

# 2021 BUDGET

COUNTY OF ERIE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK



## BOOK A OPERATING FUNDS

**Mark C. Poloncarz**  
County Executive

Amended and Adopted by the  
Erie County Legislature on  
December 3rd, 2020

**Robert W. Keating**  
Director  
Budget and Management

### **Outcome Measures:**

- Focus Erie County support to help businesses obtain grant funding to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and address other issue to ensure they can operate safely with appropriate COVID precautions
- Erie County will assist minority and women-owned businesses with certification through the county's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office, and with its partners connect MWBEs with procurement opportunities
- Erie County and its partners will assist multiple small businesses gain access to capital and technical training. The Office will respond to 10 requests for potential Microloan Applications. Note the Microloan Applications are processed/approved by ECIDA
- In order to support our urban centers and "Main Street" businesses, Erie County will assist two village or urban center planning/redevelopment projects
- With its partners Erie County will explore multiple avenues to address the digital divide, including various inquiries into alternative funding sources, and will evaluate where the need is greatest
- Erie County will launch a comprehensive online resource web portal for businesses and consumers
- Lead and/or support post-COVID economic development planning, including continued leadership of the COVID Task Force Small Business Subcommittee and possible update to the Initiatives for a Smart Economy 2.0

### **Performance Goals**

- It is estimated that the COVID-19 economic recovery will be ongoing and the work of the Erie County Business Task Force and its subcommittees will continue well into 2021.
- It is estimated that one new company will locate on a brownfield site remediated by Erie County and its partners.
- It is estimated that at least 20 Microloan applications will be processed for approval as the pandemic will render more business eligible due to a loss of income in 2020.
- Office of Economic Development will provide assistance to 10 minority and women-owned business obtain certification through the Erie County EEO.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

### **Program Description**

The Division of Environmental Compliance enhances and protects the quality of the County's natural environment. The Division collaborates with its partners on projects through the Erie County Environmental Management Council, Western New York Stormwater Coalition, Erie County Water Quality Committee, Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance, Northwest and Northeast Southtowns Solid Waste Management Boards, the Western New York Environmental Alliance, Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable, the West Valley Citizens Task Force, and University at Buffalo RENEW Institute. In addition, the Division works extensively with other departments on projects such as the Erie County Green Team, which has created a sustainability plan for County operations.

In 2021, revenues from NYS will offset 50 percent of Household Hazardous Waste Collection event expenses, revenues from Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) collection events will offset expenses incurred for these disposal events, and funding from the County's two Solid Waste Management Boards will support solid waste management planning, additional collection events expenses, and mandated state reporting. In addition, funding from the WNY Stormwater Coalition will support stormwater permit requirements addressing education, training, and compliance.

Implementation of projects contained within the *Initiatives for a Smart Economy, 2.0* and the *Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (CASP) for internal operations* will be a high priority. These projects include the restoration of additional habitats at three County Buffalo River Natural Habitat Parks, along with our continued involvement and support of the cleanup and delisting of the Buffalo River Area of Concern. They also involve working with the Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force, a committee of the Erie County Environmental Management Council, to develop a Community Climate Action Plan and a Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The Division has been actively supporting the Erie County Green Team, assisting the Department of Public Works with energy projects, as well as pursuing grant funding for other water quality and sustainability initiatives that were outlined in the CASP. Furthermore, the Division is coordinating and

monitoring the County's community response to climate change, including working with stakeholders to develop an equity focused Community Climate Action Plan and conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment. In 2020, the Division began work on the Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy (ECLIPSE) which will work with the Departments of Social Services and Public Works to develop a community energy program that addresses energy burden and provides access to renewable energy for low- and moderate-income County residents.

The Paris Fund will reinvest a portion of the 2020 cost savings achieved through energy conservation and waste reduction projects in sustainability initiatives. The funds will be utilized to implement action items identified in the recently adopted Climate Action and Sustainability Plan for internal operations, as well as other projects identified by the Green Team. Whenever possible the fund would be used to leverage additional funding through grants and rebates.

### **Program and Service Objectives**

- Identify and secure financial assistance and provide technical environmental regulatory compliance and pollution prevention support to County departments, municipalities, institutions, private sector organizations, and the general public to reduce the costs of compliance, waste and/or clean-up
- Provide technical, administrative, and management support to public and private sector partners as they pursue resources, undertake initiatives, and comply with regulations to reduce and purify stormwater and enhance water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in or bordering the County
- Through the Western New York Stormwater Coalition, collaborate to fulfil public education, public engagement, pollutant sampling and employee training regulatory requirements to minimize unnecessary duplication of effort among 45 municipal entities
- Assist the Erie County Environmental Management Council (EMC) in its efforts to improve the transfer of environmental information to County residents, assess environmental priorities in the County, strategically focus Division efforts, and prepare their annual recommendation report. This will include facilitating the Community Climate Change Task Force, a committee of the EMC, which advises the County on its climate mitigation and adaptation efforts
- Deliver technical and administrative support for solid waste management planning, collection, and waste reduction strategies, including implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plans in partnership with Northeast, Southtowns, and Northwest Solid Waste Management Boards. In addition, improve recycling/disposal opportunities for public and private sector conditionally exempt small quantity hazardous waste generators, household chemicals, hazardous and universal waste, and unwanted electronic devices
- Supplement and implement food waste diversion programs, within county operations and in Erie County commercial sectors
- Provide environmental site assessments, data evaluations, and remedial engineering consultation to the Public Works Department, ECIDA, BENLIC and the County Brownfield Redevelopment Program
- Assist communities in monitoring and advocating for remediation of environmentally contaminated sites such as hazardous and nuclear waste materials at hazardous and radioactive waste sites
- Deliver technical and administrative support for municipalities and organizations through the Erie County Water Quality Committee by conducting outreach, education, training, and funding assistance for water quality projects
- Utilize the Niagara River Lake Erie Watershed Management Plan Phase 2 to prioritize water quality projects within Erie County for implementation through funding provided by the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance in cooperation with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties
- Continue working toward an approved Nine Element Watershed Management Plan for the Niagara River and Lake Erie Watershed in order to access additional state and federal water quality implementation project funding for municipalities and organizations throughout the County
- Support the Erie County Green Team's efforts to implement the adopted Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (CASP) for County internal operations, including implementing waste reduction, energy conservation, and greenhouse gas emission reduction projects
- Work to complete actions that will allow for Silver certification from the New York State Climate Smart Communities program
- Support development of a community-wide energy program to address energy burden and provide access to renewable energy for low- and moderate-income residents
- Support climate resilience planning efforts to protect life and property in the County, especially for vulnerable populations, due to the increasing impacts from climate change  
Perform regular greenhouse gas emission inventories for County operations and the community, and provide regular reporting on climate actions, to monitor progress towards the County's climate goals