



Technical Committee Comments

The following is a summary of comments from the Technical Committee on the draft Sustainability Plan.

INTRODUCTION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
1	The bullets on pg 2 and 3 note examples of the region becoming more sustainable. We should add the CDTC Linkage Program. Here's language to pull from: <i>The Linkage Program is one of the most significant cooperative regional efforts in the nation to reflect, in practice, what representatives of the region's counties, cities, towns and villages as well as state and local transportation providers have adopted as policy. In recognition of this regional achievement, the Linkage Program received a 2010 National Planning Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the American Planning Association. As of March 2012, CDTC has funded a total of 73 collaborative, jointly-funded studies over the past eleven years. Study sponsors have included 40 separate urban, suburban and rural municipalities and counties as well as not-for-profits and other public entities. Roughly \$4.7 million in federal, state and local funds have been committed to the Linkage Program since its inception in 2000.</i>	SW	Additional text has been added
4	We should also mention the number of communities that have taken the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, and that CDRPC is managing the Climate Smart Communities Pilot program.	SW	Additional text has been added
5	For the maps on page 2, the counties and central cities should be labeled and a layer showing minor civil division boundaries should be added. also might want to delete the word "legend").	SW	Comment is noted

INTRODUCTION			
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6	Not sure why Figure 1.3 is where it is. A better graphic would be a census tract map of percent poverty, since pockets of poverty are mentioned in the adjacent text but there is no map showing where the pockets of poverty are.	SW	New figure has been added
7	The third paragraph on pg 10 states that:The current public transportation system in the Capital Region is adequate in the urban centers but fails to create regional accessibility making it difficult to attract workers outside of cities, as well as providing limited access to jobs for low-income urban residents. Addressing the public transportation system will...This makes it sound like the issue is the public transportation system rather than the real issue, which is the sprawling low density auto-oriented land use patterns in these outlying areas that thwart their viability as transit hubs.	SW	Comment is noted
8	Keep sub-category names consistent throughout the document i.e. "food" vs., "food systems". References on page 1-7, table of contents, technical committees	SW	Comment is noted; consistency within document has been corrected
9	Page 1-4 Mention all forms of governemnet in paragraphc 2.	SW	Additional text has been added
10	What about GE advanced manufacturing battery factory in Schenectady using technology developed at GE's Global research Center in Niskayuna? Since 2009, GE has added more than 1,400 new jobs for the local economy. GE continues to invest in the \$180M GE Healthcare Digital X-Ray Detector Plant that has delivered more than 100 new jobs in the RPI Tech Park. GE also recently added on the Schenectady Campus its Renewable Energy headquarters, which has created 650 jobs.	SW	Additional text has been added

INTRODUCTION			
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11	Seems like we should discuss CDTA here and the BRT initiatives for Central Ave. and Western Ave.	SW	Additional text has been added
12	What are these maps supposed to show? They seem meaningless to me. They look like the same map. It might be more useful to show decline in city populations and increasing development in the suburbs and I-87 corridor. Maybe population density change over a longer period of time might show something useful. I'm sure CDRPC has a useful map.	SW	maps have been deleted
13	Why a slide identifying ethnic groups when the text is discussing poverty in the cities? Seems to me we should show a map depicting the concentration of poverty in the region. What does this slide tell us? You are also mixing race and ethnicity.	SW	table has been deleted
14	Hasn't the public workforce declined significantly in the past 10 years? Do we anticipate further reductions? How about a slide showing regional employment by sector over the past 10, 20 years.	SW	Comment is noted; we attempt to collect data and include in final version
15	I don't think you should say the public transportation system is failing. I personally think CDTA is doing a good job serving the community. The public transportation system will never be able to service spread out development in much of suburbia nor should it even try to given limited funding. I thought the emphasis as discussed in the Transportation section is on technology improvements for transit and BRT.	SW	Comment is noted
16	What does this statement about debt tell us? What challenge does it exemplify? It may be very important but I'm not sure why.	SW	Sentence is indicating that many communities in the region are under financial stress

INTRODUCTION			
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17	This map is indiscernible to me. Do we need 20 land cover classifications? Perennial ice and snow? No glaciers around here. Emergent Herbaceous wetlands v. woody wetlands? It also seems out of place with the discussion topic on this page.	SW	Map has been deleted
18	The only other comment that I have is in the introductory pages about the region and you mention the Port of Albany, I think it is important to point out that this is a Year Round, Deep Water Port.	SW	Comment is noted

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT			
	Response to Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	
	Comment is noted; final number will be provided	SW	
	Comment is noted	SW	

CLIMATE ADAPTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to Comment
1	With regard to page 3-10; table 3.8 - please list my program as a partner in the Promotion of Green Infrastructure as we are the only program in the region with a concerted, accredited, and fully implemented curriculum training the professionals in the development industry how to design/build GI systems and individual practices.	KL	change made
2	With regard to page 3-11; table 3.9 – would it not be better to highlight specific tools/resources/methods of vulnerability and other assessments aimed at the modification of local land use law governing development? For example, with regard to review/integrating Green Infrastructure into local land use law/code/ordinance the US EPA’s Water Quality Scorecard. This would, to me, impart a much greater knowledge on the subject, direction, and state-of-the-art awareness of these issues and the means we have at our disposal to address them. Isn’t that the point of this document? That we know what’s wrong, we know how to address the issues, we just need the funding to realize the solutions. Isn’t that what we are attempting to demonstrate here?	KL	These governance tables are meant to be somewhat consistent across the focus areas. the review was standardized to ensure consistency across the region. The details you are mentioning are important and will be addressed in actual implementation of the strategy.
3	I have one comment regarding the narrative for the climate change and food systems sections. I really think we need to talk about the threat climate change is posing to local food production. We should reference recent significant weather events resulting in extremely serious crop loss that occurred in the Capital Region such as: (1) 2011 crop loss due to severe flooding associated with Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee; (2) 2012 crop loss due to the 90 degrees plus temperatures in March followed by subsequent freezes that destroyed a significant portion of the tree fruit crop followed by the drought which impacted many fruit, vegetable and field crops	KL	The complete baseline assessment related to climate change impacts is located in Appendix 5

CLIMATE ADAPTATION			
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6	Even as we plan for aggressive action to build local food systems, damage to Capital Region agriculture from climate change is already occurring.	KL	Comment is noted
7	3-2, would high ozone levels be considered under climate hazards? If so, that seems pertinent to sustainability.	KL	Not typically; that is a regulated air quality issue and currently the Capital Region is in an attainment area for national ozone standards
8	Page 25 – I think this chart of disasters is unclear in some way. Is this per capita? I would guess (and maybe I'm wrong) that flooding affects many more residents than tornadoes...shouldn't the breadth of affect be a factor in consideration? A debilitating and costly disease affecting 1 in 250,000 is an important consideration, but an entire health care approach should not be built around that – it should be built around addressing the 150,000 who have "every day" illnesses related to poor nutrition or lack of exercise.	KL	The table is about total costs from damage. We will make that more clear.
9	Table 3.8, in the table the correct name is Stormwater Coalition of Albany County (intentionally named so as not to be confused as a county department)	KL	change made
10	Page 3-8: could the "land bank best practice" be moved from climate adaptation to econ dev section since that is where it is mentioned?	KL	change made
11	There should be some discussion/reference to the MS4 consortiums in Table 3-8. Also, may want to comment in that section that there are initial efforts underway pertaining to the Climate Smart Communities Program being coordinated by CDPC in partnership with VHB and Climate action Associates.	KL	Climate Smart Communities is mentioned in Table 3-8. Will add MS4 Consortium

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12	Section 3 - There needs to be a more thorough discussion of how the climate impacts affect the region. There is some discussion of flooding and storms, but no details concerning <u>how</u> these impacts affect us - road washouts, flooded wastewater treatment plants, power outages. The property damage statistics are a good start, but do not tell a complete story, especially since the numbers are so skewed by the tornado event. This discussion should be expanded upon, as it helps to support the goal of resiliency. For example, what exactly is at risk in Figures 3.6 & 3.7? Could specific facilities be labeled to make it clear how that predicted flooding will affect the area?	KL	More detailed information is in the appendices. We will provide additional info in the final plan.
13	In your discussion promoting Green Infrastructure, you may want to comment about the issue/difficulty of municipal oversight assuring the long term functionality of storm water infiltration mitigation measures on individual residential parcels.		Comment is noted
14	Page 3-1 last paragraph makes it seem that the Adirondacks have warmer summers than in Columbia Co. Just because Glens Falls is in a bowl that doesn't get much air flow doesn't mean that the rest of the area around it suffers from the same weather. The climate in Rensselaer County varies greatly and can't be categorized by the data from Troy in the same respect.	KL	We will review data to see if it can be adjusted. However, there may not be sufficient breakdown in the data to make that distinction.
15	Page 3-2 A bullet should be added for Blizzards/Severe Winter Storms	KL	change made
16	Page 3-3 A storm surge that is either wave driven such as a tsunami or wind driven such as the storm surge from Hurricane Sandy would have a hard time making it through the zig zags (curves) in the Hudson River that are found at Peekskill, Hastings and around Bear Mountain. The curves would help wave actions cancel themselves and the hills would reduce the amount of wind action on the river itself.	KL	Comment is noted

CLIMATE ADAPTATION			
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17	Figure 3-7 is missing low-lying marsh and farm field areas along the Papscannee Creek which would flood if there were 16 inches rise in the river level. Papscannee Creek is tidal.	KL	Comment is noted
18	<p>On the section Climate adaption, I believe ICE Storms and Shoulder Season Leaf On Snow Storms have a greater regional impact than do tornadoes, in that they impact a much larger area power outages, and transportation is impacted severely. As such some mention of these storm impact may be worthy of mention; Last year we barely missed the Oct. 30, 2011 nor'easter that severely impacted Connecticut and Mass. Below are examples of such storms that have impacted the Region covered by this Sustainability Plan.</p> <p>Note: below are 4 significant storms</p> <p>New York Severe Winter Storms (DR-1196) affected : Incident period: Monday, January 5, 1998 to Saturday, January 17, 1998 Major Disaster Declaration declared on January 6, 1998</p> <p>New York Severe Winter Storm (DR-1827) Incident period: Thursday, December 11, 2008 to Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Major Disaster Declaration declared on March 4, 2009</p> <p>New York SEVERE WINTER STORM (DR-801) Sunday, October 4, 1987 Major Disaster Declaration declared on Tuesday, November 10, 1987</p> <p>December 4-5, 1964 Albany Times Union December 4, 2009 at 8:18 am by Phil Falconer</p>	KL	The narrative was related to costs to the region.

