

# Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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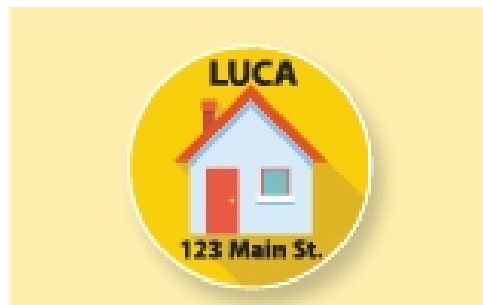
## Local Update of Census Addresses

Achieving an accurate population count in the United States during the Decennial Census is vital for the U.S. Census Bureau when conducting its survey every 10 years. The next Decennial Census is fast approaching and will be in the year 2020. However, before that Census date comes around, there are several programs to support the Census Bureau's efforts. One of these includes the Local Update of Census Addresses Program (LUCA), which is a partnership program of the Census Bureau. The purpose of LUCA is to ensure the accuracy of census and surveys by revising the national address list, known as the Master Address File (MAF) that is the delivery mechanism for the Decennial Census Short Form. Also, it provides officials who are designated as LUCA liaisons with access to census address information for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the address information through a confidential system.

As in 2010, in this LUCA process, which started in the spring of 2017, G/FLRPC is acting as the designated LUCA liaison for the nine county Region. We began our efforts to develop a local master address list for

each county to ensure that every residential address is accounted for in the MAF that the Census bureau will ultimately use to distribute its Decennial Census mailers in 2020. In doing so, we hope that this will increase survey participation rates in each of the Finger Lakes Region counties.

Conducting the LUCA process is important because decennial population counts affect state and federal congressional representation, redistricting, federal funding of more than \$400 billion nationally, and population based programs.



G/FLRPC worked on LUCA 2010 and received funding through the Genesee Transportation Council's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). We were able to revise and identify many addresses

that were accepted by the Census Bureau into the MAF. It is also important to note that all of the addresses accepted were not new addresses to be added to the MAF; many were already present in the original MAFs but were accepted as corrections. We are playing a similar role for the 2020 LUCA program for our region.

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## Upcoming Regional Events

*G/FLRPC Fall Local Government Workshop*, Friday November 17, 2017, Quality Inn & Suites, Batavia, NY. For more information visit <http://www.gflrpc.org>.

For further information call 585-454-0190, email [gflrpc@gflrpc.org](mailto:gflrpc@gflrpc.org)

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As part of the process we held a workshop for counties and municipalities in each of the nine counties of the region in May and June, with a follow-up webinar in July. That webinar can be viewed at <http://www.gflrpc.org/luca.html>. The purpose of these workshops was to give an overview of LUCA, ask for a municipal contact for each county and municipality in the region, explain the process to follow when each municipality received their LUCA registration form from the Census Bureau in July, and request that each municipality provide any address related databases to G/FLRPC. As of the end of August have received all of the county LUCA registration forms. We are still collecting the municipal registration forms. For information on how to fill-out and submit your municipal LUCA registration form to G/FLRPC please see <http://www.gflrpc.org/lucaform.html>. As of the end of August we have received over 100 county and municipal address related databases. We still need quite a few. If your municipality has not submitted your address related databases please do so by the end of September. For an overview of the LUCA process and examples of local address related databases please see <http://www.gflrpc.org/luca.html>.

Tentative Census Bureau LUCA 2020 Schedule

- January 2017: Advance notification of LUCA mailed to highest elected official (HEO)

- March 2017: LUCA promotional workshops begin.
- July 2017: Invitation letter and registration forms mailed to the HEO
- February 2018: Participation materials mailed to registered participants. Participants have 120 calendar days from the receipt of materials to complete their review.
- August 2019: Feedback materials offered to participants with the results of Address Canvassing.
- April 1, 2020: Census Day.

Three keys for county and municipal participation to supply to Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council:

- Provide us with a contact person
- If you have not done so already please submit your filled out and executed LUCA registration form (for more information please see <http://www.gflrpc.org/lucaform.html>).
- If you have not done so already **please submit your municipal address related databases to Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council** (for more information please see <http://www.gflrpc.org/luca.html>).

If you would like more information or have any questions contact Catherine DuBreck, Planner at G/FLRPC, [cdubreck@gflrpc.org](mailto:cdubreck@gflrpc.org) or 585-454-0190 x 20.

