

Genesee/Finger Lakes REGIONAL REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENESEE/FINGER LAKES REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

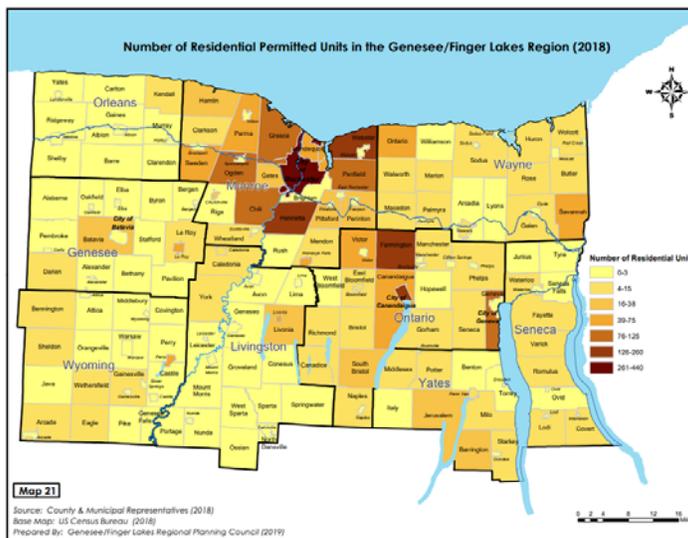
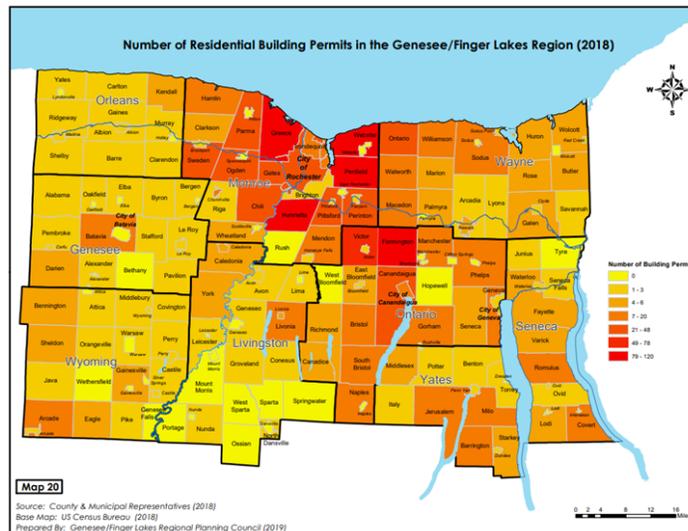
Volume 17, Number 2, Fall 2019

2018 Regional Land Use Monitoring Report

Emily Royce

At the start of every year, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council conducts the Regional Land Use Monitoring Report (LUMR) with funding from the Genesee Transportation Council under its Unified Planning Work Program. The purpose of this report is to identify areas of growth within the region through the analysis of building permit numbers, type, size, and value at the municipal and county level within the region. These areas of growth may indicate a future need that will require increased transportation planning and services.

The methodology used was to send a survey to collect building permit data from all municipalities in the 9-county region to the municipal or county officials responsible for the collection and dissemination of such data. They provide



this information as a courtesy for our annual report. After some follow up with each official, we received a 97% response rate. The survey covered a number of categories in building type – residential (single-family, multi-family, and mobile/manufactured homes), commercial buildings (retail/service, office, banks, service stations, and hotel/motels), industrial buildings, community service buildings (hospitals, medical facilities, schools, and municipal buildings), buildings not classified elsewhere, and subdivision applications. This survey specifically attempts to exclude the small building permits for sheds, pools, decks, renovations, etc. as these tend to be upgrades, additions, and improvements on existing structures that have little impact on the overall goal of the report.

