much in terms of services as other land uses	AFP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Many industrial and commercial land uses “pay their way”; calling out agriculture specifically is not appropriate.	

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THE ECONOMY		
COMMENT 128	The projected job gap is a major issue that is brought to light by this plan.	COG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 129	The introduction to the economy chapter should note that growth forever is not possible. It could be included in the introduction and/or elsewhere in this chapter as well.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 130	There should be a policy on regional self-sufficiency.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 131	Point out the limitations of the federal definition of poverty.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 132	When discussing unemployment, mention the people who have given up looking for work.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The definition for employment should be well understood by most readers. There is no sense that this is a major issue to highlight in Tompkins County.	
COMMENT 133	Suggested additions to “State Role in Economic Development” questioning whether START-UP NY and the REDC allocation of funding will work.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 134	Liked referring to supporting livable wages as “the moral underpinning of the economy”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 135	Under air service, mention the other airports in the region – Elmira, Binghamton, and Syracuse that serve county residents as well.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 136	Under Taking Action, include a summary of the Workforce Strategy. Mention if the Legislature adopted or accepted it.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 137	Don’t subsidize economic activity that supports sprawl. e.g., broadband in all rural areas, this has pros and cons.	C11
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The Plan encourages balancing the need to maintain and provide infrastructure in our communities with the need to control sprawl. The County Legislature also recognizes that broadband service has become an essential tool used in education, business, and communication in today’s society.	

HOUSING		
Multiple Comments on the Same Subject		
Aging Population		
COMMENT 138	Need some specific recommendations for senior housing so others can use the language to bolster grant applications.	HSP
COMMENT 139	State thinks we have enough nursing home beds when in reality we need more senior housing, especially for those in need of skilled nursing.	
COMMENT 140	Call out the diversity of communities in the county, for example, Caroline neither having nor wanting zoning.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Aging Population.	
Individual Comments		
COMMENT 141	Consider being more explicit about Fair Housing issues especially as local employers try to recruit a more diverse workforce.	ED
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Housing Supply.	

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HOUSING		
COMMENT 142	<p>HOUSING</p> <p>It is the policy of Tompkins County to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage a variety of housing options in development focus areas. 2. Support new development of housing whose total costs, including utility and transportation expenses, are affordable to households with a range of incomes. 3. Promote energy efficient housing <u>and use of distributed, renewable sources of heat and power generation.</u> 4. Provide housing options for an aging population. 5. Maintain an adequate supply of housing for people requiring supportive services. 6. Improve the <u>safety and energy efficiency of existing housing stock.</u> 	C20
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended, in part. The Housing Principle was amended to include energy efficiency. Improvements to the housing stock, while including safety and energy efficiency, also include other aspects, such as accessibility and other quality issues. So that policy was not changed.	
COMMENT 143	<p>ALSO ADD SOMEWHERE IN HOUSING SECTION something along these lines...</p> <p><u>Although the County cannot dictate land uses or building codes, it should provide incentives for owners and developers who prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. It may also consider penalties for new development that adds to the County's GHG footprint.</u></p>	C20
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Energy Efficient Housing.	
COMMENT 144	Plan should specifically encourage continuation of the Housing Fund, not take its continued existence for granted, and encourage pursuing other funding strategies such as the National Housing Trust Fund (should it ever be funded) and having some of the settlements with the banking industry go towards affordable housing assistance.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Housing Affordability and Taking Action/County Role.	
COMMENT 145	Mention safe havens, halfway houses, the housing insecure when talking about supportive housing.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 146	Spoke to staff. The background for the supportive housing principle should recognize that the housing market is different and that the state underfunds rental stipends for people in disability-related supportive housing.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 147	Focusing on 2 segments, students and seniors, would free up housing for working families and others, but something needs to happen to facilitate the transition of housing these groups move out of to others in the community needing these units.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Housing Supply.	
COMMENT 148	Housing affordability – requires income.	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. See The Economy for policies related to living wages and employment opportunities.	
COMMENT 149	The high cost of housing in our county is due to one of the highest property and total tax burdens. Giving tax breaks or assistance to some costs others.	RP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. As stated in the Plan, the high costs of new construction means that most affordable housing construction is financially infeasible without financial assistance.	
COMMENT 150	Consider establishing a law to prohibit landlords from discriminating based on the source of income to pay rent (like Section 8 vouchers), as NYC did, Support such efforts statewide.	OFA
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. This comment was shared with the County Office of Human Rights.	
COMMENT 151	On p. 39 call out rental and homeownership specifically to help those using document for grant	HSP

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HOUSING		
	applications.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. See Housing Affordability section for existing information as well as the Housing chapter as a whole.	
COMMENT 152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net zero housing great, IF it is affordable and accessible to everyone • Common sense says that new housing construction is going to be more energy efficient than our older housing stock...consider engaging ASI Energy or the like to provide expertise 	CC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. New housing is typically more energy efficient, but can vary widely and is greatly influenced by location, therefore the Plan supports energy and location efficient housing, as well as improving the older building stock.	
COMMENT 153	Include in the plan the INHS chart showing how cost of housing in the County has increased much more rapidly than income.	ED
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Comparing information within the county is less instructive than the existing comparison of housing statistics across neighboring counties. Although median incomes and housing prices have both increased at a similar rate within the county, the full cost of living in the county are not reflected in these numbers nor is the discrepancy between our housing cost situation and that of neighboring communities.	
COMMENT 154	RE: Monthly gross rent exceeding 30% of household income. Are these data distorted by the large student population? They have high rental costs but low (reported) income. Can (should) you correct for student population.	C15
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The American Community Survey (ACS) does not distinguish between student and non-student households, therefore this data cannot be corrected for the student population.	
COMMENT 155	We need a countywide minimum energy standard for all existing residences, or at least all rental housing.	C17
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The energy requirements of the building code, which would apply to renovations of existing homes, are discussed along with the challenges of rental properties under Energy Efficient Housing.	
COMMENT 156	Improving Older Housing. The U.S. Energy Information Administration has found that residential buildings built before 1950 are generally 30 to 40 percent less energy-efficient than those built after 2000. Maintaining existing energy-efficient features, addressing repair issues, replacing worn-out appliances with energy-efficient models, and implementing energy upgrades such as insulation and air sealing, can greatly improve the overall energy efficiency of the existing housing stock. <u>Conversion to more efficient and sustainable sources of heating, cooling and hot water production can save owners money while further reducing the GHG footprint from the housing sector.</u> <u>Individual power generation systems can be used by 25% of existing housing stock.</u>	C20
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. We could not verify the 25% figure.	
COMMENT 157	Would help to include the number of houses that need energy efficiency improvements to get a sense of scale...although this may be something to consider for the update of the Housing Needs Assessment if data is not readily available.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The data are not readily available, but this point will be carried forward in planning for the next Housing Needs Assessment	
COMMENT 158	There is a preference at the State level for funding projects for family housing, NOT seniors, but the County can weigh in during the annual public comment period. The State disincentivizes development in rural areas outside of villages.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. This Plan supports the need to expand housing options for the growing senior population, and its principles and policies would support advocating for State funding	

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HOUSING		
	to expand to meet the needs of this population. The State’s preference for rural development within villages aligns with this Plan’s support of limiting development in rural areas outside of Development Focus Areas.	
COMMENT 159	The County could also advocate for the State to reduce the number of units required for projects so smaller scale development could obtain funding assistance.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Its principles and policies can be used to advocate such changes.	
COMMENT 160	Double check availability of Weatherization assistance (p. 44)	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The Tompkins County Office for the Aging continues to provide this assistance to seniors.	
COMMENT 161	Need more communication among agencies working with housing issues.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested. The Plan discusses partner agencies and groups.	
COMMENT 162	Would help to have multiple organizations, jurisdictions pitch in to fund a grantwriter position (Human Services is believed to have done something similar in the past) so grant preparation is not a deterrent from applying for grant funds, especially for towns with little staff support.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. However, this idea will be carried forward in discussions on the update to the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy	