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## Clean Energy Communities

Greg Albert

G/FLRPC continues to help Finger Lakes municipalities achieve designation under the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program. The program helps local governments across New York State reduce energy consumption and costs, and drive clean energy use in their communities. Local governments that complete four out of ten identified High Impact Actions earn Clean Energy Community designation with grant funding being provided to the first 4 large communities (greater than 40,000 in population) and the first 14 small/medium communities (less than 40,000 in population).

As of the publication of this article the Finger Lakes Region has 11 communities who have successfully completed four High Impact Actions and achieved Clean Energy Community designation. A total of 7 grant awards still remain for the Finger Lakes Region with many communities actively working towards achieving designation.

It is important to note that even after all 18 grants are awarded within the Finger Lakes Region, the Clean Energy Communities Program will remain in place with G/FLRPC still able to provide assistance to communities in the completion of High Impact Actions and energy and cost reductions. Local governments will also still be able to achieve Clean Energy Community designation even after all the grant funding is exhausted.

High Impact Actions through the Clean Energy Communities Program include:

- Benchmarking: Adopt a policy to report the energy use of municipal buildings on an annual basis and, in large cities, towns, and villages, also adopt legislation requiring the annual disclosure of energy use in large private buildings.

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## G/FLRPC's Revolving Loan Fund

G/FLRPC manages a revolving loan fund which serves gap financing needs of small and medium sized manufacturing and service businesses located in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties.

One issue that is frequently associated with small and medium sized businesses is the level of capital available to them through traditional lending channels. The revolving loan fund works to mitigate that issue and strengthen what we consider our regional economy's

backbone — small and medium-sized businesses.

The revolving loan fund provides \$20,000 to \$200,000 loans at a low fixed-interest rate for up to 8 years for those that qualify.

If you would like to learn more about the Revolving Loan Fund please visit: [www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/EconomicDevelopment/RLF.htm](http://www.gflrpc.org/ProgramAreas/EconomicDevelopment/RLF.htm) or contact David Zorn at (585) 454-0190 x14 or [dave.zorn@gflrpc.org](mailto:dave.zorn@gflrpc.org)

## Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Flooding and Shoreline Erosion

By Jayme B. Thomann, Senior Planner, AICP, CFM

G/FLRPC was one of several participants at a Stakeholder Outreach Needs meeting hosted by New York Sea Grant in August to discuss the high-water crisis of this spring and summer on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Other attendees included the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), The Nature Conservancy, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District. Outreach needs identified at this small gathering include providing contractor training for shoreline stabilization and repairing flooded homes/structures; developing a living narrative of the event; and developing a resource toolkit based on a needs assessment. In response, G/FLRPC plans to distribute an electronic survey to municipalities along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties to gauge the local government response to the event and gather other feedback. This assessment will help tailor public education/outreach and technical assistance for G/FLRPC's Water Resources Planning Program.

The record-high water levels is an indication that extreme weather can become a stressor for communities, and municipalities may want to consider incorporating the reduction of future risk into their planning and development goals to ensure that buildings and infrastructure are not built or rebuilt in harm's way. Communities also need to be ready to act with recovery plans. A recovery plan helps to restore essential services and regain a general sense of normalcy after a hazard event. However, communities can also take advantage of opportunities to rebuild smarter by developing a recovery plan.

Research has long shown that, in the absence of some larger vision for the future, residents of communities recovering from a hazard event such as severe flooding and erosion have an operative idea of their rebuilt community—almost invariably it resembles the community they already knew. Effective visioning may help expand the window of opportunity to

marshal support for change after an event. Opportunities to properly plan for and mitigate both natural and man-made hazards, rather than to quickly rebuild back to “normal,” should be explored. Such haste only serves to create future losses.

After a hazard event, opportunities to create greater resilience are only limited by the imagination of the community. Speed of recovery is not always effective in building a more resilient community. Taking the time to do proper deliberate planning is more important. There are some compelling reasons why the vision behind a recovery planning process should take into account existing community policies, such as the comprehensive plan and hazard mitigation plan. It makes sense to align those policies whenever possible. However, a community stricken by a hazard event may well need to explore new territory not anticipated by its comprehensive plan—and then find ways to reconcile that plan with its recovery vision, all in a compressed timeframe.