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	Today marks the 45th anniversary of the ice storm of December 4-5, 1964 — arguably one of the most devastating ice storms to have affected our area in the past hundred years. In eastern New York, storm effects were felt from Canajoharie east to the New England border and from Albany north to Glens Falls.		
19	I would agree with Jim. Tornados are somewhat cyclical around here, with periods of none and then more. Ice storms and early/late snowstorms are regular and becoming more damaging as the area gets more tree cover. Add the push for more urban trees as green infrastructure and the damage should be expected to grow, unless electrical and communications infrastructure is put underground.	KL	Comment is noted
20	Page 3-5 Please identify the global climate change model mention in second paragraph	KL	Comment is noted
21	Page 3-6 Consider reformatting data in table by age	KL	Comment is noted
22	Under the promote green infrastructure priority initiative it should be noted that Counties do not have land use control authority so they should not be included under the local government level of implementation	KL	change made
23	Page: 25 I think this figure is mislabeled- 3.1? Does it make more sense to show the actual amounts? I don't think the bar graph is a good choice. Is this a one year snapshot or multiple years? Shouldn't you analyze multiple years? Are we saying tornados are the biggest threat? It may be true but seems strange to me.	KL	this is a costs table not a threat table, we will address language in the next round of edits.
24	Page 31 Is this true? Seems to me that some municipalities have formed what are essentially stormwater districts. Niskayuna?	KL	we will look into this

CLIMATE ADAPTATION			
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25	I'd start with "The Capital Region has already started to see changes in its weather due to climate change. Climate and weather are often confused... "Later on in the report, you describes some of the impacts from the climaid report and some evidence of that happening in our region. I think it might be helpful here if you summarized some of those impacts in plain language, perhaps in a table. e.g., ClimAID predicted warmer temperatures earlier in the year would cause major agricultural losses. In March 2012, when 90 degree weather in caused early blooms that were destroyed by frost. Fruit trees were most affected, with X% of the crop lost, causing \$X in losses (geographic region). Add something about the coastal and inland flooding from the storms, and extreme heat days.	KL	Comment is noted
26	No mention of shorelines or even riparian areas. On page 3-9 and other places initiative "Protect and enhance critical habitat, floodplains, and wetlands that are under threat from climate change." This covers shorelines and riparian areas implicitly if not explicitly.	KL	Comment is noted
27	You can note that superstorm Sandy caused storm surge in our region, including damage in Greene County.	KL	ok
28	Historical weather patterns already indicate warming trends for New York State. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program documents the following climate trends for the state (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 2012): The trends stated should use a primary reference. I suggest changing the word documents to lists or points out.	KL	Comment is noted
29	simplify where you can, just use "models" instead of an acronym.	KL	change made

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30	<p>Sea level rise is extremely likely this century and could cause the tidal Hudson River, which extends up to the dam at Troy, to rise 18 inches by the 2080s.</p> <p>Revise to Sea level rise is extremely likely this century. For the tidal Hudson River, which extends up to the dam at Troy, the downscaled projections of the GCM show sea level rise between 8 and 18 inches by the 2080s, and under the a rapid ice melt scenarios the projections are 37 to 50 inches.</p> <p>See: Table 5.1 ClimAID Assessment sea level rise projections (Page 125)</p>	KL	change made
31	<p>Page 29: This is not about adaptation: it is about energy conservation. Here are two adaptation examples:</p> <p>The New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup The New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup is a collaboration of 16 organizations working to help communities in New Hampshire’s Seacoast area prepare for the effects of extreme weather events and other effects of long term climate change. The workgroup provides support to coastal communities who will be most affected by climate change, including information, workshops, and technical assistance. http://nh.stormsmart.org/</p> <p>The City of Kingston, NY Kingston is a city on the Hudson River with a historic downtown vulnerable to flooding. The City’s Conservation Advisory Council is engaged in a community-driven process to address the challenges of waterfront flooding, especially in the face of sea level rise. A task force made up of representatives of businesses, property owners, institution, and government will assess the waterfront’s greatest vulnerabilities and</p>	KL	change made

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	opportunities. In 2013, the task force will make recommendations to ensure a secure, prosperous waterfront for many years to come. http://kingstoncac.org/index.php/initiatives		
32	I think you need to zoom in more and use a caption to make this figure more clear. If this is storm surge you might use a close up on the map and a picture of the recent flooding in Albany or Greene County as a result of Sandy to better tell the story	KL	will address next round of edits
33	Page 31 Don't use the acronym here. Write it out or call it "environmental review"	KL	change made
34	Page 33 How do these relate to the new commissions related to Sandy?	KL	this has not been investigated

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to Comment
SW	Additional narrative was added under the discussion of the priority initiatives to link goals with initiatives. We agree that the priority initiatives are not directly related to the H & T index, which is one of the indicators. The H & T Index was required by NYSERDA for all regions, which is the reason it is included. The more appropriate indicator that ties to priority initiatives is the change in median household income.
SW	Additional narrative was added.
SW	It was the intent of the priority initiative related to land banking was to highlight the need to invest in existing infrastructure.
SW	The scale of the plan covers 8 counties. It is not possible at this time to provide data sets that drill down beyond the county level.
SW	Additional narrative was added to the Table 5.5.
SW	Additional narrative was added to table 5.6
SW	Additional language was added to table 5.6
SW	Comment noted.
SW	GHG reduction was upgraded to medium for two of the priority initiatives.
SW	It was the intent to have CEG assist in coordinating and bringing together all of the regional partners who provide green jobs training, since CEG is only regional agency who supports the 8 county region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
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SW	As the table suggest, this will require multiple partnerships between municipal governments to develop multiple land banks.
SW	That may be part of it. But the H & T index combines housing with transportation as they are such a significant part of any household budget.
SW	The narrative has been edited.
SW	The narrative has been simplified.
SW	The comment may be correct; however the current Center for Neighborhood Technology, who establishes the index, does not allow that calculation at this time.
SW	The narrative has been edited.
SW	Figure has been added to show poverty concentrations
SW	Governance structure has been provided
SW	We attempt to provide data and include in final plan.

LAND USE			
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1	Page 64 – this chart on population growth is MUCH more usable than the chart early in the report!	N/A	Comment noted. This is a comment about a table earlier in the document.
2	Page 65 – the chart on poverty is clear but it is distracting that we cannot read the first three bits of information. I suggest either spelling out what these are...	NB	This chart has been expanded for clarity.
3	On Table 7-2, please add CDRPC to the list of Housing & Economic Development agencies. We are the designated Economic Development District by the EDA as well as the grantee for the Foreign Trade Zone program.	NB	CDRPC is included in Table 7-2.
4	On Page 7-3, the reference to the TDR program in Saratoga County is not fully accurate. It is something that is being promoted but only Clifton Park has a similar program, (somewhat of a hybrid between incentive zoning and TDR since they do not have receiving and sending districts identified in the town. The program only applies to the western part of Clifton Park and higher density allowances are permitted if an equal number of acreage is preserved or if there is a fee paid that can then be used for fee simple or PDR purchases on selected parcels. It is not a county wide program. Coincidentally, there will be a session on TDR's at the Saratoga Planning conference in January and I, along with several others, will be on the panel discussing the opportunities and challenges of communities instituting TDR's as a land use tool. I would keep in the reference to Saratoga Plan but would revise the lead in to more accurately reflect what is currently on the ground.	NB	The TDR callout box has been modified to address this comment.

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5	On Table 9-5, confirm with Chris re: CMAQ money. Will no longer be available for the CDTC MPO area. Not sure about Glens Falls.	VHB (JJ)	To be confirmed
6	Overall – the goals and initiatives don't seem to follow smoothly from the baseline data. There should be an explanation.	NB	To be addressed
7	Beginning in italics: change “valuing” to “improving”	NB	“Valuing” was used since it is the language from the source that is being cited
8	Land Use Overview pages 7-1 to 7-2: C-CAP imagery. Is it even worth having this in there?	NB	C-CAP data was included since it was the best readily available data source that covers the entire eight-county study area
9	3.3 square miles (2112 acres) dev'ped 1996-2006 but 2002-2007 lost 45,000 acres of farmland (page 1-4)???? Then says actually much more land was developed then says table shows development was for open space and low density. Table is C-CAP – would that show up on C-CAP?	NB	The Land Development in the Capital Region table was missing. This table has been added.
10	Land Use Overview – second paragraph, “As shown in Figure 7.1, most of the land developed...” That's not what Figure 7.1 shows (it's not change)	NB	The Land Development in the Capital Region table was missing. This table has been added.
11	Land Use Overview – last paragraph first sentence change ending to “process that sets priorities for land use regulation.”	NB	This sentence has been modified accordingly.