TRANSPORTATION		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Complete Streets	
COMMENT 163	Complete Streets. Roads with different traffic patterns and volumes require different treatments for them to be accessible to all. So if roads like Green or Seneca, e.g., are designated they will require <u>separated</u> lanes for most people to feel safe on a bike. I don’t think we need a single network of streets that works for all users. We need at least one that works for non-car travelers and this may not be a good network for cars!	C11
COMMENT 164	What can be done to move existing roads to complete streets? This fits also with transportation and requires coordination across agencies.	SC
COMMENT 165	Language about Safe Routes to School would be appropriate to add to the Complete Street section on Page 51, Chapter 5. Suggested language: Safe Routes to School programs are a supporting strategy to establish Complete Streets in Ithaca by establishing pedestrian and cycling networks and/or traffic-calmed networks that connect neighborhoods to schools. It may be useful to also reference the City's recent Safe Routes to School Project: http://www.cityofithaca.org/departments/dpw/engineering/srts.cfm	SC
RESPONSE 166	The Draft Plan was not amended. The County relies heavily on the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council (ITCTC), of which it is a member, to provide overall guidance on strategies to improve transportation systems in the County. The Plan reflects the work that ITCTC has prepared on establishing a Complete Streets network. It is not expected that the needs of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and others would not be addressed on other streets. The Draft Plan was amended to stress that Complete Streets are part of a wider transportation network.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 167	Opening paragraph, 3 rd sentence should read: “In order to provide preferred options to ‘driving alone,’ alternative ways to move from place to place need to be convenient, affordable, and fun.”	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	

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TRANSPORTATION		
COMMENT 168	First sentence, second paragraph in opening: “Besides expanding choice, broadening transportation alternatives can result in a healthier population, less traffic congestion, fewer accidents, and fewer emissions and other environmental impacts.”	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 169	The High Costs of the Current System: need to what is covered in the \$65 million figure.	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See The High Costs of the Current System.	
COMMENT 170	Alternatives to Driving alone, last sentence should refer to “other information technology based services”	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Shifting People from Driving Alone/Alternatives to Driving Alone.	
COMMENT 171	Taking Action, second paragraph. Last sentence should end “to better integrate regional transportation services.”	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 172	Under rail, mention abandoned/former rail service in the county.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the County Today/Rail.	
COMMENT 173	Under Air, first paragraph (new language bolded): The Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, constructed in its present location in 19xx , has until recently been financially self-sustaining with all expenses being paid from revenues generated. According to generic industry analysis , it contributes more than \$66 million annually to the local economy, and supports almost 400 aviation-related jobs, with a combined payroll of more than \$5.3 million. The airport is currently served by Delta, US Airways, and United with nine flights to Philadelphia, Newark, and Detroit each day. Over 102,000 passengers flew out of the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport in 2013. However, with legacy airline consolidation, the size of airplanes that serve smaller regional markets may be limited, affecting local air service.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. Not all the suggested language was included. See Snapshot of the County Today/Air.	
COMMENT 174	Can a more detailed map of the Complete Streets network be included as an appendix so we know which streets these are?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The requested map is included as Appendix D.	
COMMENT 175	Transportation’s Role in GGE, identify if air travel is included or not.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. A footnote was added. See Transportation’s Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions.	
COMMENT 176	I am very concerned about maintaining the services that we have. TCAT and Gadabout (as TCAT’s paratransit provider) need more resources. The county should defend and protect ourselves as needed.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. Please see The High Costs of the Current System	
COMMENT 177	Consider the role of rail in economic development especially for future transportation of freight should we be successful in attracting more manufacturing to the area.	ED
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the County Today/Rail.	
COMMENT 178	More bike lanes. Riding/commuting is too dangerous. Bikers need their own lanes. More bus access with more bike racks.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 179	Healthy Communities – Adopting road protection legislation seems an obvious strategy to address damage done by heavy trucks. It should be added and each town encouraged to adopt an appropriate one with timelines and progress milestones.	C4
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan	

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TRANSPORTATION		
	intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 180	Looks good. Like the focus on trails/complete streets. Keep up the good work.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 181	People should be free to make their own transportation choices without tipping the scales to what planners consider desirable. It is an individual's choice to live in dense urban areas – or not.	RP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The Plan promotes providing transportation alternatives so people have a choice.	
COMMENT 182	Principle: add “convenient” to list.	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Efficient and affordable cover the concept of convenient.	
COMMENT 183	Policy #3: Shift travel away from driving-alone to biking, walking, shared transportation options (CarShare, carpool, rideshare, and using public transit). [The commenter promised to send alternate language for this policy along similar lines that does not stigmatize people who drive alone. Has not been received yet.]	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Not all specific alternatives need to be listed.	
COMMENT 184	Chapter does a good job showing the connection between land use and transportation.	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 185	Like that the chapter is not about levels of service and movement of vehicles.	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 186	In introduction, use the word enjoyable rather than fun.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 187	Change the second policy to read: Greatly reduce the use of fossil fuels in transportation.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. We do acknowledge that in order to meet the County's overall greenhouse gas emissions goal, major reductions in fossil fuel usage would be needed.	
COMMENT 188	Change the sixth policy to read: Continue to provide regional airport services that support community and business needs.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. As a County Comprehensive Plan we did not feel it was appropriate to address regional airport services.	

NATURAL RESOURCES		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Invasive Species	
COMMENT 189	Under Unwelcome Visitors, Shouldn't we mention aquatic animals, like clams, and what about wild boars?	LEG
COMMENT 190	Unwelcome Visitors (p. 61): Many are familiar with the herbicide treatments associated with hydrilla eradication efforts. As the temperature warms with expanding global climate change and more such invasives are identified here, we may be tempted to more often resort to the use of toxic chemicals to mitigate their impacts. Absent from this plan is a County policy to limit the use of pesticides to protect public health and the environment. 98% of sprayed pesticides and 95% of herbicides reach a destination other than their target species. This is a costly and ineffective approach to controlling such invasives. They are a source of water, air, and soil pollution. They reduce biodiversity, contribute to pollinator decline, destroy habitat, and threaten endangered species. The target plants often develop resistance requiring increasing amounts of the toxic chemicals and the development of new pesticides. Pesticides should be only used as a matter of last resort and not as an expedient replacement for manual removal. Those selected should	ERC

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	<p>be easily biodegradable or quickly deactivated in the environment. Alternatives such as integrated pest management, biological controls, and manual harvesting should be fully explored before the decision to employ such toxics are made.</p> <p>A discussion of the use of herbicides along our roads and highways might also be included. Our preference would be for the County to adopt a policy of not using herbicides for this purpose.</p>	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Unwelcome Visitors. However, the level of specificity requested was not provided.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 191	While Emerald Necklace is mentioned as a focus area for Land Trust, I think it should also be mentioned that it is a priority project within the state’s open space plan.	E2
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Fragmentation.	
COMMENT 192	Add to “improve [public] access...opportunities ... for <u>all</u> peoples in the county. (I feel like some folks, those with more resources (cars, internet, knowledge) already have plenty of access. We need more <u>equitable</u> access. Ditto for access to water resources (think about folks with boats in marina or lake house)	C11
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Access.	
COMMENT 193	Policy: Promote sustainable harvest of local fish and game. Make places for hunting and fishing accessible to everyone.	C11
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended, but a policy was not added. See Snapshot of the County Today.	
COMMENT 194	Under Natural Features, include updated acreage of UNAs and list geology as one of the reasons a UNA can be included.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 195	Add a sentence at the end of natural features: Although Cayuga Lake is arguably the county’s signature natural feature, it is specifically mentioned in the Water Resources chapter.”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Natural Features.	
COMMENT 196	In the table of Dedicated Open Space, why is the City of Ithaca listed separately from Municipal? Is there an order to the list (none is apparent). Maybe the surface area of Cayuga Lake should be listed as dedicated open space.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The list has been reordered according to size. The City of Ithaca is listed separately because of the extent of its holdings. The surface area of Cayuga Lake was not added to the list.	
COMMENT 197	In State Park description pool referenced at Buttermilk – “swimming area” is more accurate description.	CP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 198	Introduction to The Environment: Include a sentence after the first along these lines “And what’s good for the environment is good for human health.”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 199	Include more about the UNAs – how they are identified, how they are used/not used, etc.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Natural Features.	
COMMENT 200	On One-Pager for “Home to State Parks and Forests” include the individual acreage of each State Park. Mention the dog park in Allan Treman park.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 201	Map of NYS Owned Open Space should have a scale, given that it is a full page map.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 202	Salt Point is labeled as a state forest. I’m pretty sure that it is a public fishing access site.	E2
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 203	Add a policy “Recognize and acknowledge that the natural environment does not exist to be	LEG

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	exploited by human beings but to be preserved for future generations.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Policies in the Comprehensive Plan are designed to address specific issues in the community.	
COMMENT 204	Indicate that the farmer has good alternatives/better options for retirement – not just the land is important.	C19
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The issue is addressed in the updated <i>Tompkins County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan</i> .	
COMMENT 205	Concerns over showing complexity of agriculture in plan	AFP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The many facets of agriculture are addressed throughout the plan, most prominently in The Economy, Natural Resources, and Healthy Communities chapters.	
COMMENT 206	Agricultural Resources (p. 57): A discussion of the issues regarding CAFOs could be included here; the environmental impacts from the scope of their activities on the landscape in relationship to those associated with smaller farms.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 207	What steps have you taken (and can you take) to reduce development pressure on farmland? The towns have land use authority so your statement is pious blather.	C15
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Reducing development pressure on farmland is briefly discussed in several chapters: The Economy, Natural Resources, and Development Patterns.	