The post-event window of opportunity lasts for a relatively short period of time. However, not all recovery solutions have to be million-dollar solutions. Higher codes and standards, prearranged agreements, and local and inter-municipal collaboration are important tools that can be used for recovery planning and preparedness. Participation of the “whole community,” involving all stakeholder groups including underserved populations, is also essential to long-term recovery. The impacts of flooding and shoreline erosion along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River may prompt municipalities to better integrate resiliency into local planning efforts, such as restoring natural environmental functions through land acquisition and developing policies for reconstruction to a higher building standard. For more information about recovery planning and models, tools, and methods to help communities become more resilient, review the American Planning Association's (APA) Hazards Planning Center at [www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/](http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/).

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### Clean Energy Communities *(continued from page 2)*

- Clean Energy Upgrades: Achieve a 10 percent reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy.
- LED Street Lights: Convert at least half of the municipal cobra-head-style street lights within the jurisdiction to energy-efficient LED technology.
- Clean Fleets: Install an EV charging station and/or other alternative fuel infrastructure or deploy alternative fuel vehicles in the municipal fleet.
- Solarize: Undertake a solarize campaign to increase the number of solar rooftops in the jurisdiction through group purchasing and locally-organized community education and outreach.
- Unified Solar Permit: Pass legislation to adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permit to reduce costs and delays for solar projects in the jurisdiction.
- Energy Code Enforcement Training: Train code compliance officers and other municipal officials in best practices in energy code enforcement through training, col-

laborative plan reviews, and joint onsite inspections of local construction projects.

- Climate Smart Communities Certification: Earn Climate Smart Community (CSC) Certification at the certified, bronze, silver or gold levels through compliance with this robust, comprehensive rating system.
- Community Choice Aggregation: Transition to a cleaner, more affordable energy supply by facilitating the aggregated purchase of electric supply for residential and small commercial customers within the jurisdiction.
- Energize NY Finance: Allows property owners to pay back the cost of clean energy upgrades to their commercial or non-profit property through a special charge on their property tax bill.

Additional information on the Clean Energy Communities Program is available online at: <http://www.gflrpc.org/cec.html>. For more information on the Clean Energy Communities Program please contact David Zorn at [dave.zorn@gflrpc.org](mailto:dave.zorn@gflrpc.org) or 585-454-0190 x 14.



## *A Sense of Place*

### Erie Canal

The Erie Canal is a canal in New York that is part of the east-west, cross-state route of the New York State Canal System (formerly known as the New York State Barge Canal). Originally, it ran 363 miles from Albany, on the Hudson River, to Buffalo, at Lake Erie. It was built to create a navigable water route from New York City and the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. When completed in 1825, it was the second longest canal in the world (after the Grand Canal in China) and greatly affected the development and economy of New York, New York City, and the United States.[]

First proposed in the 1780s, then re-proposed in 1807, a survey was authorized, funded, and executed in 1808. Proponents of the project gradually wore down opponents: its construction began in 1817. The canal has 35 numbered locks, plus the Federal Black Rock Lock, and an elevation differential of about 565 feet (172 m). It opened on October 26, 1825 .

Today, the reconfiguration of the canal created during the First Enlargement is commonly referred to as the "Improved Erie Canal" or the "Old Erie Canal", to distinguish it from the canal's modern-day course. Existing remains of the 1825 canal abandoned during the Enlargement are sometimes referred to today as "Clinton's Ditch" (which was also the popular nickname for the entire Erie Canal project during its original 1817-1825 construction).

In 1918, the Canal was replaced by the larger New York State Barge Canal. This new canal replaced much of the original route, leaving many abandoned sections (most notably between Syracuse and Rome). New digging and flood control technologies allowed engineers to canalize rivers that the original canal had sought to avoid, such as the Mohawk, Seneca, and Clyde rivers, and Oneida Lake. In sections that did not consist of canalized rivers (particularly between Rochester and Buffalo), the original Erie Canal channel was enlarged to 120 feet wide and 12 feet deep. The expansion allowed barges up to 2,000 short tons to use the Canal. This expensive project was politically unpopular in parts of the state not served by the canal, and failed to save it from becoming obsolete for commercial shipping.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erie\\_Canal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erie_Canal)

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Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council is a public entity that serves its nine member counties\* with planning, economic development, data resources, and other program areas.

\**Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates*

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