LAND USE			
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12	Aging Population – “Also, it is important to ensure that such areas” – “such areas” needs to be defined (areas where seniors live?) (denser, mixed use areas?)	NB	The sentence has been clarified based on this comment.
13	TDR box – the example case merely reiterates the definition of TDR already stated	NB	The TDR callout box has been modified to address this comment.
14	Housing – housing affordability index – is this more useful than housing AND transportation index? We talked about this in the committee meetings.	BVO/NB	The housing index was used since it provided data for all eight counties within the region. The Housing and Affordability index is a great tool, but there are some areas within the Capital Region for which is no data available.
15	Housing affordability index – text says housing less affordable – not true in all counties shown.	NB	This statement was revised to clarify that housing in the region overall has become less affordable.
16	Greenhouse gas emissions – what is the point of the table – maybe follow by an explanation. Better to show emissions by land area or by population – such as by including another column. Need source info and methodology (on-road attributed by trip or by mile?)	KH/NB	As described in the text, this table provides GHG emissions from activities related to land use. Emissions by land area are not available. We did run numbers for per capita emissions (see Energy chapter). As for the source, it is the 2010 Capital Region Tier 2 Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Methodology is too detailed to add here, but on-road emissions are calculated using Vehicle Miles

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			Traveled. The VMT numbers used are consistent with those included in the Transportation chapter. Sources have been included in the text
17	Page 7-7 – Greenhouse gas reduction “likelihood” instead of “potential”? Amount to be reduced is irrelevant, according to the description	KH	Language around the criteria that were used for evaluation/prioritization will not be modified at this point. This was formally adopted by the Executive Committee.
18	Page 7-1, figure 7.1, This chart and description don't really present a compelling reason to address sustainability as it shows only 6% of the region being developed. I think something is lost in addressing land use on a regional scale without explaining that there are huge differences in land use throughout the region. Maybe an urbanized area growth map might be helpful. Or a historical land use % reference? Or use figure 1.4 here instead?	NB	1) This is a good point which is why the next paragraph focuses on the pattern of development that is occurring, minimal as it may be percentage-wise. 2) Figure 1.4 is now also referenced here.
19	Table 7.2, Housing & Economic Development Organizations...Would like to add “Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region” (http://www.mycommunityloanfund.org) as a group identified (we have been engaged in such work for 27 years and serve the entire 8 county region)	NB	The Community Land Fund organization has been added to table 7.2
20	Albany County Housing Trust Fund no longer exists (and was never a “true” housing trust fund, though it is a tool that could be utilized throughout region...that’s a whole other discussion)	NB	This organization has been removed from table 7.2

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21	Table 7.5 – is this supposed to be the total cost of all potential projects or of each project that might fall under the particular initiative? If the cost is for individual projects, I would put the cost of the first initiative at \$-\$\$ since a smaller re-zoning project could be done for under \$100,000.	NB	These costs provide a general range, but that is not to say that some smaller plans can't be completed for less.
22	Table 7.5 again: Repair and modernize infrastructure – could additional implementers and/or partners include water districts, private developers, public authorities?	NB	These entities have been added to Potential Partners list.
23	And table 7.5 once more: I think that the greenhouse gas reduction potential is for the second two initiatives is underestimated on the table. Although it might be difficult to quantify the Greenhouse gas reduction potential of infrastructure upgrades, this initiative could be given a rating of “medium.” One example might be increasing capacity of water and sewer systems in an area targeted for dense development: there would be a quantifiable reduction on greenhouse gas emissions that could be attributed to this type of project which could be calculated by looking at the relative energy costs of distributing water/collecting sewer to the same number of EDUs over a smaller area as opposed to a larger area. For the third initiative, the greenway plan, greenhouse gas reductions could be easily calculated by looking at the carbon sequestration potential of protected open space and/or the potential greenhouse gas emissions prevented by NOT developing the land dedicated to the greenway. So in summary, I suggest that #2 be changed from “Low” to “Medium” and that #3 be switched from “Low” to “High”	KH/NB	No more changes will be made to the ratings. These went through an extensive evaluation process cannot be change at this point. However, regarding suggestion 1, There is simply no way to quantify that without much more specific baseline and implementation detail for specific locations; regarding suggestion 2: , It is a plan, and a strategy to develop a plan was ranked as “low” because developing the plan does not reduce GHGs. Implementing specific actions of a plan does that.

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24	I thought we had decided that the first initiative - Modify local codes and regulations...- was supposed to be broad enough to encompass several other initiatives, but the other initiatives are still listed in the plan separately. Specifically, it seems a little confusing to list “Implement land conservation practices into land use planning and zoning” and “Update zoning for transit-oriented development” as distinct initiatives. Perhaps those should be left of the “losing” initiative list...	BVO/NB	
25	Page 7-2, top paragraph, 3 rd sentence. Figure 7.1, according to its title, shows the land use and not the land use change or development. This line doesn’t make sense with the data provided.	NB	The Land Development in the Capital Region table was missing. This table has been added.
26	Page 7-7, Repair and Modernize Existing Infrastructure could have a medium greenhouse gas reduction potential, depending on what gets modernized. The upgrading to energy-efficient water and sewer infrastructure can save a lot of energy. The Rensselaer County Sewer District #1 has save incredible amounts of energy and therefore \$\$\$ in some of its upgrades that have paid for themselves.	NB	The \$-\$\$\$ range in table accounts for costs, not cost savings.
28	The pie chart is labeled “Land Use” but is actually land cover. Land use is residential, commercial, industrial, etc.	NB	The title for Figure 7.1 has been changed to "Land Cover"
30	On the bottom of page 63 the sentence should read: The amount of developed land, however, is underestimated since this data is based strictly on Landsat satellite imagery, which is captured in 30 meter by 30 meter pixels and therefore often fails to document small scale/low density development.	NB	This sentence has been modified accordingly

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32	The top of pg 63 states: As shown in Figure 7.1, most of the land developed in the region during this period, was for open space and low density residential uses. You should delete the words “open space and” in this sentence.	NB	The sentence accurately reflects the data as is.
34	A proportionate symbol map of net population change by minor civil division would be much more effective at illustrating population change than the Figure 7.2 graph. And an actual land use map based on tax parcels would also be much better than the land cover image that’s shown. From tax parcels you can also extract residential parcels by “year built” to actually show where the sprawl is. A proportionate symbol map of net building permits over time could also be used to show development activity by minor civil division.		This is a good suggestion. However, due to the scope and schedule restraints of this project, such a detailed analysis was not possible.
35			
36	p.7-1 under Land Use Overview – My read of it is that there is no data set illustration for the discussion of the <u>change</u> in land use from 1996 to 2006 that’s discussed in the second paragraph; however on page 7-2 in the top paragraph there is discussion of land developed as shown in Figure 7.1 which is inaccurate. The second to last sentence in that paragraph is misleading. I would suggest a summary sentence for the two paragraphs should read something like this: Between 1996 and 2006 the consensus in the planning community is that there has been an increase in sprawl outside of the traditional urban areas. The number of building permits issued during that time would show the increase in development, particularly in the municipalities surrounding the larger cities.	NB	The Land Development in the Capital Region table was missing. This table has been added.

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37	Maybe it would be helpful to explain briefly the difficulty in summarizing land use changes over time in such a large geographic area. The footnote on C-CAP at the bottom of 7-1 gets at this point, but I think you need to be a planner to understand it. With the limited time on this project and the vast geographic area it was very difficult to describe or illustrate the baseline data needed to support what we knew as a technical committee. I think that should be stated in some way.		This is a good suggestion; however, including it in the body of the report might break the flow of the discussion. Consideration will be given to including this in a footnote.
38	p.7-2, 2 nd paragraph – “individual communities <u>have the opportunity to provide zoning...</u> ” instead of “have to provide zoning”. Just to clarify that zoning regulations are not mandatory, a lot of people assume they are.	NB	The sentence was modified per comment.
39	p.7-3, The shaded box at the top of the page on Saratoga seems out of place with the discussion of poverty and population. Maybe reposition on another page and add a heading with “An example of a municipal tool to address problems of sprawling development”.	NB	The TDR callout box has been relocated so that it is not part of the Poverty section.
41	On page 65 there should be census tract-based maps of poverty, homeownership, housing value, tenure, and household income to illustrate the spatial distribution of these attributes, which are discussed in the narrative. This data is readily available from www.census.gov	NB	This is good suggestion. However, due to the scope and schedule of this project, such a detailed analysis was not possible.
42	Page: 64 How does Figure 1 show us how most of the land was developed during this period. Doesn't Fig. 1 just show land cover? What is meant by developed for open space?	NB	The Land Development in the Capital Region table was missing. This table has been added.

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
43	Page 64 What are we trying to say here? It's not surprising that increased development leads to some increase in population. It seems to me the issue is where the population growth/development has occurred and in what form.	NB	This section is providing an overview of population growth at the region-wide and county-wide levels and points out that growth in last decade is higher overall than in the previous decade
44	Page 64 Is this difference in the rate of population change really dramatic? Is there anything insightful we can say here? What parts of the region are leading this growth? Are the cities experiencing additional growth? Seems that Schenectady and Rensselaer growth rates changed the most.	NB	This section is providing an overview of population growth at the region-wide and county-wide levels and points out that growth in last decade is higher overall than in the previous decade
46	Page 63 Land Use or Land Cover?	NB	The figure title has been changed to "Land Cover"
47	Page 65 Are you sure Saratoga County has a TDR program? That's news to me.	NB	The information here is based on information provided in the Saratoga Plan
48	Page 65 A map showing poverty concentration might be useful here. The bar chart doesn't really tell you anything	NB	This is a good suggestion. However, developing a detailed poverty concentration map was not possible within the project scope and schedule. If more time and budget become available, developing such a map will be considered.
49	Page 65 What is the home ownership rate and median household income in the CR?	NB	These numbers are provided in the first paragraph of the Housing section in this chapter.