WATER RESOURCES

	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Stormwater Runoff	
COMMENT 208	stormwater runoff concerns need greater emphasis (here or Adaptation?) – concerns included urban infrastructure maintenance, new development to require use of new stormwater techniques, identification of opportunity areas (urban and rural) for building green infrastructure, continued infrastructure mapping, identification of quantifiable stormwater improvements over time, upstream detention opportunities, involvement with the stormwater coalition, build off mapping work of CSI to help identify hotspots for infrastructure improvements, help provide green infrastructure improvement to contractors/identify those contractors in the region who are familiar with this type of work, provide regular green infrastructure education opportunities for public, contractors and decision makers, integrate green infrastructure investigation into local EAFs	CP
COMMENT 209	Tompkins County should strive to be the most innovative rural county in upstate New York in stormwater mitigation	CP
COMMENT 210	[?] stormwater management; next steps – private property owners; reduce cost to government to repair infrastructure	C8
COMMENT 211	Limit development so it doesn't <u>produce</u> as much runoff during "rain events." Roofs, decks, driveways and lawns (aka "suburban sprawl") all result in more runoff. Widening ditches is <u>not</u> sufficient. Decreasing runoff via meadows, swales, woods, etc. = essential.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. Some additional information was included under Stormwater Runoff and Flooding; and a new section on Roadside Ditches was added.	
	Wetlands treating stormwater	
COMMENT 212	New wetlands regulations don't allow people to use wetlands for stormwater control, so that should be clarified in the plan. Also should mention something about SPDES permits. Will send written comments about this, too.	WRC
COMMENT 213	Make it clear that developers cannot use wetlands to manage stormwater from new development.	WRC
COMMENT 214	Under wastewater disposal, mention SPDES permit requirements.	LEG

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RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Wastewater Disposal and Stormwater Runoff and Flooding.	
	Wetlands mapping pilot project.	
COMMENT 215	The wetlands inventory chart needs to have a footnote about the WRC Wetlands Committee’s work on better determining location of wetlands.	WRC
COMMENT 216	Include in the discussion of wetlands, the results of the pilot study in Dryden to use more advanced technology and information sources to map wetlands.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to reflect the results of the Dryden wetlands mapping pilot project. See Snapshot of the County Today/Wetlands.	
	Sub-watershed map	
COMMENT 217	In addition to the big watershed-divide map, a closer-up map of the constituent watersheds should be added.	LEG
COMMENT 218	Snapshot of the County Today (p.66) This page includes a graphic labeled “Water Resources” and showing the watershed divide between the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Ontario watersheds. We recommend that a slightly larger graphic be used that also shows the constituent watersheds in the County.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. A map showing constituent sub-watersheds within the county has been added as Appendix F.	
	Streams seek equilibrium	
COMMENT 219	Add a policy: “Recognize that streams naturally seek equilibrium within existing geology.”	LEG
COMMENT 220	Erosion and Sedimentation: Mention that streams change over time, seeking to reach equilibrium.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to include this concept, but not to include it as a policy. See Snapshot of the County Today/Streams.	
	Detailed map of Cayuga Lake	
COMMENT 221	In the waterfront discussion, show a map of the Lakeshore NFFA and, if there is a map of the blueway trail, include that information on the map as well.	LEG
COMMENT 222	Provide a map of Cayuga Lake with water intakes and discharges, water and sewer plants, etc.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Appendix E.	
	Cayuga Power Plant.	
COMMENT 223	not all outflows identified – Milliken is one that is of particular concern.	EMC
COMMENT 224	Policies (p. 66) “Protect the ecological... functions of Cayuga Lake.”: The Cayuga Operating Company Power Plant is the major point source polluter on Cayuga Lake. It has received almost no treatment in this document and is a major threat to the water quality and ecology of the Lake. See our main argument on this point at p. 76. The County Health Department has publicly expressed little concern for the significant likelihood of serious pollution at this site. We support the near-term retirement of this facility as well as advocate for an adequately funded and environmentally protective closure plan with long-term post closure environmental monitoring.	ERC
COMMENT 225	No reference to discharges of the Cayuga Power Plant into Cayuga Lake are set forth in this section.	ERC
COMMENT 226	Further, although the wastewater treatment facilities are mentioned there is no mention of the Cayuga Operating Company Power Plant and its significant contributions to Lake pollution. In 2013 the owners reported to the DEC that they released 26 million gallons of coal ash leachate into the lake after only rudimentary treatment. The entire 38-acre coal ash landfill west of Route 34B has no code-compliant liner and no secondary leachate collection system. The \$6.1M Financial Assurance Fund for closure and 30 years of landfill maintenance is clearly inadequate, and thus poses an on-going threat to Lake water quality for more than the next one hundred years if not properly remediated and maintained beyond the current 30-year funding horizon.	ERC
COMMENT 227	Cayuga Lake: Shaping Our Environment Influencing Development (p.76): Remove the following portion of the sentences: “Its abundant cool	ERC

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	<p>waters have attracted industries dependent on its chilling capacity. Cayuga Power Plant on Milliken Point...”</p> <p>Cooling capacities often result in the construction of polluting industries which have a highly negative impact on water quality in or adjacent to water bodies. Cooling water discharges are returned to the natural environment at higher temperatures and raise the ambient water temperature. Thermal pollution decreases the oxygen supply and effects ecosystem composition. A decrease in the level of dissolved oxygen can harm aquatic animals by increasing their metabolic rates. Increased temperatures contribute to anaerobic conditions suitable for the growth of bacteria. This portion of Cayuga Lake is rated as oligotrophic; clear, well oxygenated water that supports abundant numbers of cold water fish species.</p> <p>The Cayuga Power Plant is permitted to withdraw 245M gallons per day for “once through” condenser cooling. It has previously been cited for violation of their SPDES thermal discharge limits. A biological monitoring program (2006) estimated that 1,150,921 adult and juvenile fish were entrained during the cooling water withdrawal process. A closed cycle cooling process would reduce water use by 98% thus limiting thermal impacts as well as entrainment and death of aquatic organisms.</p> <p>The Cayuga Power Plant is located on a steep slope above Cayuga Lake. Coal Combustion Wastes have been disposed here since 1975 in a mostly unlined ash fill located above fractured bedrock. Leachate is collected in an impoundment and some contaminants are precipitated out. Uncontaminated storm water is directed into the impoundment and the contents are discharged through a sand filter directly to Cayuga Lake. The sludge in the bottom of the impoundment is removed and recycled into the on-site landfill. This facility does not have leachate treatment capacity nor is the collected leachate transported to an approved treatment and disposal facility.</p> <p>Fossil Fuel Electricity Generation facilities are considered among the most environmentally impactful industrial activities. The Cayuga Power Plant has been cited for Clean Water Act violations in 11 of the past 13 quarters, including 3 significant violations. Some of the contaminants over standard have been selenium, cadmium, arsenic, and total suspended solids. Most of Cayuga Lake is classified as AA waters whose best use is drinking water supply, recreation, and fishing.</p> <p>Although some upgrades have were installed in 1995 and 2001 to limit air pollution, Unit 2 continues to operate without Selective Catalytic Reduction equipment to limit NOX emissions. Electricity generation at the site in 2013 released 1,120,867 metric tons of CO2 and 132 metric tons of methane. All of the above information can be confirmed with the Enforcement and Compliance History Online web site at http://echo.epa.gov.</p> <p>We must also assume responsibility for the non-local impacts of coal extraction. Some coal is obtained through a process of mountain top removal which alters landscapes, destroys habitats, and damages water supplies. Methane trapped in the coal bed is released during the extraction process (10% of total U.S. emissions?). Cleaning activities release fine coal particulate matter to the environment. Fly ash contains uranium and thorium up to 10x the original levels in the raw coal.</p>	
RESPONSE	<p>The Draft Plan was not amended. The discussion of water quality issues in Cayuga Lake was limited to those portions of the Lake classified as impaired under Clean Water Act regulations, i.e., the southern end of Cayuga Lake. While we understand that re-powering the Cayuga Lake Power Plant is an issue facing the community, Tompkins County has not taken a formal position on the proposal.</p>	
	<p>Cayuga Inlet dredging</p>	
COMMENT 228	<p>As for dredging, a separate section on the Corps of Engineers flood control waterworks should be included, noting that the Canal Corp. is responsible for navigational dredging within the Cayuga Inlet</p>	LEG

