

G/FLRPC Comprehensive Climate Action Plan - Community Survey

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) is developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, and the responses to this survey will provide valuable information to inform goals and strategies to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and climate pollution.

The survey is completely anonymous and only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time and support in helping the G/FLRPC plan for a changing climate, invest in a cleaner economy, and build more equitable, resilient communities.

FIRST, A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU ...

This survey is completely anonymous. The following questions will help the project team understand whether survey responses successfully capture a diversity of people and experiences.

1) In which County do you live? (required)

- Genesee County
- Livingston County
- Monroe County
- Orleans County
- Ontario County
- Seneca County
- Wayne County
- Wyoming County
- Yates County
- Other: _____

2) What is your zip code? (required)

3) Do you own or rent your home?

- Own
- Rent
- Other: _____

4) Which best describes your race or ethnicity? Please check all that apply.

- Asian
- Black
- Native American
- Native Hawai`ian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Other: _____

5) Are you of Hispanic or Latinx origin?

- Yes
- No

6) What is your approximate household income?

- Less than \$35,000
- \$35,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

7) What is your age?

- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-44
- 45-64
- Over 65

CLIMATE ACTION

1) How worried are you about climate change? (required)

- Very worried
- Somewhat worried
- Not worried at all

2) What impacts from climate change are you most worried about in the Genesee/Finger Lakes region? Select all that apply. (required)

- Flooding
- Drought
- Extreme heat
- Water pollution
- Air pollution
- Reduced agricultural productivity
- Increased spread of invasive species and/or disease
- Food insecurity
- Exacerbation of environmental justice issues (e.g., disproportionate negative impacts to low-income and disadvantaged communities)
- Other: _____

3) In general, how committed are you to reducing your household's carbon footprint? (required)

- I'm doing everything I can
- I would like to do more
- I don't think reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important

4) If you answered that you would like to do more, what prevents you from doing more? Select all that apply. (required if answered "I would like to do more" to question 3)

- Reducing my household's carbon footprint is too expensive
- I don't know how to reduce my household's carbon footprint
- Reducing my household's carbon footprint is too inconvenient
- Other: _____

5) Do you think your local government is doing a good job of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations and preparing the community for the impacts of climate change? (required)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure what my local government is doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

6) What is one action you wish your local government was taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or prepare for climate change that they are not currently doing?

8) Climate action has many benefits beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Which of the following are most important to you? Select your top three priorities: (required)

- Improving access to healthy food
- Improving air and water quality
- Improving public access to greenspace
- Improving disaster preparedness, safety, and resilience
- Improving the economy/creating jobs
- Improving public health
- Reducing energy costs

9) In which of the following sectors would you like to see your community focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Select your top three priorities. (required)

- Transportation
- Land use / land development
- Buildings
- Energy generation and distribution
- Agriculture and working lands
- Materials management (e.g., recycling, organic waste diversion, reuse of existing materials)
- Economy (e.g., workforce development, industry)

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, approximately 37% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector.

1) What types of transportation do you use? Select all that apply. (required)

- Car
- Bike
- Walk
- Public transportation
- Rideshare
- Other: _____

2) If you drive a car, what kind of car do you drive? (required if “car” was selected for question 1)

- Gas-powered
- Electric
- Hybrid (gas & electric)

3) If you don’t drive an electric vehicle, why not? Select all that apply. (required if “electric” or “hybrid” was not selected for question 2)

- I’m not ready to replace my current vehicle yet, but I am planning on my next vehicle being an electric vehicle
- They’re too expensive
- I have no place to charge an electric vehicle
- There’s not enough charging infrastructure in the region
- I don’t think they’re reliable
- Other: _____

4) What would make you consider buying an electric vehicle? Select all that apply. (required if “electric” or “hybrid” was not selected for question 2)

- Financial assistance to offset the cost of an electric vehicle
- Financial assistance to install an electric vehicle charger at my home
- More charging infrastructure in the region

- None of the above
- Other: _____

5) If you don't take public transportation, why not? Select all that apply. (required if "public transportation" was not selected for question 1)

- It takes too long to get to where I need to go
- It doesn't take me where I need to go
- I don't feel safe
- The fare is too expensive
- There are no stops or stations close to me
- I don't know how to use it
- Other: _____

6) If you don't walk or bike, why not? Select all that apply. (required if "bike" or "walk" was not selected for question 1)

- I don't feel safe
- There's not enough bike lanes, trails and/or sidewalks between my home and where I need to go
- Existing bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, and/or crosswalks are not well-maintained
- Existing sidewalks and crosswalks are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- There aren't stores and services within walking/biking distance of my home
- Other: _____