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
50	Page 66 Would it be useful to show housing affordability index for other metro areas? Isn't affordability a perceived strength of the area? What's going on with the 2000 data? Affordability went way up between 1990 and 2000 and seems to have fallen significantly between 2000 and 2006. Is this worthy of some discussion? Was 2006 the peak of market values? Can we make some assumptions for this index for 2012 since housing values have generally dropped between 2006 and 2012?	NB	To be addressed
51	Page 66 Are these a listing of housing assets or regional economic assets? Aren't housing assets more like the quality of housing stock, variety of housing types and afford ability?	NB	This is a good distinction. This section will be modified to be clearer about what types of assets it is referring to.
52	Page 68 While form based codes may be good, you can modify codes to encourage more traditional, dense and walkable land use patterns without necessarily adopting a form based code.	NB	This is a good point. However, the Regional Initiative statements cannot be modified at this point in the project since they were developed through a series of Technical committee workshops. If an opportunity arises to revisit the statements, this suggested modification will certainly be considered.
53	Page 63 Why limit this to DEC lands? There are other State lands, as well as local and private conservation lands. These data are available from the NYSDEC and the National Conservation Easement Database. Let me know if you need help accessing it.	NB	The text has been modified to note that there are other local and private lands beyond NYSDEC lands.

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
54	As shown in Figure 7.1, most of the land developed in the region during this period, was for open space and low density residential uses. This may be indicative of an increase in sprawl. This sentence is counter intuitive for the average reader. Open space does not equate to development.	NB	This figure and supporting text has been modified to clarify that this is developed open space which can include recreational and very low density residential uses.
55	There are better resolution data to describe sprawl, esp. for the 4 county CDPRC region.	NB	Data used for this study were generally limited those that could be readily obtained for all eight counties within the Capital Region
56	I love TDR programs! However, the reality is that their complexity makes it difficult for communities to implement such a program. Clifton Park has a wonderful program, but they also have the capacity to administer such a program (high tax base, planners on staff). Is there another example that might be more accessible to more communities	NB	This is a good point. If time and budget on this project permit, further research on other example TDR programs will be conducted.
57	Page 68 This goal was initiative was broadened using those from other tech committee areas. In the Climate adaptation committee there was much talk about protecting specific resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change, including addressing Hudson River marsh migration due to Sea level rise, protecting floodplains to reduce property damage from more frequent flood events, protecting wetlands to maintain flood storage, protecting forests to manta in carbon sequestration, etc. These important specifics were lost when added to this section. I suggest outlining the important components of such a plan that were raised by the tech committees, eg. trails and recreation, natural areas that help people adapt to climate change, farmland I saw that in food systems), and others. From past experience I know that when you are not specific about natural	NB	The format of this report is such that goals are worded as they were developed by the Technical Committees over several workshops.

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
	resources, they tend to be ignored.		
57	(Figure 7.1) add time period	NB	The figure title has been modified to include the year.
57	pg 7-2 Can we get a summary of who has a comp plan or even zoning? Shows the importance/opportunity of governance.	NB	This is a great idea. If remaining project schedule and budget allow for it, compiling such a list will be considered.
57	pg 7-2 Where is Columbia's red bar (Figure 7.2)	NB	No red bar means there was no change in population for that county between 2000 and 2010
57	pg 7-3 - Can we see the entire names? Data source? Feel like we need more discussion on poverty. Relationship of poverty to school performance?	NB	The figure was modified to show entire labels and the data source has been cited in the accompanying text.
57	7-4. Median Value of owner occupied units - What are they?	NB	The average median value of owner occupied units in the Capital Regions was \$188,400 in 2010, as is noted in the text.
57	7-4. Housing Affordability Index - clarify the the higher number is more affordable.	NB	This has been clarified in the text that the higher the number on the index, the less affordable housing is.
57	pg 7-5. Special needs, supportive services, and affordable housing needs to be spread throughout the region and not concentrated in a few locations.	NB	This comment has been incorporated into the chapter text.

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
57	pg 7-5. Table 7.3 GHG Emissions - Why just residential? Isn't commercial and industrial important?	KH	As noted in the text leading to that table, commercial and industrial energy emissions are important but less relevant for the goals and initiatives under LULC. The LULC strategies are more likely to impact residential energy emissions (sustainable housing, compact development), and on-road transportation (reduction of VMT from certain strategies).
57	pg 7-6 form-based codes - green codes. eco-district overlays, LEED-ND guidelines. Identify a best practice? Buffalo's Green Code?	NB	The Regional Priority Initiative statements cannot be modified at this point in the project since they were developed through a series of Technical committee workshops. If an opportunity arises to revisit the statements, this suggested modification will certainly be considered.
57	pg 7-6 "The other initiatives not included in the top three are listed below in order of their ranking:" - detailed in appendix?	NB	Yes. The initiative ranking process for all technical areas is detailed in Appendix 4.
57	Just to provide a little context to the CLC report cited- the reason we commissioned the study was precisely because the population as measured by the census was not painting an accurate picture as to what was (and still is) driving development in Columbia County. It is true that the number of farms in the county is on the rise, however, they are smaller farms, operating on less land, and the total acreage in	SW	Comment is noted

LAND USE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
	<p>farmland has declined (down 13,000 acres from 2002- 2007). While the census population in Columbia County remains stable, the number of households in the county is increasing, as are the number of second home owners, which in turn is impacting the land use patterns in the county. For example, during the period examined by the study (1990-2000) one town experience a population growth of just 2.5% but an increase in the number of households equal to 10%, other towns had a loss of population, but again, an increase in the number of households. In Columbia County, most households are living in single family residences, so an increase in number of household translates to more pressure on the land. Add to that new construction by second home owners (again not reflected in the census population numbers) and the effect on the landscape can be dramatic- low density development that has an impact of farmland, forests and other open space. I believe these trends continue through-out the region.</p>		
57	<p>"NYSDEC manages approximately 286,700 acres of land" - why not include state, local & private conservation lands? This data is available from the NYSDEC and the National Conservation Easement Data Base.</p>		<p>We will include in final version of the plan.</p>

SOLID WASTE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
1	Page 71 – I am sorry to see the term “solid waste” in this report, because NYS is trying so hard to transition away from Waste Management as a term to Resource Management. We need to address “waste” as a resource in order to make any headway. Can we use this better suited term? You cite DEC’s approach and quote them – we really need to use their terminology.	KG	I disagree. Solid waste is a defined term both in statute and regulations. We can move toward a more comprehensive material management policy, but the stuff we throw in the garbage is still solid waste.
2	Page 8-1 Box. Single stream recycling seems to get more people to recycle since it is easier for people to do since there’s less sorting, etc.	KG	That’s what the box already says..single stream is more efficient and convenient for the recycler. So no change was made
3	Page 8-2 Note to the third full paragraph. It was mentioned at the CDTC Policy Board meeting last week that the largest export from the Port of Albany this year was scrap metal.	KG	Added a sentence about this on page 9-3
4	The GTASWMA no longer exists. Confirmed in an interview with Bill Chamberlain, Commissioner of DPW in Troy. Please remove it from the Solid Waste Planning Unit list. According to Bill, that planning unit was legally decommissioned many years ago.	KG	Confirmed with Gus Ribero of NYSDEC that the GTASWMA enabling legislation was repealed by A. 10288-A / S.5198-D, which became effective October 15, 2012. As such, reference to the GTASWMA was deleted from Table 9.1.

SOLID WASTE			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
5	<p>I believe this project is complete: The City of Schenectady's Water Pollution Control Plant is developing a \$7 million project that includes a combined heat and power (CHP) system producing biogas and using an internal combustion engine to create electricity. With the new equipment, the plant will generate an estimated 1,800 megawatt-hours of electricity per year from the biogas – enough to power more than 275 private homes for a year. This will offset the energy costs of the plant and, combined with other improvements, save an estimated \$300,000 in energy costs each year. The CHP system uses anaerobic digestion to produce the biogas. Sewage is treated and the thickened sludge mixed and heated to allow the waste to break down and generate methane. The methane is purified and combusted to generate electricity. NYSERDA provided a \$1 million award toward the cost of the CHP project. The entire process also reduces odors and results in a finished product that can be used for compost (NYSERDA, 2012).-</p>	KG	<p>Changed the first sentence from "is developing" to "has developed"</p>
6	<p>Table 8.6 mention quality composting needed for green infrastructure and native plants</p>	KG	<p>No Change to this table. The comments is noted but it is outside the context of the table</p>
7	<p>In the baseline section, Can we mention Radix and the Watevliet/Albany County Pilot NYSERDA Bio-Digester Project?</p>	KG	<p>added 2 new paragraphs, starting on the bottom of page 9-4.</p>