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	<p>(related to the old Erie Canal system, extending from the Buffalo Street bridge out to the lake.) The flood-control works (the inlet, the flood control channel, and the associated levee system (?) were built by the Army Corps of Engineers (date?). Although the Corps maintains ownership of that system, the DEC is responsible for maintenance of the project (e.g., dredging), and the City is responsible for minor maintenance (mowing banks?). The Canal Corp. (which owns all necessary equipment, and has the permits and certifications necessary for its part of the dredging) actually seems to have overlapping jurisdiction with the DEC over the Inlets. It should be noted that the City chose a site for dewatering the dredge spoils (estimated at xx cubic yards, and expected to be “clean” based on sampling), but further analysis has shown the site to be inadequate to handle it all, given the length of time such dewatering would take – and the cost estimates are out of sight. [Include facts, of course, not this characterization!] Also, include the fact that the Army Corps (in 2013?) has found the City to be out of compliance insofar as maintaining the flood works, and so the Corps is not obligated to come to the City’s rescue in case of a flood (though it is their practice to respond anyway).</p>	
COMMENT 229	<p>Move Dredging section to follow Stormwater Runoff and Flooding. It should read as follows:</p> <p>The south end of Cayuga Lake and the Cayuga Inlet has numerous marinas, transient docking facilities, tour boats, and boat repair facilities dependent on maintaining a navigable channel. Dredging at the south end of Cayuga Lake last occurred in 1982 and dredge spoils were deposited in the Alan Treman State Marine Park, northwest of the marina. In 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinated the dredging of the flood control channel between the fish ladder to the south and the northern tip of Inlet Island. Marina operators and boat owners have identified dredging of the Inlet as a critical and immediate need.</p> <p>In 2011, the Corps of Engineers prepared a hydraulic analysis of Cayuga Inlet, finding that sediment deposition has severely reduced the capacity of the Cayuga Inlet to contain floodwaters. The Corps recommended removal of roughly 663,000 cubic yards of sediments which have shoaled in the channel to re-establish the original channel dimensions.</p> <p>Thus, dredging is important not only for navigation, but also critical to the proper functioning of the Corps of Engineers’ flood control system in Ithaca.</p> <p>Identification of a site or sites to handle dredged material has been the major impediment preventing periodic dredging to maintain channel capacity and navigational use of Cayuga Inlet and adjacent waterways such as lower Cascadilla Creek. Finding a site that is both close enough (within one mile) and large enough (20 acres) limits the options available for consideration. Other issues to be addressed include technological constraints, environmental impacts, consistency with other public strategies, and public acceptance.</p>	LEG
COMMENT 230	<p>Dredging (pp. 72-73): “Thus, dredging is important not only for navigation, but also critical to the proper functioning of the Corps of Engineers’ flood control system in Ithaca.”</p> <p>It is short-sighted to single out dredging of the Cayuga Inlet as the panacea to flooding in this portion of the City of Ithaca. This channel is located in the last mile of a very extensive regional watershed network and may not be the most important structure to mitigate flooding in the City. We advocate for an ecosystem based management strategy to protect this area from flooding.</p> <p>Our landscape is dominated by highly erodible unconsolidated glacial materials. Given the steep, hilly terrain with a mean gradient of 60’ per mile that is found on three sides of the City, these materials erode from the steep slopes and are readily transported by valley streams. The high quantity of bed load sediments is pushed downstream by continuous flows exacerbated by major storm events.</p> <p>Sediment inputs to the relatively flat portion of the watershed in the Inlet, drop out of solution here or</p>	ERC

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	<p>in the Lake. The ClimAID Report (2011) concluded that the trend was for increased intensity of precipitation events. These events scour the stream beds and deliver increasing sediment loads to the depositional zone of the Inlet. There are few such sediment sinks elsewhere in the watershed.</p> <p>Accretion is the result of long-term geomorphologic processes occurring on a landscape that is not in equilibrium. It is a fully natural process and not easily mitigated.</p> <p>Cost projections for a one-time dredging of the Inlet with an accompanying sizable dewatering facility are huge. Given the limited amount of dredged materials that can be sufficiently dewatered annually (although a dewatering site has been identified, it has been considered too small to address in a timely manner the quantities that would be generated by this project) and the continual depositing of sediments during the period of extraction, dredging to the original dimensions of the constructed channel may require a decade of work. Then regular maintenance must be scheduled to preserve the restored storage capacity of the Flood Control Works.</p> <p>Obviously this is a highly unsustainable project. Given that during large storm events some backwater flow may occur from the Lake whose elevation is close to that of the Inlet, flow will cease and additional sediments will drop out in the Inlet. The Inlet has very limited storage capacity decreasing over time as the sediments regularly fill the excavated space. These costs are all operational. Funds must be obtained for capital investment to improve the storage capacities of the entire network. Since the flats of the City including the floodplain have been nearly fully built out and levees separate the flow from its riparian floodplain, upstream locations must be identified to construct green infrastructure projects such as natural wetlands or if necessary, constructed expandable detention basins. Previously we have advocated conducting a feasibility study on the parkland above the Fish Ladder as a site for such green infrastructure. It would be much easier and less costly to remove excess sediment from this area as the deposited sediment would dry out once the storm waters recede. We have been advocating for several years, relatively unsuccessfully, for an integrated watershed storm water management plan. It is unclear to us why there is so much resistance to such an approach.</p>	
COMMENT 231	page 73, should clearly say that the US Army Corps has said that the City is out of compliance with dredging of the inlet and give more details about that project.	WRC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to clarify that the need for dredging is not the sole contributor to flooding in the City of Ithaca. See Dredging. Otherwise the level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
	Waterfront septic systems.	
COMMENT 232	In discussion on wastewater disposal, mention the problem caused by cottages along Cayuga Lake and how their septic systems fail and are grandfathered in for replacement purposes.	LEG
COMMENT 233	Wastewater Disposal (p. 69): We think there should be some attention directed to waterfront septic systems. It should be the strict policy of Tompkins County to test such septic systems whenever such land is sold, and to require their upgrade whenever necessary.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The Tompkins County Health Department has not identified any systematic issue with septic systems polluting the Lake in Tompkins County.	
	Salinity Issues in Cayuga Lake	
COMMENT 234	Include discussion of salinity issues in Cayuga Lake.	LEG
COMMENT 235	The salinity of the lake needs to be mentioned and characterized.	LEG
COMMENT 236	Salinity issues are of significance in both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. In the early 1900s, both lakes had chloride levels similar to the other nine Finger Lakes, i.e. 30-50 ppm. As a result of salt mining, Cayuga Lake chloride levels rose to 90-140 ppm in the 1960s. Following Cargill's ending the practice of dumping salt fines into the lake in 1970s, chloride levels began to decline but remain	ERC

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	unusually high. Wind-blown fines and saline runoff from the Cargill facility may be a primary reason that sodium and chloride levels have not dropped to anticipated levels. Research is needed to measure how much of Cayuga Lake salinity is from the flow of the Seneca River into its northern portion. Current chloride levels have been sampled at about 120 ppm into the north end of Cayuga Lake.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The discussion of water quality issues in Cayuga Lake was limited to those portions of the Lake classified as impaired under Clean Water Act regulations, i.e., the southern end of Cayuga Lake.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 237	page 69, should indicate the cooperative effort that the aquifer studies program has taken.	WRC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Drinking Water Supplies.	
COMMENT 238	More detail about how to develop lakeshore while protecting or improving the ecology.	C13
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to address part of this comment. See Waterfront Development.	
COMMENT 239	A trivial detail on p. 67 "Groundwater is stored in the underground spaces between deposits of sand, gravel, and silt and in the cracks in bedrock. There aren't spaces between deposits. Try 'spaces between grains of sand, gravel and silt deposits' • or something of the like. Those spaces are called pores by the cognoscenti!	E7
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the County Today/Groundwater.	
COMMENT 240	Include in the definition of wetlands that they have hydric soils and specific vegetation types.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the County Today/Wetlands.	
COMMENT 241	Under drinking water, Mention that aquifer studies are a cooperative effort among municipalities, USGS, and the County.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Drinking Water Supplies.	
COMMENT 242	Mention problem with Trumansburg wastewater treatment plant polluting the creek.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Wastewater Disposal.	
COMMENT 243	Add sentence "As a result, the County restructured its Flood Hazard Mitigation Program to incorporate a watershed approach to assessing projects."	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Erosion and Sedimentation.	
COMMENT 244	In the list of green infrastructure practices, add check dams to slow streams.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Stormwater Runoff and Flooding	
COMMENT 245	Drinking Water Supplies (p.68): Cayuga Lake is not solely a source for public drinking water systems but also it supplies many homes that withdraw water directly from the Lake for their personal use.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Drinking Water Supplies.	
COMMENT 246	"Land uses and facilities that pose the greatest threats should be located away from areas that contribute to drinking water supplies." Have we identified any such specific facilities. A survey of SPDES permits issued in the County should be undertaken to ascertain the location of commercial, industrial, and multiple housing facilities which are not served by a publicly owned waste water treatment system.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to clarify that this section was talking about protecting groundwater resources. See Drinking Water Supplies.	
COMMENT 247	Water Quality in Cayuga Lake (p. 70): We would suggest that the third and fourth paragraphs change positions. As it currently reads, it feels like the study described in the third paragraph is being pre-emptively judged by the analysis in the fourth paragraph. The third paragraph would make a better closing to this section as it makes it clear that we have to await these results before specific TMDL actions are prescribed.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Water Quality in Cayuga Lake.	