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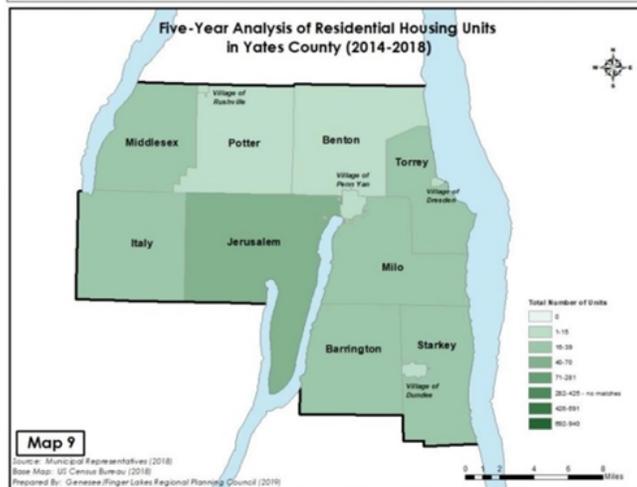
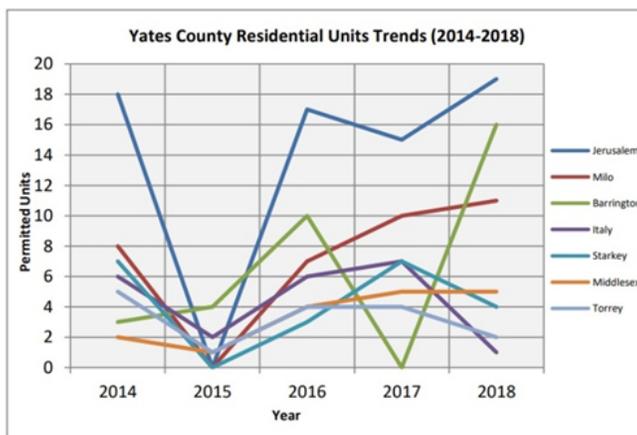
Upcoming Regional Events

G/FLRPC Fall 2019 Regional Local Government Workshop, Friday, November 15, 2019, Quality Inn & Suites, Batavia, NY. For more information visit <http://www.gflrpc.org/fallworkshop.html>.

For further information call 585-454-0190, email gflrpc@gflrpc.org

Within the data for residential building permits, G/FLRPC not only tracked and mapped how many permits were issued per municipality per county but also the number of units that were represented by the residential permits for each municipality per county. With this information, the top three municipalities for residential permits in the region were the Town of Webster with 120 permits, along with the Towns of Henrietta and Penfield with 97 each in Monroe County.

When you look at the number of units permitted, it shifts slightly with the top municipalities being the City of Rochester having the highest number of units at 437 units, followed by the Town of Henrietta with 259, and the Town of Webster with 245 units. Outside of Monroe County within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), the Town of Farmington had the top permits (88) and permitted units (235). The MPA consists of Monroe County plus the adjacent developed areas of Livingston, Ontario, and Wayne counties.



In addition, we expanded the visualization of the data in the 5-year trend analysis section adding a map and graph for each county to show the number of residential permits over time. We went in depth in the narrative for the MPA analysis focusing both on the current year, 2018, and the 10-year analysis separately. This shows not only the data mentioned above, but also that the City of Rochester, Town of Webster, and Town of Henrietta have, historically over the last 10 years, had the top number of residential permitted units, with the Town of Farmington holding the 10-year trend for the rest of the region.

Working with 188 municipalities reveals some differences in how each records the data. With that in mind, the industrial and commercial building permit totals represent

a range. There were over 56 commercial permits issued in the region. There were approximately 60 industrial permits issued in the region in seven of the nine counties. Additionally, there were nine community service type building permits issued in five of the nine counties.

G/FLRPC's Revolving Loan Fund—Important Changes

The Regional Revolving Loan Fund is available* for small and medium sized businesses needing resources and generally participates with other public and private financing tools for:

- Fixed asset loans (e.g. acquisition and improvement of land, buildings, plant and equipment, including new construction or renovation of existing facilities, demolition and site preparation)*
- Working capital loans for the start-up of new businesses or conduct of current businesses*

* Loans are subject to availability of total funds and for each type of loan at time of application.

Borrowers must own and operate a business within the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

Some Eligibility Requirements

- Most industrial and service activities including:
 - Industrial & Light Manufacturing
 - Service Industries
- Retail, where opportunities for private sector jobs are greatest - **NEW!** -

Some Financing Parameters

- Maximum loan is \$200,000.
- Minimum loan amount is \$20,000.
- The RLF cannot be used to substitute for available private capital and potential borrowers must demonstrate that credit is not otherwise available.
- Meet financing policies including but not limited to equity participation, leveraging, repayment terms, and collateral requirements.

For additional information please contact David Zorn, 585-454-0190 x14, dave.zorn@gflrpc.org.