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
1	GGFT buses also include bike racks, and the service extends to northern Saratoga County (Town of Moreau/Village of South Glens Falls) (p. 9-3)	JJ	Comment incorporated
2	The AGFTC Regional Bicycle Map has been updated and is available to the public. (9-6)	JJ	Comment incorporated
3	AGFTC should be listed as an implementer for the bike/ped infrastructure improvement program initiative (Table 9.5)	JJ	Comment incorporated
4	The local government level of implementation in Table 9.6 should not be limited to jurisdictions within transit agency coverage areas. Complete Street policies, zoning revisions, and signal optimization are not dependent on transit coverage and would benefit communities not served by transit.	JJ	Comment incorporated
5	This section does not mention the existing carpooling effort undertaken by CDTC and AGFTC. Each agency hosts a web-based ridematching site, with linked databases of potential riders. AGFTC's site is called iPoolNorth, and CDTC's is called iPool2. Might be too late to include these (and I'm surprised they weren't discussed at the subcommittee level) but I thought I'd mention it.	JJ	Comment incorporated
6	Attached are respectfully suggested edits to Section 9-Transportation intended to preserve and enhance intermodal access options as a cost-effective means to reduce GHG emissions and "carbon footprint".	JJ	Airport information was added to the baseline. Connections between modes is woven into the document

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
	Scheduled air-carrier service provides the most fuel efficient and environment friendly mode of intercity mass transit on a per passenger mile basis, on par with rail but much friendlier to critical areas such as watersheds and wildlife habitats and with lower emissions. The Profile and Economics/Demographics attachment is excerpted from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended 2011 available at www.albanyairport.com . Do you agree? Thanks either way...Please let me know if I can provide anything further. Onward and upward.		
7	First sentence first paragraph doesn't seem technically true... I took a stab at that paragraph:	JJ	Comment incorporated
8	First paragraph change to "Modes of transportation heavily influence GHG emission rates, making sustainable transportation a crucial element of any sustainable system. The vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by cars and other motor vehicles generate significant GHGs and must be offset by the provision of sustainable transportation choices for individuals' daily needs. Those choices must include walking, bicycling, transit, and fuel efficient vehicles. A multi-modal transportation system also results in lower VMT and less demand for sprawling land development, leading to a healthier and more sustainable community environment."	JJ	Comment incorporated
9	Page 9-2 2 nd paragraph before the last sentence add: "Likewise, measuring VMT at the county level alone omits important information about the relationship between development patterns and VMT."	JJ	Comment incorporated

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
10	Page 9-3 end of first paragraph end of last sentence change to “...parking spaces for transit and rideshare use.”	JJ	Comment incorporated
11	Page 9-3 second footnote: same as first footnote? Check this. That article has no reference to Brown or Trailways.	JJ	Comment incorporated
12	Page 9-4 first paragraph second to last sentence change “some” to “most”	JJ	Comment incorporated
13	Page 9-10 priority 3, development community also as Implementer? When new developments/subdivisions occur, doesn't the developer build the roads? Then also added to funding sources.	JJ	Comment incorporated. Note that "Development community" was specifically added to table by the technical committee
14	The Altamont Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan should be added to the list of currently available bicycle, pedestrian and trail maps and plans in the Capital Region (page 9-6).	JJ	Comment incorporated
15	Page 9-2 First paragraph, last sentence. Figure 9-1 illustrates major roadways of the Capital Region roadway network.	JJ	Comment incorporated
16	Page 9-5, bottom paragraph. Text states that Saratoga County has a car access rate of 98 percent while the chart next to it only shows 95%.	JJ	Comment incorporated

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
17	<p>7-7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please correct Parks & Trails New York’s name to have an ampersand in two instances on this page. • PTNY’s Healthy Trails, Healthy People program (listed here incorrectly as Healthy Heart/People) is not a funding source – it’s a technical assistance program for trail development and so doesn’t make sense here, but possibly under Developing a Greenway Connectivity Plan. • PTNY maintains a list of funding sources that may be useful here: http://www.ptny.org/greenways/funding/index.shtml 	JJ	Not a transportation chapter comment
18	GGTC should read "GGFT". GGFT service area includes the Town of Moreau and Village of South Glens Falls in northern Saratoga County. Table should reflect that and the data should be adjusted.	JJ	Table Redone to take out Transit operator names and instead just refer to Counties
19	Place additional emphasis on intermodal facilities including the Albany International Airport and other train stations in the region; add additional info about the airport in the baseline.	JJ	Airport information was added to the baseline. Connections between modes is woven into the document
20	Consider adding a Priority Initiative that promotes intermodal facilities in the Region	JJ	Freight facilities of all kinds are included in the two freight initiatives. Language to the specific priority initiatives was not altered because it was specifically written and approved by the committee as a whole and already covers the "spirit" of this comment.

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
21	Page 83 Is there a positive trend in CDTA ridership we should discuss?	JJ	Recent growth information was unknown, so only current ridership is reported. Also, data for other transit systems was not readily available.
22	Page 84 Should we expand on this discussion of BRT to include the studies going on for the proposed Washington/Western Avenue BRT. Seems like an exciting project.	JJ	It is mentioned in the text that "CDTA is planning additional future BRT routes"
23	Page 85 Where is the other measure of potential dependency discussed? Living close by to transit service is not a measure of potential dependency. It is a measure of potential use. Doesn't it make more sense to discuss the number of households without access to a car?	JJ	Page 85 discusses households with (and without) access to a vehicle, which is the primary census data used to indicate transit dependency.
24	Page 85 Doesn't it make more sense to provide a graphic showing households without a car? Especially since we are talking about a measure of dependency.	JJ	Understood. Figure 9.6 presents this data in reverse, but the text discusses transit dependency, so comment has been addressed.
25	Page 86 I think another "barrier" that should be mentioned is free parking.	JJ	Comment incorporated

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
26	Page 86 Should this section be retitled to Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail Planning? Should there be a discussion of the actual trail network, key gaps, proposed routes, etc. Is there some reason why we don't include a regional trail map?	JJ	The section does not refer only to planning, so the title was not changed. A significant attempt was made to create such a regional map, however, GIS layers are unavailable and resources and time - as well as the scope of this project - prevented creation of this map from scratch. Space and level of detail within this report prevent a detailed discussion of gaps, although it is reflected in earlier meetings and minutes. It is agreed, though, that a regional map is a good idea and it could hopefully be one of the outcomes of the priority initiatives.
27	Page 88 As mentioned in a previous comment, shouldn't we identify some of the key gaps, initiatives, etc.	JJ	This section does not discuss existing gaps or initiatives - the initiatives are forward-looking. However, the initiative itself specifically discusses fixing and filling gaps.
28	Page 84 What about Hudson?	JJ	Correction made

TRANSPORTATION			
	Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
29	page 85 I think these are overstated, which should be made clear in the text. The problem with transit isn't that people do not have access, it's that it does not meet their needs either because of inconvenient schedules/routes or a need to be able to go home to take care of a kid. One of the things I learned from the sustainability design assessment team report from Albany is that commutes are not that long or expensive, so taking transit isn't cost- or time-effective for most people. It will be interesting to see what permit parking in downtown Albany does to that equation.	JJ	This has been incorporated.
30	page 86 Where are the major commuting routes? How many people commute into Albany?	JJ	Unknown.
31	Page 86 add bullet Parks & Trails New York online Trail Finder at http://www.ptny.org/trailfinder/ . It includes information on greenways, rail trails, canal trails, bikeways, and riverwalks state wide.	JJ	Comment incorporated
32	p. 9-7 What about EV's CNG's - infrastructure needs? Add a section. Albany's EV Study.	JJ	Comment incorporated
33	On Table 9-5, confirm with Chris re: CMAQ money. Will no longer be available for the CDTC MPO area. Not sure about Glens Falls.	JJ	Comment incorporated

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
Water - not sure if this was addressed in the plan but disincetivizing extension of public sewer and water infrastructure	CE	This is generally considered a land use issue. Limiting water and sewer infrastructure, particularly sewer is a primary means of controlling growth and density. This topic area focuses more on the protection of water quality (which sometimes includes the extension of sewers vs. continued use of septic systems) and conservation of water resources.
<p>For Inclusion in Water Baseline Assessment</p> <p>Dams</p> <p>New York's States dam infrastructure is aging and in need of repair. This is also a national phenomenon, with many dams being built in the 1950-60s, referred to as the Golden Age of Dam Building. The design lives of many of these dams have been exceeded. A high percentage of dams were built over 50 years ago. Many of these dams were not built, nor are being maintained according to today's engineering standards.</p> <p>Winona Lake Spillway Damaged. Dam located in Orange County on Quassaick Creek.</p> <p>There are XXXX DEC inventoried dams in the Mid-Hudson Region, with likely double that number of smaller dams. Of those dams, X are high hazard, X medium, and X low. These dams serve a number of existing purposes (e.g., hydroelectric energy generation, water supply, and recreation). Dams are owned by a variety of public and private entities, with the greatest percentage in private ownership.</p> <p>Dam removal is viable river conservation and water sustainability strategy, both reducing risk to downstream landowners and structures, while improving river function and aquatic health.</p>	CE	It is agreed that dams are an important piece of the region's infrastructure. However, this section focuses on larger planning efforts in the region to address water quantity and quality. Dams will naturally be part of the discussion for the watershed management initiative. Dams provide impoundments of water that serve as water supply and they can offer peak flood attenuation during storm events if managed to do so. Addressing the structural integrity of various dams and their continued purpose would come out of the larger watershed analysis and future site specific projects that would be needed to address a watershed plan. No changes to the

