Furthermore, the work of the Energy Manager will create a baseline which will be used to create a greenhouse gas inventory for the County.

Fleet

Erie County has a significant fleet. A large portion of the fleet is managed by the Department of Public Works, but the Sherriff's office also has a significant number of vehicles. DPW's Bureau of Fleet Services provides support services for County departments. The provision of such services by one division permits the County to benefit from both economies of scale and the elimination of duplicated activities. The functions provided by the Bureau of Fleet Services include equipment acquisition, deployment, disposal, maintenance, facilities management, inventory control and administration. Fleet Services also has full responsibility for fuel purchasing for all County departments along with the required DEC reporting.

The Bureau of Fleet Service's mission statement is to monitor motor vehicle maintenance and repair requirements, service procedures and scheduling. They also oversee the distribution and usage of vehicles in the County's vehicle pool; track and record vehicle operating expense per mile to determine maximum vehicle usage at minimum expense to the County; and oversee the distribution and usage of fuel in the County fleet along with full control of all ordering.

Invests in our communities

The County works to serve our community, whether it is in providing social services, maintaining infrastructure, or maintain and improving County Parks. In this way, the County is different from many of the other members of the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable. All County departments are consistently looking for ways to provide services to the community in a way that does not cause a burden to Erie County taxpayers. These solutions often involve partnerships, grants or both. Below are just some of the ways the County invests in our community with an emphasis on projects that have either been "greened" or are environmental at their heart.

WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable

One of the projects that was recommended in the *Initiatives for a Smart Economy* is the creation of a Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable dedicated to increasing the implementation of sustainable business practices in the region. The implementation of such strategies within the private sector will increase their economic viability and value to the community. This work will also result in an increase in the private investment in energy efficiency and weatherization projects and services, creating more energy related jobs and improving the economic viability of energy service contractors. The County has dedicated a significant amount of staff time, including working with partners to secure a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant to provide a staff person for the Roundtable, to help get this business-driven effort off the ground. The Roundtable was officially kicked-off on Earth Day in 2014 when more than 30 organizations, including Erie County, joined

the Roundtable by signing a pledge to create and implement a sustainability plan. The roundtable has held regular monthly meetings and workshops since that time.

Community Development Block Grant
The Erie County DEP Planning Division administers the Erie County Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Consortiums. These comprise 34 and 37 communities, respectively, in Erie County that have banded together to receive federal funds. These monies are used for a variety of community planning/improvement projects, housing programs, and economic development programs. In 2013 the CDGB program began referring its low income clients to a free energy audit program through PUSH (People United for Sustainable Housing) which has received a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Waste Collection Events
Hazardous household (HHW) materials are common products used around the home almost every day. A substance is considered hazardous if it ignites easily, reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances, is corrosive or toxic. Check for labels that bear the words "poison", "toxic", "warning", "danger", "combustible", "flammable", "corrosive", or "caution." Hazardous household materials could pose an unnecessary health and safety risk. Unwanted materials should be disposed in an environmentally sound manner. In order to provide residents with the opportunity to dispose unused hazardous household materials, Erie County provides multiple Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days each year. A similar service, though with a charge, is provided to "Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators," businesses which meet a regulated threshold of waste and can realize economies of scale through this organized event. The County also works with partners on other special waste collections, such as pharmaceutical waste, electronics, and textiles.

Demand for these HHW collection events has increased over the years. However, state funding has diminished. To maintain the level of service and meet continuing demand, the 2015 County budget included funding for one additional collection event. The County is also seeking grant funding for an education program to reduce such waste by using a paint calculator, identifying less toxic products, etc.

Watershed Management Planning
A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that drains on the land or below the land empties to a particular body of water. In August 2009 a ravaging flood event initiated the response of municipal officials in southern Erie County to lead a grassroots effort to proactively manage their local watersheds, all of which drain to Lake Erie. The storm event highlighted localized flooding problems, excessive debris accumulation in area streams, and overall non-point source pollution issues affecting their respective communities and ultimately Lake Erie. These watershed concerns were brought to the attention of the Erie County Water Quality Committee, which facilitated a regional discussion of the issues. As a