Clean Energy Communities, Fall 2019

Haylee Ferington

Summer Snapshots

As NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program ages, communities are still hard at work achieving designation status. The Genesee-Finger Lakes Region has 33 designated communities and has achieved 199 High Impact Actions. All of the funding opportunities for our region have been exhausted and we are beginning to see municipalities utilize the funds to complete energy saving projects. For more information on the region's Clean Energy Communities program visit <http://www.gflrpc.org/clean-energy-communities.html>.

Large Scale Renewables

Each county in our region is seeing requests for large projects and grappling with how to confront them. Many projects are in the public involvement process and will soon be entering construction phases. Considering land use options like landfill citing and co-location of solar and agriculture can be an option.

Battery Storage

Our region is fortunate to have the state's leading battery research and development body housed locally, NY BEST (Battery Energy Storage and Technology). To find reports, events, and resources on battery storage please see NY BEST's website at https://www.ny-best.org/About_NY-BEST.

Lithium and cobalt recycling has begun in markets outside the US and the technology is developing here. For a resiliency purpose, end of life options for battery storage are needed and is a trend to be followed. Please reach out to hferington@gflrpc.org if you would like additional resources on this subject.

Community Choice Aggregation

Community Choice Aggregation launched in the Town of Geneva this summer, with a fully renewable energy supply at a rate less than the standard utility provider. Residents are able to opt-out of this energy supply aggregation at any time. See the website link for more information www.fingerlakescommunitychoice.com/. Additionally, the Towns of Irondequoit, Pittsford and Brighton, as well as the Village of Pittsford, have all selected Joule Assets to serve as program administrator for Community Choice Aggregation. Joule maintains an operating agreement with locally-based Roctricity.

Open C-PACE Energy Financing

Counties and cities in the region have begun to discuss Open Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing. Through the program Energize-NY, property

owners have access to funds from capital providers for clean energy upgrades. For example, if an 8-unit apartment needs an HVAC retrofit, the property owner could acquire a loan for 100% of the cost over a 20-30 year lifespan. In this program, the municipality has no legal or technical responsibility and all back taxes must be paid to the municipality prior to any liens being placed.

Sustainable Transportation

The clean energy transition has made its way to our region for transportation with battery-electric school buses! In Avon, NY, Mathews Buses, Inc. has begun to offer the Proterra E-C2 battery-electric bus. The building itself seeks to be a sustainability leader, with ground-source heat pumps and considerations of solar arrays and EV charging stations.

Battery-electric buses are an integral technology to decarbonizing our economy, not only for the emission savings potentials, (Putting one electric bus on the road is equivalent to taking 32 cars off the road!) but for energy transmission and grid solutions. Seventeen battery-electric buses can provide up to 1 MW of battery storage when integrated!

Energy Audits and Upgrades

This summer G/FLRPC launched a pilot energy audit and upgrade program for municipalities with NYS Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21). The Towns of Pittsford and Geneva and Yates County have all begun to delve deep into their energy usage with P2I using their EPA Portfolio Manager data. Through Clean Energy Communities High Impact Action Item Benchmarking, the communities had agreed to track and report their energy usage data for each of their municipal buildings. Examining this data can reveal opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades and transitioning into another High Impact Action Item: Clean Energy Upgrades.

Fall 2019 Local Government Workshop

One energy session at the upcoming Fall 2019 Regional Local Government Workshop (LGW) will be a comprehensive look into large-scale renewable siting and zoning from the perspective of an assessor, developer, and policy advocate. Battery storage and microgrids will be discussed as well as Clean Energy upgrades and audits. If you have questions or specific points you would like addressed, please reach out to hferington@gflrpc.org. For information on the Fall 2019 Regional LGW see <http://www.gflrpc.org/fallworkshop.html>.



A Sense of Place

Mount Morris Dam and Recreation
Area

Livingston County, New York
Located deep in the Genesee
River gorge next to Letchworth
State Park

Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area is a major flood control project and public park located on the Genesee River near the Village of Mount Morris in Livingston County, New York. The dam is situated deep in the Genesee River Gorge at the northern end of Letchworth State Park and provides flood protection to downstream areas including the City of Rochester. A recreation area is associated with the dam and offers a variety of recreational opportunities to the visiting public.

Source: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Mount-Morris-Dam/>

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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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