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
<p>Culverts, Bridges, and Road Crossings Every time a road crosses a stream or river, a bridge or culvert exists. As you can imagine, there are thousands of locations where streams, rivers, and roads intersect. Although we might not traditionally think of culverts and bridges as water infrastructure, they are arguably as water infrastructure as road infrastructure.</p> <p>There are XXXX bridges and culverts in the Mid-Hudson Region.</p>		Water section are recommended.
<p>Is this 10 State Standards #? Shouldn't we use whatever design criteria will be mandated?</p>		In the absence of specific data on water use for various land uses, the multipliers used here are generally accepted in the industry for this region. The numbers are probably a bit conservative but despite this, the supply of water appears to be more than adequate, with the assumptions provided in the text.
<p>I'm pretty sure SSO's are not legally designed into any system. they occur as a result of insufficient collection capacity or other collection system problems.</p>	CE	SSOs are a result of older regulations or lack thereof and are found in older systems. Not implying that they are a current design feature.
<p>Addressing water supply and water quality are two different task---also water quality considers both human and wildlife needs. I'd include sentence to sort this out for the reader.</p>	CE	The Water goals (Table 11.4) reflect this issue.
<p>4th paragraphs "foreseeable future" - how long is this?</p>	CE	10-20 years is typically used as a suitable time period for land use and related comprehensive planning

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
On what basis were water projection made?	CE	Water projections are based on generally accepted multipliers for water use and the population and development projections provided by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission.
Page 10-3, 2nd paragraph...no, the quality of drinking water prior to treatment is affected by	CE	Agreed. Corrected on p. 11-3.
why are ag districts included on figure 10.2	CE	Ag districts show concentration of agricultural activity that are likely to be actively farmed. Agricultural areas are sources of non-point source pollution (nutrients - fertilizers and sediment).
green infrastructure - this is outlined by NYSDEC - the purpose of green infrastructure is to reduce the amount of runoff generated at the source.	CE	Green infrastructure has a broader definition than reducing runoff at the source. Green infrastructure involves the use of natural systems to naturally convey, detain, and treat runoff whether it is at the source or somewhere downstream.
Plenty of local examples of rain gardens...see attached list	CE	Thank you for the information. Noted on p. 11-5.
Page 92: Recreation is primarily fishing, boating and swimming. I think it is worth mentioning them individually. Fishing alone is a \$1.9 billion industry in NY that depend on clean water and sustainable human use of the water supply (2011NationalSurvey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: State Overview).	CE	Agreed, however this statement was intended to be very broad with regard to human dependency on water.

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
<p>Page 92: The emphasis of water in this chapter is drinking water supply. Even though recreation and wildlife are mentioned, there is little supporting text for it. It also doesn't emphasize the importance of water quality to the economy (e.g,tech industry, agriculture)This is especially important in the Cap Region because the tech industry uses huge amounts of water</p>	CE	<p>A considerable portion of this chapter is spent on the discussion of water quality as it relates to sewer systems and runoff. Two of the key initiatives are the watershed analysis and the asset management plan for sewer systems.</p>
<p>Page 94: Water supply is affected by surrounding land use patterns, sewage overflows, loss of natural buffers and wetlands, increased water temperatures, low stream flows, and non-point pollution including urban and agricultural runoff.</p> <p>Revise: The quality and quantity of water available for use is affected by surrounding land use patterns, sewage overflows, loss of natural buffers and wetlands, increased water temperatures, low stream flows, and non-point pollution including urban and agricultural runoff.</p>	CE	<p>Agreed. Corrected on p. 11-3.</p>
<p>page 94: Wastewater treatment facilities, whether municipal facilities or individual septic systems, are critical to protecting the water quality of streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater and ensuring adequate supplies of water for drinking, recreation and wildlife.</p> <p>Revise: Well-maintained or adequate wastewater treatment facilities, whether municipal facilities or individual septic systems, are critical to protecting the water quality of streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and groundwater and ensuring adequate supplies of clean water for drinking, recreation, and wildlife.</p>	CE	<p>Agreed. Corrected on p. 11-3.</p>

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
page 95: This section needs work. Nancy Heinzen at Albany County Planning could be a big help. There are also baseline assessment data that could be added here map of waterbodies and streams that are impaired due to stormwater/land use.	CE	We believe the overview currently provided is sufficient to convey the issues/concerns with stormwater. Additional detail would be difficult to incorporate.
I'm glad to see the watersheds on here, as water management at the watershed scale is very important. You could add to this by IDing the watersheds that have groups or mgmt plans associated with them. Off the top of my head: Catskill, Stockport Creek (incl Kinderhook-Claverack), and Onesquethaw-Coeymans. I'm sure there are more.	CE	An important initiative is to conduct watershed assessments and begin to address what has and what needs to be done.
I can't read this map, but I still do not think it is a complete environmental features map. Why were these features selected and why? What story does it tell? It is missing Non-DEC wetlands (NWI, hydric soils), forests, natural areas/habitats. I just found the description of water related resources - which is better, but then it should be the title. And I would still add all wetlands (though the scale of the map would make it impossible to see), and forests. I don't understand the ag districts add anything here, unless you looked at the available data to see that agriculture caused most of the impairment to water bodies in the region. However, I do not think that is the case.	CE	Normally an environmental resources map would include the items listed and might be reflected in more than one map. This map is intended to identify some critical resources and some of the impacts to those resources, such as agricultural runoff. At the scales used for these maps, additional detail would not read well.
Page 96: Land conservation is just one tool for natural stormwater management (a very important one IMO), you need to talk about designing sites, and green infrastructure practices as well.	CE	Green infrastructure is very much part of the discussion and part of the watershed assessment initiative.
Page 97 What about water management from large precipitation events? And addressing the issues of dams? and road crossings and culverts? I'm sending some info along from my colleague who worked on the water section of the Mid-Hudson sustainability plan about these resources.	CE	Catastrophic events are discussed in Climate Adaptation.

WATER		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
Page 97 include reservoirs	CE	Agreed. Corrected on p. 11-6.
Page 97: This is great - However, I didn't see any reference to water quality other than drinking water in the baseline assessment. There are more data than I mentioned, including water quality trends from the NYSDEC. I saw nothing about water quality for recreation. There are also data from the NYSDEC about this.	CE	Water quality represents two of the three goals for the water focus area. The opening paragraphs to this section emphasize the need to protect water quality for our use, including recreation purposes. The baseline assessment for this topic would appropriate consume whole chapters but unfortunately so would many of the other focus areas and some limitations had to be employed. The important question to ask is whether or not the proposed initiatives address the concerns that we are faced with.
Page 98: A resource for asset management which overlaps with energy conservation and climate adaptation is EPA Climate Ready Water Utilities, which could be cited in this discussion: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/	CE	comment noted.
In your discussion promoting Green Infrastructure, you may want to comment about the issue/difficulty of municipal oversight assuring the long term functionality mitigation measures on individual residential parcels.		Narrative will be provided in final plan.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
Under Plan Implementation there should be a paragraph emphasizing the existing agencies and initiatives that are already underway with a focus on providing resources to these agencies and local governments to continue and to expand their sustainability programs.	SW	Additional text has been added

FOOD SYSTEMS		
Comment	Responsibility for addressing comment	Response to comment
<p>I would love to see something about the creation of a Food Policy Council in our region if possible. I do think we talked about this at some of our meetings. The bullet that currently exists about Reestablishing a Regional Food and Agriculture Coalition for the Capital Region may be getting at some of the same things, although it sounds much more practical, and isn't explicitly talking about policy creation or working to establish better laws and policies at the local and state level related to food systems, which seems very important in this conversation as well. Maybe we need to debate this more with the others from that committee, but it seems important enough to warrant mentioning, or perhaps adding to the paragraph about the regional food and agriculture coalition as something to identify or figure out if it should be included within that or a separate entity.</p>	AV	<p>Updated the description to add "identify needs, gaps, and advocate for and promote the region's agricultural sector, <u>including investigating local, regional and state food policies</u>"</p>
<p>I was in the Food Systems group. One of our priorities as to establish a Regional Food Policy Council. It appears that this is folded into the Regional Food and Agricultural Consortium, which is fine. But part of the role of the food policy council was to look at increasing access to healthy food, hunger abatement and food justice. These ideas don't come across in the description of the consortium in the document, yet are an important part of strengthening our regional food system.</p>	AV	<p>Added "<u>address hunger abatement and food justice</u>". Access to healthy foods was already in the description (part of the first sentence).</p>
<p>I don't think that Skidmore College should be listed as a potential funding source in Table 6.3. I'm not sure what that means, we may have been talking about helping do research about funding, but not funding it on our own as an institution other than potentially utilizing it to obtain foods for our dining hall. Just to be clear, I think the college's name should be removed from that column, but I would love to stay in the column about partners.</p>	AV	<p>Removed Skidmore College from Funding Column under 'Create a Food Hub' initiative</p>

FOOD SYSTEMS		
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I would like local colleges/universities or even Skidmore College explicitly to be added to the list of partners in Table 6.3 about establishing a regional food and agricultural coalition for the Capital Region.	AV	Added " <u>Skidmore College and other higher education institutions</u> "
Page 6-1, I find the regional baseline confusing. If that is correct that the average farm business generates \$3.5 million dollars in sales, does that mean sales from the farm? We may want to word it differently. It's confusing next to the statistic that points out that over 1/2 of farms have sales of less than \$10,000. If there are large farms in a particular region or agribusiness #'s that skew the average, I think that should be pointed out.	AV	I updated the next sentence so it describes this better. The agricultural sector is what is mentioned. The agricultural sector is more than just farmers, it's processing, distribution, transportation, etc. The next sentence now reads: "In addition to farming, the agricultural sector includes businesses that process, transport, warehouse, distribute, and harvest agricultural products."
6-3, the Capital Region Strategic Plan reference should be part of Food Process & Distribution section not a separate heading.	AV	Steve - this needs to be fixed on your end. It's not in the Word document.
Figure 6.1, can you make the food deserts transparent?	AV	???? I'm not sure how to update the map...
Page 6-4, there were at least 20 farmers markets in Albany County this year. What's the source of the Farmers Market data?	AV	Apologies - the source was missing. It's from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/