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COMMENT 248	<p>Stormwater Runoff and Flooding (p. 71): In the paragraph on green infrastructure examples we suggest including catchment systems such as rain barrels. We also suggest that the plan encourage the City to allow residential property owners to be eligible for stormwater credits.</p> <p>We also recommend that County staff seek to coordinate with other local municipalities and involved stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive stormwater management plan. Specific benchmarks should be established, much like those for the greenhouse gas emission goals, to assure the community that this task will be accomplished in a timely manner.</p>	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Stormwater Runoff and Flooding for a response to the first comment. The second comment was not addressed in the Plan, although we are aware the Water Resources Council is considering coordinating such an effort.	
COMMENT 249	<p>Adaptation. Bringing hazardous and toxic waste from industrial sites, including but not limited to fracking waste and by-products are danger to our water, specifically, and public health generally. A strategy should be added to adopt a county-wide legislation prohibiting bringing such waste into the county for any purpose. Because much harmful waste, especially from fossil fuel extraction, is not or cannot by law be labeled as ‘hazardous’ or ‘toxic’. I suggest a broad definition which avoids such hair-splitting and identifies those kinds of waste which includes carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and other health-threatening contaminants without regard for exclusions like “the Halliburton loophole” and other similar laws.</p>	C4
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to identify the potential for groundwater contamination in the event of a liquid spill of any kind. See Drinking Water Supplies.	
COMMENT 250	Milled asphalt dumped over aquifer on Perkins Road @ County gravel pit; are large tree trunks chipped, otherwise there could be insect infestations	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. This comment is too specific to address.	
COMMENT 251	Support the work of CSI, Cayuga Lake Watershed and Brooktondale gauge station	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The policies in the Plan would lead to continued support of these activities and organizations.	
COMMENT 252	We have abundant fresh water here. From the Great Lakes to normal rainfall, we are blessed with natural water supplies, trillions of gallons. Lest anyone forget, we too drink the water, we too want it safe.	RP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 253	Strongly support “the identification and protection ... previously unregulated wetlands.” This is imperative.	C13
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 254	Groundwater protection laws and the role of upstream communities. Municipalities should work more tightly together, coordinate around groundwater protection regulation.	COG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 255	For example, with respect to Cayuga Lake there should be mention of Lake levels and who controls them and how – and with what results. [It will be interesting to see how the TMDL-prompted study of the lake comes out on this.]	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Lake level management is a complex subject requiring state level decision making to address water level throughout the Canal system and cannot be effectively addressed or controlled at the County level.	
COMMENT 256	The plan mentions that utilities rely on Cayuga Lake, mention that they are using “the commons” without paying for the privilege.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended.	
COMMENT 257	Has the wastewater problem in Groton been taken care of with the closing of the fish farm?	LEG

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WATER RESOURCES		
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. There is no existing problem to be addressed.	
COMMENT 258	Work in the concept of the relative ease/expense of addressing phosphorus pollution at the watershed or tributary level vs. at point sources.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Until DEC identifies the type of regulatory steps they may take to control phosphorus in Cayuga Lake, a discussion of the costs would be speculative.	
COMMENT 259	Provide details on the assessment of the Sixmile Creek watershed (was it Milone and MacBroom? Year?)	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 260	At the end of the Waterfront Development section add a sentence like this (only better worded): The City locates development in known floodplains and does not participate in the federal flood insurance program.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The City does participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Adaptation Chapter notes that all municipalities in the county should participate in the Community Rating System.	
COMMENT 261	There should be some consideration of the effects of tributaries to the lake that are not within Tompkins County. Clearly, Tompkins County cannot control non-Tompkins tributaries, but mention is made in the plan of the need for inter-municipal cooperation and we support this. Many regions of the country take a “watershed approach” to water protection and this, of course, goes beyond municipal boundaries.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. We believe this is adequately covered in the discussion in the regional coordination section of the Plan.	
COMMENT 262	<p>Waterfront Development (p.73): See also p.88 “It is the policy of Tompkins County to: Maintain floodways and limit development within floodplains to reduce damages from floods.”</p> <p>“The City of Ithaca’s waterfront along Cayuga Inlet offers a tremendous opportunity to develop an urban waterfront experience for residents and tourists alike.” Water-dependent and water-enhanced uses should be encouraged to develop there. Water-enhanced uses “may include mixed use facilities with residential or lodging components.”</p> <p>Recently a mixed use residential facility was proposed for 323 Taughannock Blvd. on Inlet Island. County Planning staff did not discuss in their comments to the City the fact that the proposed project was in a floodway. Large structures in the floodplain divert waters onto other nearby properties thus expanding the area impacted by the flooding.</p> <p>The properties adjacent to the Inlet have high market value as proposed sites for development. The City approved a new Waterfront Zoning district for this area in 2011. It is a very attractive investment opportunity and yet extensive development here is inconsistent with a sound floodplain management strategy.</p> <p>County Planning is the responsible entity for Flood Hazard Mitigation Programs. It must urge local municipalities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use zoning codes to steer development away from floodplains. This not only involves restricting new construction in the floodplain but also seeking opportunities to relocate existing structures outside the floodplain. One may take advantage of the proximity to the water without locating in it. 2. Restore and preserve the natural resource functions of floodplains. 3. Develop mitigation measures in the floodplain to limit the damages to persons and properties. 	ERC

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WATER RESOURCES		
	<p>4. Develop upstream projects to divert and/or store flood waters.</p> <p>Local municipalities should be urged to participate in the NFIP Community Rating System to upgrade their floodplain regulations and to reduce flood insurance costs to those already in the floodplain. The National Flood Insurance Program has been running a huge deficit because premiums have not been sufficient to cover payouts. Although insurance rates have begun to rise to bring the program into balance, the true cost of reimbursement for past deficits would make flood insurance unavailable to most. There is a social equity aspect to this issue. Many of those who live in floodplains are low-income residents who are unable to purchase flood insurance. Those who may have more substantial incomes may be able to purchase this insurance now. However, as the wealthy who can more readily afford escalating costs continue to build high end structures in the floodplain, payouts will be more costly again raising the rates for all others.</p>	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Some of the issues raised are covered in the Adaptation Chapter. For others, the level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 263	It is the county's policy to have no net loss of wetlands.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. This policy is usually established by agencies that have permitting authority over fill in wetlands.	

