Sustainable Berkshires Process

- Plan adopted March 2014
- Result of 3 Years of Work
- Hundreds of Citizens Participated
- Key Stakeholders Participated in Multiple Working Meetings to Craft
- Eight Elements of Plan
Eight Sustainable Berkshires Elements

- Conservation & Recreation
- Economy
- Food & Agriculture
- Climate & Energy
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Historic Preservation
- Infrastructure & Services
- Land Use
Sustainable Berkshires

- 80 Goals
- 137 Policies
- 352 Strategies

Ambitious Plan!
Overall Report Card – After 4 Years

- 352 Total Strategies across 8 Elements
  - 79 Strategies - Solid Progress or Complete - 22%
  - 111 Strategies - Initiated or In Progress - 32%
  - 162 Strategies - No Progress or Unknown - 46%

Uneven Levels of Implementation Across Elements
Many Implementation Actions are Responsibility of Others
Conservation & Recreation Element

- 10 Goals
- 22 Policies
- 49 Strategies

- Solid Progress or Complete - 17 (35%)
- Initiated or in Process - 7 (14%)
- No Progress or Unknown - 25 (51%)
Conservation & Recreation

Notable Progress
- Partnerships across boundaries
- Permitting for Clean-up of Housatonic River
- Regional Bike Path and Complete Streets
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

Key Lack of Progress
- Rate of Community Preservation Act Adoption
- Increased funding for State Open Space Management
Economy Element

- 13 Goals
- 19 Policies
- 55 Strategies

Solid Progress or Complete - 14 (25%)
Initiated or in Process - 22 (40%)
No Progress or Unknown - 19 (35%)
Economy

Notable Progress
- Collaborative Approach to Education (BCETF)
- Broadband in Unserved Towns
- Progress on Rail and Freight Connections
- Start of dealing with Public Transportation issues

Key Lack of Progress
- Clearly articulating regional economic development strategy
- Implementing “real” Broadband in economic centers
- Reaching young people to increase career aspirations
Food & Agriculture Element

- 6 Goals
- 8 Policies
- 15 Strategies

Solid Progress or Complete - 2 (13%)
No Progress or Unknown ** - 13 (87%)

** Area in which BRPC is much less involved and has not actively tracked what is happening
Food & Agriculture

Notable Progress
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
- Right to Farm Bylaws
- Local Agriculture Commissions

Key Lack of Progress
- Building local agriculture infrastructure - slaughter facility, county-wide food hub, commercial kitchens
Climate & Energy Element

- 7 Goals
- 12 Policies
- 36 Strategies

  Solid Progress or Complete - 8 (22%)
  Initiated or in Process - 9 (25%)
  No Progress or Unknown - 19 (53%)
Climate & Energy

Notable Progress
- Green Communities adoption & implementation
- Emergency planning for Vulnerable Populations
- Increased awareness of vulnerability of Culverts and Bridges

Key Lack of Progress
- Working proactively to identify Renewable Energy sites and standards
- Improving Public Transportation to reduce automobile use
- Identification of Vulnerable Populations to reach in emergencies
Housing & Neighborhoods Element

- 10 Goals
- 26 Policies
- 71 Strategies

- Solid Progress or Complete - 17 (24%)
- Initiated or in Process - 26 (37%)
- No Progress or Unknown - 28 (39%)
Housing & Neighborhoods

Notable Progress
- Age Friendly Berkshires
- Public Health Alliance
- 40R Zoning in Great Barrington, Lee and Pittsfield
- Increased Involvement by Under-represented Populations
- Development of Solid Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program

Key Lack of Progress
- Increased funding for Public Transportation
- Public Safety issues
- Limited progress on Workforce Housing and Existing Housing Conditions
### Historic Preservation Element

- **11 Goals**
- **14 Policies**
- **27 Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Progress or Complete</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiated or in Process</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Progress or Unknown **</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historic Preservation suffers from very weak financial support at local, state, and federal levels**
Historic Preservation

Notable Progress
▶ Creation of Western Massachusetts Historic Commission Collaborative
▶ 6 Cities/Towns adopted Community Preservation Act

Key Lack of Progress
▶ Updated Historic Preservation Surveys
Infrastructure & Services Element

- 10 Goals
- 19 Policies
- 54 Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Progress or Complete</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiated or in Process **</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Progress or Unknown</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>(26%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Many strategies in this element are very complex and can take years to evolve towards solid progress (and typically are never complete)
Infrastructure & Services

Notable Progress
- Planning to respond to Climate Change
- Increased State Education Aid Funding
- Increased focus on need for Public Transportation
- Berkshire County Education Task Force
- Last Mile Broadband

Key Lack of Progress
- Restructure of Education Related State Funding
- State Transportation Finance levels
- Increase Revenue Options for Local Governments
- Emergency Services Staffing needs
Land Use Element

- 13 Goals
- 17 Policies
- 45 Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Progress or Complete</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiated or in Process</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Progress or Unknown</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>(53%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land Use

Notable Progress
- New Master and Open Space & Recreation Plans
- Planning Education held in region
- Apparent possible progress on Zoning Reform
- Adoption of 40R and 43D Districts

Key Lack of Progress
- Updating 40+ year-old Zoning Bylaws & Subdivision Regs
- Increased use of enhanced tools such as 40R and 43D
- Creation of Priority Development & Conservation Plan with State
- Enhanced Inter-municipal Land Use Cooperation
Sustainable Berkshires - Status Report

- Questions?
- Reactions?