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Page 6-6, under current initiatives credit should be given to counties and local municipalities for developing and implementing Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plans, Right to Farm Laws, and Ag economic development and to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service who assist farmers with land conservation and farm management programs.	AV	Provided a bulleted list of this support
Page 6-8, Create a food hub for regional food processing, storage, and distribution. I think one of the first steps for this might be to determine the actual food shed which might not coincide with the NYS economic development region. I don't think this is mentioned anywhere.	AV	Added: <u>The first step in implementing this initiative would be to define the 'food shed.'</u> It will be important to <u>understand the geographic boundaries of the area that the food hub will need to serve to identify the stakeholders and understand capacity needs for the hub.</u>
Page 6-9 I believe that with the exception of a Regional Farmland Protection Plan, the other initiatives referenced exist at some level. So perhaps changing the wording from "create" to expand or "build upon" would be more appropriate?	AV	I am hesitant to revise the wording. Through the work of the Technical Committee, we crafted language that would both recognize existing programs and create new ones. The idea here is that many of these exist locally and not regionally.

FOOD SYSTEMS		
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Table 6.4, under the first initiative, would governance come into play? The closest thing we have to a food hub now is Menands Market which is governed by a Board. What structure is envisioned for the food hub referenced?	AV	This is local government governance - what role do local governments play in implementing these initiatives?
This section looks good. I wonder it would be possible to do some feature boxes for other groups like was done on page 6-6 for Capital Community Gardens (great work, but only a limited service area compared to Region). For example- (a little self-promotion here) CLC has initiated a farmer-landowner match program Since its inception in 2009 our Matching Program has facilitated 21 successful matches so far on more than 1,000 acres of land, and we have established a list of 82 landowners and 77 farmers actively seeking leasing arrangements. Last month CLC's Farmer Landowner Match program received national coverage when a story written by the Associated Press was picked up by a multitude of news outlets across the country including ABC News, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and the San Francisco Chronicle, just to name a few. To view a copy of the article, see here: http://bigstory.ap.org/article/programs-us-match-fledgling-farmers-landowners . AFT is now looking at creating a more regional program servicing the capital region and Hudson Valley. http://clctrust.org/working-farms/farmer-landowner-match-program/	AV	At this point, I'm not sure we can do the research for additional call-out boxes. If we can, we definitely will though, and CLC is a great example!
The one other concern I have had is that we have not focused enough on farmland protection – as without land, there will be no food production. I know its referenced here and a was a priority in the strategies under land-use, but I think there could be more attention to incentivizing land protection throughout the plan as smart growth and open space planning obviously benefits not only agricultural, but also water quality, climate change, and transportation etc.	AV	

FOOD SYSTEMS		
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Page 55 – it would be great to highlight the definition of “food desert”. This is an important term and used several times. I had to back-track t pick up the definition – maybe in a box would be good? Or right under the map of food deserts.	AV	Will be added
Another general comment. I feel like a lot of the selected policies are so obvious (in all sections), I wonder if we need to include a barriers paragraph in each chapter. Why have these things not been successfully done before if they are so clearly needed? What are the barriers – especially the barriers that must be actively removed, like if there is a law about only selling food near a source of potable water (I’m making this up) then we would either have to remove the barrier by installing potable water systems where we sell food or by changing the law and addressing the health and cleanliness in another real way. The “barriers” column in the charts seems to only talk about the anticipated barriers in implementation, but not the real existing barriers we face today. Maybe I’m trying to go too deep?	AV	This is a general comment for the entire plan.
Page 56 – I also highly recommend citing the obesity rates in progression – I saw a presentation on the Active Design guidelines and they showed rates in NYS each year dated from 1990 and projected to 2030 and I was flat out terrified.	AV	At this point, it may be difficult to do this research. We will investigate it, however.

FOOD SYSTEMS		
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Page 6-1. 4 th paragraph. I don't know where the Capital Region Economic Development Council got its data from, but we are updating the Rensselaer County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Data and most of the farms were part-time enterprises and had much less than \$1 million in sales. Of course, if you were to limit it to the larger dairy and grain operations, this may be true.	AV	It's ALL agricultural businesses including transport, production, etc. It really covers a lot.
The representation below is at least 7 years old and very much wrong. In fact was never really true. In the last Census our population growth was 2 (two) people. Over the last ten years Columbia County had a growth of LESS than 200 housing units per year. So please remove this statement it just is too bias. Please remember that population in upstate NY is declining. "While the Capital Region's agricultural economy continues to be strong, farmland in the region is vulnerable to sprawl-type development. An analysis of farmland and development patterns by the Columbia Land Conservancy in Columbia County found that the amount of land in agricultural use was declining, replaced by a growing number of residential subdivisions.12" ALSO to state that "7,500 in Columbia County live in food deserts." is very misleading. It comes that the City of Hudson, within its boundaries does not have a supermarket. But within less than a mile there exists a shoprite and price chopper.	AV	Updated the sentence to remove: "replaced by a growing number of residential subdivisions.12" including the reference.
Page 6-10 is CDCG a willing partner?	AV	Yes - they attended all of the Technical Committee meetings and agreed to be the responsible party
Page: 53 What is the relevance of DEC lands to Agricultural Districts? The farmland/farms loss is not necessarily related to development. Many times it is just land going idle or farmers retiring.	AV	Will confirm.

FOOD SYSTEMS		
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Page 54 There is no tax abatement for enrolling in the Agricultural District! Farmers qualify for tax abatement (ag. value assessment) based on farm income. No need to be in the District.	AV	Removed reference to tax abatements.
Page 54 The Ag. District Program tends to protect farm operations more than farmlands. Farmlands in the Ag. District are not subject to any land use restrictions and can be developed at any time subject to local regulations.	AV	Noted. Thank you!
Page 54 Any recommendations to simplify/change the Permitting process?	AV	I'm not sure what this is referring to, unfortunately.
Page 56 There are no food deserts in rural parts of the Cap Region?	AV	The data was from the USDA Food Desert map. It didn't indicate there were any Food Deserts in the rural part of the region. Here is the source: http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator/download-the-data.aspx
Page 55 Center for Disease Control	AV	Changed CDC to Center for Disease Control (CDC)
The primary tool is the farmland protection program not the Ag Districts program. Ag districts have minimal protections. Putting land into a conservation easement protects land from future development. P. 7-2 under food processing and distribution: Are there any studies assessing the processing and distribution capacity in the region? Otherwise, this should be included as a recommendation.		We will attempt to find studies regarding this.

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<p>The Capital Region Economic Development Council Strategic Plan encourages the creation of “an urban kitchen incubator in one or more of the Capital Region cities to encourage food entrepreneurs who need access to a licensed commercial kitchen and want to work with locally-produced ingredients in their start-up food retailing or catering businesses.”¹⁸ Providing adequate processing and distribution facilities, located more strategically throughout the region, can improve profit margins for farmers helping to keep the Capital Region competitive within the larger agricultural economy and remove the barrier for new farmers to process and distribute their products. - Is there any feasibility studies to support this need?</p>	SW	We will attempt to find studies regarding this.
<p>The representation below is at least 7 years old and very much wrong. In fact was never really true. In the last Census our population growth was 2 (two) people. Over the last ten years Columbia County had a growth of LESS than 200 housing units per year. So please remove this statement it just is too bias. Please remember that population in upstate NY is declining.</p>	SW	Comment is noted
<p>While the Capital Region’s agricultural economy continues to be strong, farmland in the region is vulnerable to sprawl-type development. An analysis of farmland and development patterns by the Columbia Land Conservancy in Columbia County found that the amount of land in agricultural use was declining, replaced by a growing number of residential subdivisions. Page 12 also states that 7,500 in Columbia County live in food deserts. This is very misleading. It comes that the City of Hudson, within its boundaries does not have a supermarket. But within less than a mile there exists a shoprite and price chopper.</p>		

ENERGY			
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1	Table on pg 50 has CDRPC as the recommended Implementer of a revolving energy efficiency fund. A better implementer would be the Community Loan Fund of the Capital District.	JBH	Community Loan Fund of the Capital District was added as a recommended implementer of the proposed program.
2	The third paragraph on pg 46 mentions the Climate Smart Communities program but does not mention the Climate Smart Communities Pilot program managed by CDRPC. In the six-county pilot region there are currently 16 Climate Smart Communities, not "several.	JBH	The six-county pilot program has been mentioned and is noted to have 16 participants.
3	Page 44, Table 5.1 I question the validity of arriving at the Capital region's energy usage-by-sector by simply prorating Statewide energy use based on population. Also, we are using 2008 energy data but 2011 population data. Is it important to figure out the Capital region's energy usage-by-sector? Can we provide the use-by-sector graph for the State and simply state that our region's use-by-sector is assumed to be the same as the State; thus eliminating region level numbers that have no firm basis.	KH/ JBH/MT	1.) Energy use has been computed for the regional GHG inventory. Electricity and natural gas consumption are based on actual utility data. Other fuel use is disaggregated from state level data, accounting for household heating type (residential), commercial employment (commercial), etc. This is consistent with the NY State Greenhouse Gas Inventory Protocol developed specifically for the Climate Smart Communities and Cleaner Greener Communities programs. This is 2010 energy data. 2.) All Tables have been checked to ensure they include most up-to-date data