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Question Need for Climate Change Action	
COMMENT 264	Not buying. It is virtually impossible for one county or even for the U.S. to change global patterns. While we cut carbons, taxing ourselves to do so, foreign governments take our good jobs, continuing to pour carbons into the atmosphere.	RP
COMMENT 265	I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to a major underlying assumption that leads to various outcomes in the Comprehensive Plan. That is that we must invest significant resources to counter climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions and that this requires us to invest considerable resources and modify our lifestyles in various ways to counter this. This plan takes no account of the "uncertain knowledge of future climates" (see "Climate Science is Not Settled" by Dr. Steven E. Koonin, Undersecretary for Science in the Energy Department during President Barack Obama's first term and now Director of the Center for Urban Science and Progress at NYU in the Wall Street Journal, (September 20-21, 2014 p. C1) and states as principles that Tompkins County should be a place where "the energy system is carbon-neutral" and "the entire community is prepared for the economic, environmental, and social impacts of climate change." While we tax ourselves in various ways to try to achieve the goals resulting from these principles, we are making energy in the State and the County more (and far too) expensive and choking off economic development, a goal that we should be embracing much more aggressively especially here in central New York. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), New York State's cap-and-trade system, has a goal to reduce carbon emissions, but the Congressional Budget Office has concluded that its impact has been negligible, due in large part to the natural gas boom and the lower carbon emissions resulting from the use of natural gas. In the meantime RGGI, and a variety of green energy taxpayer financed subsidies keeps taxes and energy costs way too high in the state and the county and hinders economic development. To our south, Pennsylvania has exploited its natural gas reserves and generated jobs and cheaper energy. This should be a goal of our plan as well- reduce the cost of energy for consumers and businesses and generate economic development and growth.	E6

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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS		
RESPONSE	<p>The Draft Plan was amended, in part. The Principle for Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions has been modified to highlight the need for a secure and reliable energy supply.</p> <p>In Mr. Koonin’s article, he states: “Society's choices in the years ahead will necessarily be based on uncertain knowledge of future climates. That uncertainty need not be an excuse for inaction. There is well-justified prudence in accelerating the development of low-emissions technologies and in cost-effective energy-efficiency measures. But climate strategies beyond such "no regrets" efforts carry costs, risks and questions of effectiveness, so nonscientific factors inevitably enter the decision. These include our tolerance for risk and the priorities that we assign to economic development, poverty reduction, environmental quality, and intergenerational and geographical equity.” This issue of supporting economic development while reducing greenhouse gas emissions is included in the new section under Issues and Opportunities called “Consider Energy and the Economy Together.”</p> <p>Added text to the Economy Chapter under “Energy Infrastructure” discussing the need to consider together energy, economy, housing and transportation needs and form partnerships to solve the problems of energy demands in the community.</p>	
	Wood Pellets	
COMMENT 266	Why wood pellet systems?	C18
COMMENT 267	Why wood pellet? Look into allergies.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Transition to Renewable Energy Sources.	
	Tax Policies	
COMMENT 268	Carbon tax credit for privately owned woodlands.	C9
COMMENT 269	It’s a losing battle if there aren’t ways to differentially price the cost of carbon. We need to find clever means/mechanisms at the local level to make carbon based fuels more expensive than the noncarbon alternatives.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 270	Reality is wind not popular in Tompkins, Dryden doesn’t allow commercial wind, mention local opposition because affects political leaders and their decisions, tough climb and we heavily emphasize in plan.	C3
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Transition to Renewable Energy Sources.	
COMMENT 271	Microgrid energy production.	C9
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Explore infrastructure in Energy Focus Areas.	
COMMENT 272	It’s surprising to see no mention of greenhouse gas emissions (methane and Co2, particulate matter) <u>not</u> mentioned as hazards. They are generated by methane pipelines, methane compressor stations, and the Cayuga Power Plant. These affect public health generally and cause global warming/climate disruption/climate change. Each should be added along with plans to reduce their incidence.	C4
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended to define the term Greenhouse Gas. See introduction to the chapter. Otherwise, the Draft Plan was not amended. The text is clear that greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to climate change and that they should be reduced.	
COMMENT 273	Common sense says that new housing construction is going to be more energy efficient than our older housing stock...consider engaging ASI Energy or the like to provide expertise, also commenter noted preference for natural gas rather than having increasing numbers of truck deliveries for fuel oil and propane	CC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Improving Energy Efficiency.	
COMMENT 274	Include food? Food is one big area of energy use and GHG emissions. Should be	C11

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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS		
	mentioned.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Reduce Energy Demand.	
COMMENT 275	In the Climate Change introduction, add a second sentence to the introduction: And ultimately it is only recognition and action at local levels everywhere that can accomplish the needed changes”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 276	In the footnote in the chart, clarify the wording. Also, indicate if commercial flights include both incoming and outgoing lights.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 277	Can we show a chart with the amount of energy via gasoline, electricity and natural gas, rather than just listing them in order?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the County Today.	
COMMENT 278	The latest work by Howarth or Ingraffia shows that methane is many times more powerful over this number of years. This may be found in the update to the UN IPCC reports.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions.	
COMMENT 279	Under transportation, can we get figures on the number of hybrid and electric vehicles in Tompkins County and how that relates to other counties?	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. Information on hybrid and electric vehicles may be found in the Transportation chapter under Transportation’s Role in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. While no exact figures for use of hybrids and electric vehicles are given for surrounding counties, there is a statement that it is higher in Tompkins than in surrounding counties.	
COMMENT 280	Near the end of the snapshot, add a sentence like this: What we now know, however, is that 2050 is not soon enough to forestall arriving at out-of-control climate change feedback loops.” The latest UN report update seems to indicate that changes will need to happen in the next ten years.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Consider Energy and Environment Together and Transition to Renewable Energy Sources.	
COMMENT 281	Under Transition to Renewable Energy Sources, also indicate that 25 or 50 years is not soon enough.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Consider Energy and the Economy Together and Transition to Renewable Energy Sources.	
COMMENT 282	Under Taking Action, include target date for completing the Energy Roadmap.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 283	Under Taking Action, include the type of agency TCA is (there’s a technical term.)	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action/Partners.	
COMMENT 284	Electricity (p.80) The nameplate capacity for the electrical generation units at the power plant is as follows: Unit 1 - 150 MW and Unit 2 – 156 MW for a total of 306 MW.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended.	
COMMENT 285	Under Improving Energy Efficiency, 2 nd paragraph, add a sentence “Social equity concerns mean a concomitant assistance to make these changes affordable to all, including NYSERDA,(list other resources).	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Improving Energy Efficiency.	
COMMENT 286	Electricity – On average, Tompkins County residents and business use approximately 100 MW of electricity. At present, this tends to be supplied via the Cayuga Plant, the Cornell University Cogeneration facility and <u>mostly</u> by the Homer City Pennsylvania coal burner. This is not good AT ALL. And in a future where most natural gas for heat applications gets swapped over to electricity powered ground sourced heat pumps (GSHP) this is even MORE dependence on polluting coal.	C2

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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS		
	The combination of municipally owned/financed wind turbines (biggest expense is financing the capital) and some NYPA owned pumped hydro storage facilities could supply all of this 100 MW (and new heat pump usage) at affordable prices. Investment of approximately \$700 million (municipal bonds) for turbines. That is actually doing something about global warming, not just talking about it.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 287	Biomass to liquid fuels: On average, the approximately 100,000 residents export over \$200 million/year to import gasoline, diesel, propane and fuel oil. Many farms are idle for lack of demand to grow crops that can be grown around here. Why not merge these? There exist many routes to convert biomass to liquid fuels (pyrolysis, Fischer-Tropsch, fermentation, biodiesel). The combination of known demand and low cost loans can do this. Plus, the world and New York State is awash in money looking for a home. Staunching that \$200 million/year and recycling it via local biomass (corn stoves, corn, other crops, willow, etc.) could generate several thousand new jobs. That needs to be explored.	C2
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 288	Would help to see “laundry list” of net gains or losses to the county’s carbon footprint	CC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. This may be addressed in the update to the greenhouse gas emissions inventory to be conducted in 2015.	
COMMENT 289	I would comment that one major way we can move towards a greener Tompkins County is to repave solar; one way to start this would be at parking lots, driveways and small projects like this. The technology is here already; I'd like to see Tompkins County prepare to begin this effort.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 290	To increase the amount of composting, it would be great if the County itself could start a composting facility. Compost could be sold at a reasonable price as an additional source of revenue/cost recovery.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. The County has pursued its composting goals in partnership with a successful local business, Cayuga Compost, which runs a composting facility in Trumansburg.	
COMMENT 291	Delete the following, since it is covered in the subsequent text: Those without the financial resources to take the steps that would help most, such as living close to jobs, installing energy efficiency upgrades in their homes, and purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles, are likely to face increasing energy costs. These same people are also often the most vulnerable to floods, extreme heat events, droughts, and other predicted impacts of climate change.	LEG
RESPONSE	The introductory pages have been reorganized, so keeping the text in the new location was deemed to be appropriate.	
COMMENT 292	At the end of the first paragraph in the introduction, add a sentence: “The traditional import/export model of economic development has a downside.”	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 293	Re-write the third and fourth paragraphs as follows (new language in bold): In response to these concerns, the community is interested in moving toward climate neutrality, in other words achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions, by proactively substituting renewably	LEG

