



# A Sustainability Plan for Rye

Presentation for City Council by Sara Goddard, Marci Raab and Birgit Townley  
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# Why a Plan in Rye?



- Preserve Rye's natural beauty
- Respond to an involved and active community committed to environmental conservation
- Trim energy costs
- Safety/health concerns
- Absence of a comprehensive plan
- Outside of Rye, neighboring communities have adopted plans

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# What is a Sustainability Plan?

## *Background*

- Specifies and defines a community's environmental objectives
- Provides a venue to incorporate existing and future environmental initiatives
- Not a new or radical concept: numerous towns and cities throughout the US have adopted their own plans
- In addition, Rye is a member of ICLEI, an international organization that provides guidance for towns/cities creating plans

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# Outline for a Sustainability Plan

- Assessment of community's unique features, strengths and weaknesses
- Goals/Initiatives for various sectors:
  - ▣ Energy & Climate;
  - ▣ Transportation;
  - ▣ Land & Water Use;
  - ▣ Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: Perform Energy Audit to identify baseline levels (determine city's carbon footprint)
- Action plan
- Monitor progress

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# Why a Sustainability Plan?

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- Save \$\$ and live healthier
- GHG inventory → Emissions Reduction Targets → Reduction Measures
- Tool for monitoring
- Government grants/programs
- Active volunteer community – Great initiatives. Comprehensive plan will build coalitions and bring community together
- Institutionalizes objectives so that they endure
- Not a new concept! Many similar plans throughout New York and the United States

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# Benefits from a Sustainability Plan

- Reduce costs by implementing energy efficiencies, waste reduction measures
- Enhance quality of life through a focus on air quality, water and land conservation measures
- Improve health and reduce traffic congestion through measures that promote walking and biking
- Provide a model for other communities to follow
- Attract new "green" businesses
- Foster collaboration among stakeholders to adopt a plan that reflects shared values

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# What the Committee has Completed

- Explored best practices and lessons learned from other towns with sustainability plans
- Met with numerous individuals who have spearheaded plans in their own towns/cities
- Attended workshops related to sustainability and conservation
- Met with mayor and city manager to discuss plan and goals
- Initiated discussions regarding the formation of a new Rye committee
- Written a draft of the plan

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# Next Steps

- Conduct baseline carbon footprint measurements
- Community awareness initiatives:
  - ▣ An awareness campaign to educate the public and increase exposure
  - ▣ A sustainability summit, similar to Bedford's, that will bring together all interested stakeholders
  - ▣ A sustainability website
- Explore creating a partnership with neighboring communities, similar to the Northern Westchester Energy Consortium
- Consider the formation of a new committee dedicated to sustainability

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