ENERGY			
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4	Page 44, Table 5.3- How was the capital region energy use/capita computed? Is this based on actual energy use data provided by the various utilities and divided by population data? Since this metric is listed as an indicator on page 105, Table 12.1 for measuring the success of the plan, it needs to be a good verifiable number that can be measured throughout the plan implementation phase.	KH/JBH/MT	1.) Energy use was taken directly from the GHG inventory and calculated with Census data. Because the GHG inventory methods follow a statewide protocol, numbers can be updated consistently over time within and across regions. The Protocol was developed with ability to track metrics in mind 2.) All Tables have been checked to ensure they include most up-to-date data
5	Page 45, Table 5.2- Again, I question the validity and the need for the numbers in this table. For example, Table 5.4 lists zero electric generation facilities in Schenectady; yet the Co2 from electric generation and distribution for Schenectady is higher than Warren, Washington and Columbia counties that do have power plants. Do we need to provide this level of granularity when it is not valid?	KH/JBH/MT	1.) It is correct that there are no electric generation facilities in Schenectady County. However, the Energy Generation and Supply number for the inventory includes Electricity and Natural Gas transmission and distribution losses. The emissions reported for Schenectady include emissions associated with T&D losses of electricity and natural gas. This total is NOT counted under the consumption categories, so it is NOT double counted. It was decided by the Protocol Working Group to report under Energy Generation and Supply because actions to reduce these emissions would mostly come

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			from the generation side. 2.) A footnote has been added to this table noting this. 3.) All Tables have been checked to ensure they include most up-to-date data
6	Page 49, even though the other initiatives are not ranked, could we move the Smart Grid to the very top as it was highly ranked in public forums? I know that at the Executive Committee meeting, I defended our Committee’s decision to keep PACE and revolving fund as two separate initiatives; thus bumping Smart Grid to #4 and out of the top 3 list. After reading the report, I am having second thoughts. Personally, I am starting to think Smart Grid should be in the top 3 list and one way to do that would be to combine PACE and Revolving fund under one item. Again, I am just one person and I understand this is a committee decision. Pradeep, your thoughts?	KH/JBH/MT	Public forum ranking was considered when ranking initiatives. Making a change at this time is not feasible.
7	Some discussion of On-Bill financing as an alternative to PACE should be included here. I would also like to see a recommendation that the State authorize On-Bill financing for residential Solar Projects.	JBH	On-bill financing is already available in NYS for energy efficiency projects via a nysesda program. On-bill financing for solar could be a separate recommendation, however, we are not at a point to add recommendations at this time. No changes will be made.
8	Page 43 – grammar issue. It is not correct to use “both...but”.	JBH	This sentence was revised.

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9	“technologies, both as an environmental objective, but also as a way to reduce energy costs and spur economic development.”	JBH	
10	Page 45 – the electric generation table. This is number of what, individual generators? As far as hydro, can a size range be given, or a customer number? It’s quite different to have 11 small turbines each powering one home or 11 commercial producers powering several hundred homes each. I have noticed that several tables don’t indicate unit of measure.....”per capita” for one example...In addition, how does this electric generation by type inform us? What are we to get from this?	JBH	1.) This table will be revised to show nameplate generation capability, not individual generators. 2.) All Tables have been checked to ensure they include most up-to-date data AND appropriate labels
11	Page 45 – I would also think that the solar PV number is only what is on-grid. NYSERDA would not know of the individual units someone ordered on-line. There should be a qualifier here.	JBH	A footnote has been added. It should be noted, however, that this would comprise a very small (<1%) share of PV systems.
12	Page 47 – poor grammar/structure. “While efficiency upgrades are typically viewed as a worthy investment with a real payback, environmental benefits, and improved building performance, the reality is for many property owners—particularly residential and small business owners—they simply do not have the upfront capital to make the investment.”	JBH	This sentence was revised.

ENERGY			
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13	<p>Page 51. I am glad to see reference to other work happening in the region(s) but sad to not see anything about the Climate Action Plan draft developed by NY State in 2010. This incredibly comprehensive and detailed plan could inform much of this report, and should be cited somewhere for reference, as could/should the State Energy Plan. In the CAP, the buildings sections go into stretch codes and adoption process and recommended goals. There is also a significant adaptation section that relates to all of this work, and which I so far don't see in this plan. We will have to adapt. Finally, the CAP worked very hard to identify co-benefits across the topic areas. I see the "related policies" sections in the policy priorities listings, but wish they were more developed and more prominent. I would applaud a final listing of chosen policies in order of which ones affect the most benefits. So if one policy in energy affects 4 other areas, then that is made a top priority.</p>	JBH	<p>1.) CAP and State Energy Plan were consulted when generating this report. We will add them to the list of works cited. 2.) Chosen policies and recommendations were judged, in part, based on their "co-benefits". This was not the only criteria on which recommendations were judged, however.</p>
14	<p>What is considered clean energy, Page 5-1</p>	JBH	<p>revised to say "renewable energy"</p>
15	<p>Any projected energy usage data available? Its in water section, something similar here? What about impact of our dependence on electricity for all aspects of data management, communication, trans, internet, cloud computing. We are keeping servers cool--that takes energy.</p>	JBH	<p>It is not feasible to make regional projected energy use estimates given the scope of this project and complexity of that task. The overall growth projection from 2011 to 2021 is around 1% according to NYISO. We determined that including these estimates does not provide any added value to the report and thus they will not be included.</p>

ENERGY			
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16	Page 5-3 says solar has little impact on environment. What about during development?	JBH	revised to say "its use"
17	Table 5.8, should note quality compost is needed for green infrastructure and native plants	JBH	This comment likely references another section and was erroneously given to the Energy committee
18	Page 44 We seem significantly below (54%) U.S. energy use. Is this a point to elaborate on? What is the trend in usage? Are we increasing/decreasing per capita use?	KH/MT	For comparison, NYS Ranks 2nd of the 50 states and capital region would rank 4th when compared to other states
19	Page 45 Is the amount produced by type of generation more important than number? While there are a lot of hydras, do they produce most of the energy?	JBH	The chart will be revised per another similar comment.
20	page 45 What does this mean? Is it an indicator of how many solar panels have been installed? Is there a way to say it in plain language?	JBH	Number of panels is not typically used in reference to pv system size. Furthermore, it is impossible to discern the number of panels since panel size vary's (from ~150-300W). No change will be made.
21	Page 46 Mention the benefits? like technical assistance?	JBH	Added detail
22	Page 47 Please address somewhere that one size does not fit all for energy efficiency. In particular,with a large historic building stock in the region,that we address energy efficiency in historic buildings is differently than those built in the 70s or newly built is an important point. NY Preservation League and the State office of historic preservation have guidelines on this.	JBH	The report recommended an energy efficiency building code. Differences in buildings would be considered under the particular implementation mechanism(s) the code utilized.

ENERGY			
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22	Can we talk about our region's energy sources? We have a very clean mix - good for ev's.	JBH	We elaborate later in the report.
22	(Table 5-1) How does this compare to other regions? Their inventories should be done.	JBH	Don't have other regions.
22	(Table 5-1) Do we have the results from other regions to compare to?	JBH	No
22	(Table 5-2) Include a row for per capita. How do the counties compare?	JBH	Did not include. This table is total(s) by county. Per capita did not fit.
22	(Table 5-2) Add a row for total ghg emissions?	JBH	OK, sum columns
22	(Table 5-4) amounts generated? While this is generation in the region, doesn't our overall supply include nuclear?	JBH	Yes, made this change. This section focuses on Generation. The generatio mix chart was also added.
22	(Table 5-5) Totals? What percentage of total regional energy use does this translate to? What about all renewables?	JBH	We describe solar pv because it's the greatest in-region generation. The generatio mix chart was added.
22	Under the current status quo, as the Capital Region's population grows, energy usage will increase as housing, commercial space, transportation, and the need for goods as services increase to meet this growth. The key to a sustainable region is to grow while minimizing the need for unnecessary energy consumption.	JBH	Rephrased
22	in the region or at the sources of all of the region's energy?	JBH	Rephrased
22	(Figure 5-2) Can we outline and focus on our region?	JBH	Yes
22	CSC - specifically how many? Highlight which ones in the graphic.	JBH	We did not highlight the graphic. There are 16 in the pilot program, which is mentioned.

ENERGY			
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22	10% target - discuss how this target will position the region to meet NYS's target. Can we discuss how the sustainability plan is consistent with NYS's Energy Plan (http://www.nysenergyplan.com/stateenergyplan.html)?	JBH	Revised
22	Incentives - can we summarize these in an appendix?	JBH	Footnote added
22	Property Assessed Clean Energy	JBH	Rephrased
22	PACE - How is the program capitalized in the beginning?	JBH	It's capitalized by the municipality. We added a description of this process.
22	Mention Binghamton's PACE Program?	JBH	Program never is not active. However, it was researched as part of the initiative process.
22	define acronym	JBH	MTCDE - Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents
22	Best Practices: Philadelphia Greenworks Loan Fund - Financing energy efficiency in commercial buildings Salt Lake City: http://www.slcclassic.com/slccgreen/e2/business/rlf	JBH	These programs were studied as best practices.
22	Energy efficient building code - high-performance? more restrictive than ECCCNY?	JBH	Rephrased
22	Are these outlined in detail in the appendix?	JBH	Yes