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ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS		
	<p>generated electricity and renewable heating and cooling methodology. Any offsetting remaining emissions with sequestration of greenhouse gases by natural lands and soils.</p> <p>Purchasing carbon credits to make up the difference may be employed as an interim measure while the community works towards long-term solutions. The problem with carbon credits and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) is that they rarely result in financing new renewable energy projects (such as wind turbine farms), but do allow one to ‘greenwash’ one’s energy usage/sources. Money spent on RECs and credits would accomplish more by being spent directly on efficiency upgardes and development of renewable energy.</p>	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues.	
COMMENT 294	In the fourth policy add the word “natural” to describe carbon capture and storage.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The Emissions and Sequestration section is clear that natural sequestration is the intention.	
COMMENT 295	Add some detail on how much less energy the County uses now, even with the addition of additional building floor space.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The County is expected to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory in 2015 using 2014 data. These data will be collected and reported on as part of that project.	
COMMENT 296	Under wind, add the following before talking about Black Oak Wind Farm: In Tompkins County, the best wind sites are on Connecticut Hill and Mount Pleasant. Much of Connecticut Hill is state forest where wind towers are not currently allowed. Cornell tried to build a wind farm on Mount Pleasant in xxxx and ran into strong NIMBY objections. Add in sentence about Drdyen zoning.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. However, the Energy Roadmap will be looking closely at the potential for wind energy in the County and it may be confusing to have conflicting details in the Comprehensive Plan and the Energy Roadmap, so consider it best to wait for the Roadmap to be completed.	
COMMENT 297	<p>County Government Initiatives (p.81): Purchasing Renewable Energy Credits to Offset 100 percent of electrical energy use.</p> <p>This is an initiative that the EMC has commented upon during the past 2 years of its implementation. Expending \$13,000 is sufficient to actually pay for only 5 kw of maximum capacity. Assuming a capacity factor of 0.3 the funding would provide 1.5 kw of actual power or 13,000kwh. This would offset no more than 1% of actual County government electrical energy use.</p> <p>This year we invested in an Iowa turbine that was constructed in 2011. A portion of the funds will be expended for the energy broker’s overhead as well as the green certifying organization. We have advocated for direct local spending that supports local efforts to expand renewable energy capacity</p>	ERC
RESPONSE	This will be an important conversation to have as planning for County Government energy use continues. No changes were made to the Draft Plan, as the County purchased 6,500 RECs for 6,500,000 kWh, which does cover 100% of County facilities, excluding the Airport Terminal and Solid Waste Transfer Station.	
COMMENT 298	Energy Strategy (p. 4) We believe that the targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be accelerated.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended as requested. This will be considered when the Energy Strategy is updated. The text has been modified to more clearly explain the need for quick actions to reduce emissions.	

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ADAPTATION		
Multiple Comments on the Same Subject		
Questions Regarding Likelihood of Climate Change		
COMMENT 299	Preparation for "climate change". Why are we preparing for something that may or may not happen?	RP
COMMENT 300	Questioned climate projections and clarity of increased temperature graphic.	AFP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Climate change is already impacting New York State and Tompkins County and those impacts are expected to grow in the next century. The climate projections used are based on New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)'s ClimAID report updated in September 2014. This report developed with researchers at Columbia and Cornell University as well as the City University of New York utilizes historic climate data and changes in mean annual climate and extreme events in developing models which determine projections for seven different regions in New York State. We have been mindful to utilize the modest range of likely projections in examining potential impacts to Tompkins County. Recommended adaptation actions, like the development of a community disaster recovery plan, are multi-beneficial and will help to reduce risk and improve economic resilience of Tompkins County's citizens whether climate change is subtle or severe.	
Individual Comments		
COMMENT 301	"Flooding" instead of "heavy downpours" on adaptation poster.	C5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Snapshot of the Community Today and Community Risks.	
COMMENT 302	Climate change – introduces economic [?] disparity but policies don't respond; adaptation measures to lessen climate impacts on local economy?	C8
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Climate Impacts on Economy. Also see Taking Action concerning preparation of a Community Disaster Recovery Plan.	
COMMENT 303	In the principle "vulnerable populations" include people with disabilities and specify that the county will work with members of vulnerable populations to gather expertise and to make goals, etc. more real.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The principle was not changed, however, see Vulnerable Populations.	
COMMENT 304	Can a few more examples of actions that relate to the policies be provided?	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
COMMENT 305	Ice more in future – more salt and chemicals to treat instead of just plowing. Damage to structures, homes, roads because of winter ice. Increased cost to pay for road maintenance and repair from uneven/unpredictable weather.	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Public investments in infrastructure are noted without the level of detail suggested by this comment.	
COMMENT 306	There should be some note made of the flooding that occurs when lake levels are high (higher than the city water table heights?) so that the lake cannot "accept" any run off into the city. And some mention of the non-participation of the city in the Federal flood insurance program. And of the lack of up-to-date flood maps. And of the City's apparent attitude toward allowing development in the known flood plain areas. I'm not sure if any other communities in the county have such flooding problems (Groton?) – but the Comp. Plan doc should summarize all this.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. The level of detail requested is not appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. However, these topics are discussed in the <i>Tompkins County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (2013)</i> .	
COMMENT 307	Mention should also be made here of the outdated flood zone maps and the flooding that can occur when the lake level is up and the tributary waters cannot be accepted into it. It has always been a	ERC

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	controversial issue but better coordination with the agency that controls lake levels may be needed.	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Protecting Natural and Physical Infrastructure.	

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES		
Multiple Comments on the Same Subject		
More Information on Mental Health and Social Interaction Benefits		
COMMENT 308	I like addition of healthy communities and appreciate the mention of social interaction and community life. I'd like to see this called out more, as social interaction is just as important as physical activity in terms of health, but it takes a backseat in the policy.	C11
COMMENT 309	In the goals related to healthy places the county should explicitly make a connection between physical health and mental health and its public health and mental health work. The county should draw the connection and create necessary policy statements to achieve that explicit belief.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. The Chapter more explicitly details the needs for social interaction and connectivity in several sections.	
Food		
COMMENT 310	Add a chapter on food. (Connects to energy use, natural resources, economic development, climate resilience, healthy communities).	C11
COMMENT 311	Healthy Food (p. 99) While this section does make special mention of programs designed to assist all in access to healthy food, perhaps it should also mention as background to this, the high hunger rates in Tompkins County. Additionally it is known that the large community garden plot in the City that is near a lower-income neighborhood is vulnerable to relocation or removal. Communities should identify and set aside suitable sites for gardening opportunities for growing fresh produce for access by such vulnerable residents.	ERC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Access to healthy food is discussed as part of the Healthy Communities Chapter, and agricultural lands are included in the Natural Resources Chapter. Other chapters also provide principles and policies that are meant to help preserve and maintain access to healthy food and the ability to produce food locally.	
Individual Comments		
COMMENT 312	Enfield is a member of Recreation Partnership!	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See The Built Environment/Parks, Trails, and Recreation.	
COMMENT 313	Plan should touch on the County's role, or lack thereof, in the parks system.	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See The Built Environment/Parks, Trails, and Recreation.	
COMMENT 314	Suggestion that the County provide added leadership on trails development. This is an inherently intermunicipal role.	CP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
COMMENT 315	I would strongly encourage that any extension or creation of trails include prior notification to adjacent property owners for review and input. I would also strongly encourage the consideration of not pursuing creation/extension of any trails without the adjacent property owners' permission. Every effort should be made to provide as much prior notice to property owners regarding any proposed plans that would affect their or their neighbors' property.	E1
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. While a mechanism for notifying and working with adjacent property owners is appropriate, this level of detail is beyond the scope of the Plan.	
COMMENT 316	I am happy to read that building and retrofitting the built environment so that it is useable by all is a principle and a policy in the plan.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	
COMMENT 317	Policy: Promote access to places where people can grow their own food.	C11
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The Plan supports access to affordable, healthy food and a	

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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES		
	complete transportation network where residents have a variety of options by foot, bicycle, transit, as well as car to access a variety of amenities, including community gardens.	
COMMENT 318	I'm a farmer with a business selling to restaurants and directly to folks at a Farmers' market. I contribute excess food to places like Salvation Army. I would contribute more if I could get folks to pick their own free food at our farm.	C15
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The comment requested a change that would provide a greater level of detail than we thought appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues	
COMMENT 319	Also, I object strenuously to the claim on page 103 that the plan is so wonderful it will help prevent Type 2 Diabetes. It is an insult to those of us who have had this disease for years, are not obese, never have been and are physically active. It belies the efficacy of a scheme if there is a need to claim to be all things to all people.	E5
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The Draft Plan did not state that it would prevent Type 2 Diabetes. It did state: "The Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County's Health Planning Council is actively working to implement the Creating Healthy Places program. The program's goals are to help reduce obesity and prevent Type 2 diabetes by changing the environment to increase physical activity and consumption of healthy foods."	
COMMENT 320	Developing a good sidewalk network or other ways to encourage walking will require a considerable amount of intellectual and actual resources (money) to achieve. It's an important goal.	C12
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. No change was requested.	

