



ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
Planning Land Use with Students
RPLUS Program Key Words

Visit 1:

Sustainability: the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations ability to meet their needs; balancing the 3 pillars of sustainability (society, economy, environment).

Climate Change: long-term change in average weather patterns defining Earth’s local, regional, and global climates; changes in Earth’s climate since early 1900s are primarily driven by human activities.

Human (Ecological) Footprint: measures human demand on nature: the quantity of nature it takes to support people or an economy. Each of us has an ecological footprint that can be calculated.

Climate Change Resilience: The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate related hazardous events. Resilience involves assessing risks, and taking steps to: *Absorb, Respond, Reconstruct*

Public Transit: a system of transport for passengers by group travel systems available for use by the general public that is managed on a schedule, operated on established routes, and charges a fee.

Climate Smart Community: a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

- o *Registered* communities have made a commitment to act by passing a CSC pledge.
- o *Certified* communities have completed and documented actions to mitigate and adapt.

Certified B Corporation (B-Corp): a for profit entity that is certified by the nonprofit B Lab as voluntarily meeting high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. B-Corp companies balance purpose and profit.

Greenhouse Gas: Gases that absorb infrared radiation (net heat energy) trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere keeping Earth habitable, including water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. The increase of **GHG emissions** by human activities causes an imbalance resulting in increased warming or the greenhouse effect (like a warm blanket insulating the planet).

Economic Impact: examines the effect of an event on the economy in a specified area, ranging from a single neighborhood to the entire globe.

Equity: Fairness, sameness, and valuing diversity and inclusion; often focuses on changing the structures and systems that create inequities in the first place.

Sea Level Rise: an increase in the level of the world’s oceans due to the effects of global warming, primarily the added water from melting ice sheets and glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms (thermal expansion).

Telecommuting: the practice of working from home, making use of the internet, email, and telephone.

Visit 2:

Ecosystem Services: many benefits that humans freely gain from the natural environmental and properly functioning ecosystems, like clean air & water, seafood, from the ocean, plant pollination

Energy Star: a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) promoting energy efficiency through information on products, devices and labeling.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Bus transit with designated traffic-free lanes and other features that allow them to run like trains.

Complete Streets: designed and operated to enable safe access for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Community Task Force: When community members, businesses, nonprofit leaders, and other stakeholders come together to tackle difficult civic issues and improve the lives of local residents.

Watershed: a catchment area, or area or land where precipitation collects and drains off into a common outlet such as a river, bay, or other body of water.

Solar Energy: energy that is generated by the sun converted into thermal or electrical energy. It is the cleanest and most abundant renewable energy on earth.

Green Infrastructure: an approach to water management that works with nature to protect, restore and mimic the natural water cycle. Includes planting trees, restoring wetlands, green roofs, and swales.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles: Hybrid vehicles use two types of power (electric motor and combustion engine) during driving to maximize energy/fuel efficiency.

Native Plants for Water Conservation: using native plants adapted to the local climate in order to eliminate the use of sprinklers and conserve water, fertilizer, pesticides.

Recycled Material Design: conserve resources by reusing them rather than using new materials.

Storm Drain: infrastructure designed to drain excess rain from impervious surfaces.

Pedestrian Friendly Venues/Walkability: a measure of how friendly an area is to walking. Factors include presence of footpaths, sidewalks, or pedestrian right of way traffic, and safety.

Water Sense: A water-efficiency certification provided for water fixtures that reduce water consumption.

Preserve Historical/Cultural Character: Keeping intact and enhancing areas around structures of historic or cultural importance during building and development.



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Pervious Paver: porous paving material that allows stormwater to be absorbed through its surface and put back into the ground below rather than run off into a storm drain system.

Geothermal Heating and Cooling: geothermal energy circulates water through the ground below a home to circulate thermal energy from the interior of the earth to heat and cool a home or building.

Visit 3:

Cost Benefit Analysis: a systematic approach to estimating and weighing the strengths and weaknesses of alternatives in order to determine the best approach to achieving benefits while preserving saving.

Circular Economy: a circular economy focuses on keeping products in use as long as possible to get the maximum use from our resources, and then recovering and regenerating materials for further use.

True Costs: includes the cost of negative externalities into the pricing; there is a difference between the 'market price' of the product vs how it may negatively affect the environment or public health.

External Costs or Externalities: refers to the hidden costs or uncompensated social or environmental effects.

- *Example:* when people buy fuel for a car, they pay for the production of fuel (internal cost), but they do NOT pay for the hidden costs of burning that fuel, like air pollution or health impacts.