

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE
DRAFT ACTION AGENDA

I. General Recommendations and Agency Actions

Recommendation 1: Provide for Increased Community Representation and Access to Decision Making Processes

Action Agenda

- DOS has targeted and prioritized three Brownfield opportunity areas communities in the state that show particular promise for re-development and revitalization– Wyandanch, South Buffalo and South Bronx. An inter-disciplinary team will meet and work with a local team to identify ways to attract development and investment to these areas. The lessons learned from this intensive process will form the basis of Best Practices that can then be applied to a broader range of BOA areas. This initiative is a joint project of the DOS and the Governor’s Smart Growth Cabinet.
- DOS will include “community outreach to underserved communities” in its Smart Growth Grant Program RFA language.
- DOS will develop a comprehensive report identifying strategies and opportunities to combat poverty.

Recommendation 2: Continue Collaboration with the Environmental Justice Community

Action Agenda

- DOS will spearhead a conference in the fall of 2009 addressing Smart Growth and Community Sustainability, with a strong emphasis on equity (environmental, socio-economic, and housing). DOS will include community-based organizations in order to spur activities on the local level and to make local advocates aware of the many sustainability-related programs at the DOS.

Recommendation 6: Give Priority to Environmental Justice Communities in Relevant RFP Requirements, Scoring Systems for Funding, Assistance and Training Programs

Action Agenda

- The Smart Growth Cabinet and EPF Grant Program will focus a portion of this year’s funds on a broad spectrum of Green Infrastructure initiatives– urban agriculture, community gardening, “green streets,” water infrastructure, green-collar jobs, and local food production, among others. DOS will initially target Syracuse/Central New York and Buffalo/Western New York. Other agencies involved in this initiative include DEC, ESDC and Agriculture and Markets.

- DOS will, where practicable and applicable, provide priority consideration to “hardship communities.” (Such language already included in draft RFA for Green Infrastructure Strategies Grant Program, above.)

Recommendation 7: Prioritize Enforcement Actions and Pollution-Reduction Programs and Resources in Environmental Justice Communities

Action Agenda

- The draft Priority Growth Centers legislation advanced by the DOS and the Smart Growth Cabinet treats Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOAs) as Priority Growth Centers, which will qualify for priority consideration in state programs, technical assistance, spending and other assistance.
- DOS will work with State DOT, City DOT and the City Planning Department to evaluate the proposed plans for the Sheridan Expressway from a land use/Smart Growth perspective, focusing on the potential for Smart Growth, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, environmental sustainability and housing.

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