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	Proposed Action Steps	
COMMENT 321	Provide technical assistance for smart growth. Education and technical assistance and direct support. Make information available online.	C14
COMMENT 322	Identify areas zoned, with infrastructure, appropriate to steer new affordable housing development (also work with these communities to understand concerns and build support).	HSP
COMMENT 323	TCCOG could challenge every community to identify key sites for development.	HSP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 324	The idea that 2/3 of new development should occur within DFAs should be more visibly pulled out in the plan	CC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
COMMENT 325	I noticed one error that should be corrected. On Page 108, TCAT is referred to as "Tompkins County Area Transit." It is, in fact, "Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit."	SC
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
COMMENT 326	County role. No direct control but can the county do a traffic study?	C14
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See Taking Action.	
COMMENT 327	Planners by nature and governments love concentrated communities because it is easier for them to provide infrastructure and to regulate life styles.	RP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. We concur that one of the benefits of concentrated communities is that it is easier and, as a result, cheaper to provide facilities and services, helping control government costs. The purpose is not to regulate life styles.	
COMMENT 328	Provide a little more detail on the form of development within the focus areas, not just mixed use and walkable. Not suburban strip malls, etc.	LP

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DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS		
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. See Livability Through Good Design for some guidelines. The form of development within the focus areas is a decision that should be made by each community using these guidelines.	
COMMENT 329	Concern that commercial/retail development on the fringes of the urban core will detract from the downtown Ithaca.	LP
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed. The County would, however, be willing to convene planning officials from throughout the Urban Core to address this issue.	
COMMENT 330	Love the emphasis on development in focus areas. Can we come up with resources (studies, e.g.) that can help municipalities realize why this is in their own best interest?	C11
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not changed.	

GENERAL COMMENTS		
	Multiple Comments on the Same Subject	
	High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing and Horizontal Drilling for Natural Gas	
COMMENT 331	No need for fracking section; Finger Lakes Tourism doesn't want fracking; Propane storage – where in Tompkins County is this planned?	C1
COMMENT 332	You mentioned aquifer protection and renewable energy, does the plan address fracking?	OFA
COMMENT 333	What types of development threaten the character of the community? This was in response to a summary of concerns about fracking in response to the previous question.	OFA
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan. There is a statement entitled “High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing and Horizontal Drilling for Natural Gas” located in the section on Climate Change. This statement re-iterates many of the concerns the County Legislature has publicly expressed with proposed HVHF and horizontal drilling.	
	Comments received concurring with the comments provided by the Tompkins County Republican Party.	
COMMENT 334	Finally, I wholeheartedly concur with the Tompkins County GOP Statement on County Comprehensive Plan Revisions submitted by [name withheld].	E5
COMMENT 335	I also want to express my support for the Tompkins County Republican Party response to the Plan revisions submitted by Henry Kramer.	E6
RESPONSE	Responses to the comments provided by the Tompkins County Republican party (identified as commenter RP) are noted throughout this appendix.	
	Individual Comments	
COMMENT 336	Then, whether the document is purely “educational” or actually a plan, there are areas where too much is omitted.	LEG
RESPONSE	Some additions to the Draft Plan were made in response to specific comments. However, in other cases, we judged the commenter to be requesting a greater level of detail than we thought appropriate in a Comprehensive Plan intended to address County-wide issues. There is always a balancing act between providing more information and keeping the Plan easily read. We will note that the 2014 Plan includes significantly more information and detail than the 2004 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan and we have also received comments that the level of detail in the plan reduces the likelihood that it will be widely read.	
COMMENT 337	Summarize the strategies in the relevant chapters.	LEG
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was amended. See The Economy, Housing, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Natural Resources, and Development Patterns Chapters.	
COMMENT 338	In addition to public outreach, the County needs to specifically reach out to organizations that are economic drivers in our community, they're vital to our long term viability and we harm them at our	CC

NOTE: Shaded text are comments received during the public outreach on the Draft Comprehensive Plan.

Bold text is used to indicate when comments have been grouped together for response. Individual comments are shown.

A [?] inserted in the text means the commenter's handwriting was difficult to interpret

GENERAL COMMENTS		
	peril	
RESPONSE	The Draft Plan was not amended. Public outreach efforts included meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, Tompkins County Area Development, and the Economic Development Collaborative.	
COMMENT 339	Policy – grass pasture [?] of food – creates wealth from ecosystem and personal labor; focus in other areas of comprehensive plan.	C8
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan. This policy is more detailed than the Plan calls for and goes beyond the scope of areas the County has much ability to affect.	
COMMENT 340	Make it clear that policy statements have not been adopted by the Legislature, but adoption of the plan will adopt the policy statements.	LEG
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan. Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan by the Legislature will establish these policy statements as official County policy.	
COMMENT 341	Environment – legal standing in decision; diversity.	C8
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan.	
COMMENT 342	Neighborhood and Communities – [?] is footprint – not necessarily close to housing	C8
RESPONSE	No change was made to the Draft Plan.	
	The following comments did not request any change to the Draft Plan.	
COMMENT 343	I really enjoyed talking with you last night at the Lansing session! It's exciting to see the directions for the County Comprehensive Plan and all the hard work that has gone into it. As I mentioned, I'm happy to get together at your convenience to talk about whether there are ways the Planning Department can more successfully engage grassroots "natural leaders" in generating effective solutions.	C19
COMMENT 344	Thank you for coming to Enfield and for the high quality presentation.	COG
COMMENT 345	Sustainability and Adaptation – great additions to the plan!	COG
COMMENT 346	As a County Legislature appointed Advisory Committee, the members of the Environmental Management Council would be happy to meet with Planning Department staff at any convenient opportunity to elaborate on our comments. We appreciate all of your efforts in compiling this progressive document. Thanks again.	ERC
COMMENT 347	Overall impression. FABULOUS. I appreciate that sustainability is the top and overarching principle, and agree with the other overarching principles of regional cooperation and fiscal responsibility as well.	C20
COMMENT 348	The Plan seems very thoughtful and I really like the attention that will be paid to saving/protecting our natural resources and the encouragement of building amenities for smaller municipalities to help foster more feelings of community and involvement.	E1

ORGANIZATIONAL/FORMATTING		
	The following organizational/formatting changes were made, at least in part.	
COMMENT 349	Insert year of documents in footnotes.	LEG
COMMENT 350	Consider using bold in the middle of paragraphs when introducing major concepts. In the alternative, pull quotes might serve this same purpose.	LEG
COMMENT 351	Consider putting the one-pager on Cayuga Lake directly in the text of the Water Resources chapter.	LEG
COMMENT 352	When referencing 'percent' without using numbers, preferable to use percentage.	LEG
COMMENT 353	We should be sure to share public comments in the final plan as an appendix.	WRC
COMMENT 354	Re-order the paragraphs to discuss the phosphorus issue first and the modeling effort second.	LEG
COMMENT 355	The latest revision of the plan has attractive colored charts, unfortunately the sources for the	RP

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ORGANIZATIONAL/FORMATTING		
	data are not provided so it is not possible to check on bias by those who compiled them or on their methodology. Statistics are no better than the methods used to compile them. For example, the statistic on agriculture is based on sales which minimize the role of agriculture. There are many other items that could be included (such as agricultural work at Cornell which is treated as education). These choices bias the outcome.	
COMMENT 356	Occasionally the plan refers to a recommendation – be clear what are recommendations of the plan or choose another word.	SC
COMMENT 357	If the policies are not in priority order, use bullets instead of numbering them.	LEG
The following organizational/formatting changes were not made.		
COMMENT 358	Shorten draft – 30-50 pages; no need for history; cut to the chase	C1
COMMENT 359	Prefer the use of % in the text rather than the word percent.	LEG
COMMENT 360	Instead of calling the sections “Issues and Opportunities” either separate them or just call the sections “Issues”.	LEG
COMMENT 361	Maybe the Cayuga Lake one-pager belongs in the overview, not later in the plan, since it is such a defining physical characteristic of the county.	LEG
COMMENT 362	There are issues with the units used in the text of the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Chapter.	LEG
COMMENT 363	Near the end of Strong Working Lands, maybe a bulleted list would work better than long paragraphs with lots of items.	LEG
COMMENT 364	Reads like a draft written 10-15 years ago	C1
COMMENT 365	The word “vibrant” is over-used in the text.	LEG

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