7) What would make you consider walking, biking, and/or taking public transportation? Select all that apply. (required if "bike", "walk", or "public transportation" was not selected for question 1)

- More frequent bus service
- Dedicated bus lanes or transit priority signals to make taking the bus faster
- Bus stops closer to my home or where I want to go
- Improved safety on the bus/near bus stops
- Free or discounted bus passes
- Extended hours of bus service
- More bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, and crosswalks
- Better-maintained bike lanes, trails, sidewalks, and crosswalks
- Increased accessibility of sidewalks and crossing infrastructure (i.e., ADA compliant facilities)
- Bikeshare programs
- None of the above
- Other: _____

8) Which of the following would you be most supportive of in your community? Select your top three priorities. (required)

- Development of vacant parcels in already developed areas
- Adaptive reuse of vacant buildings
- Revising zoning to allow mixed uses (commercial and residential)
- Revising zoning to allow higher density development, including accessory dwelling units (i.e. mother-in-law units)
- Revising zoning to increase solar energy generation on buildings and large surface parking lots
- Adoption of green parking lot standards
- Adoption of a Complete Streets policy to require the incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in road projects
- Other: _____

BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, approximately 41% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the residential and commercial building sectors.

1) Have you made any of the following energy efficiency/clean energy upgrades to your home? Select all that apply. (required)

- Installation of an air-source or ground-source heat pump
- Installation of a heat pump hot water heater
- Installation of roof- or ground-mounted solar panels
- Conversion of interior and/or exterior lights to LED
- Insulation of your building envelope
- Other: _____

2) Which of the following would make you consider making energy efficiency/clean energy upgrades to your home? Select all that apply. (required)

- Financial assistance (e.g., tax rebates, grants)
- A low- or no-interest loan for eligible clean energy upgrades
- Technical assistance navigating available state and federal financial incentives
- Technical assistance finding a contractor to make the updates
- Other: _____

3) Which of the following would you be most supportive of in your community? Select your top three priorities. (required)

- Revising the building code to require new development to be 100% electric (no natural gas/propane)
- Adopting regulations to promote use of localized construction materials, deconstruction, reuse of materials, and minimization of construction waste
- Adopting minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties
- Adopting benchmarking and energy use disclosure laws for large buildings
- Strategically electrifying infrastructure such as water/wastewater treatment plants
- Programs to incentivize residents and businesses to conduct energy audits
- Programs to offer financial assistance to low-income homeowners and business owners to make energy efficiency/clean energy upgrades
- Programs to offer financial assistance to low-income homeowners and business owners to install roof- or ground-mounted solar panels
- Other: _____

OTHER SECTORS

In the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, the remaining percentage (approximately 22%) of our greenhouse gas emissions come from sectors such as electricity generation, agriculture, and materials/waste management.

1) Which of the following would you be most supportive of in your community? Select your top five priorities. (required)

- Forming a Community Choice Aggregation to negotiate cheaper, cleaner electricity for my community
- Installing renewable energy (wind/solar) on municipal/County property
- Upgrading the electric grid to handle increased demand from electrification
- Planting more trees
- Stricter regulations (i.e. zoning) to prevent deforestation and conserve existing trees
- Programs to conserve existing, native trees and plants by removing invasive species
- Development of farmland and agricultural protection plans
- Programs to transition non-road equipment (lawn, farm, and construction) to zero-emission technology
- Programs to encourage property owners to install and maintain sustainable and native landscapes

- Revising zoning to require green infrastructure and better stormwater management
 - Residential composting program
 - Community repair program
 - Tool library
 - Reuse center
 - Public recycling bins in downtown areas
 - E-waste collection events
 - Programs to incentivize large producers of greenhouse gas emissions to reduce their carbon footprint
 - Incentives to encourage green industries in the region
 - Workforce development programs to connect community members with jobs in clean energy/energy efficiency fields
 - Creating a recurring public forum for transparency and continued input on climate action
 - Creating a dashboard to share up-to-date data on greenhouse gas emissions
 - Developing a green revolving fund that uses cost savings from energy efficiency projects to serve as an ongoing funding source for clean energy improvements
 - Other: _____
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FINAL THOUGHTS...

- 1) **Is there anything else you would like to share with the project team that the survey did not address?**

Please return completed surveys to:

*Highland Planning
820 South Clinton Ave, Suite 3
Rochester, NY 14620*

Thank you so much for your time and input!

To learn more about the project, please visit: <https://engage.gflrpc.org/CPRG>

If you would like to be added to our email list to receive updates about the project, please email Heike Jacob from Highland Planning at: heike@highland-planning.com