

# Appendix --- A

# Recommendations

Quality Communities Task Force Recommendations  
Breakdown by Workshop

*Workshops – Implementing the Task Force Report*  
*Workshop sessions addressed specific recommendations of the Task Force Report and encouraged conference attendees to participate in discussion on implementation.*

## 1) Revitalizing Central Cities, Main Streets and Small Towns

### Revitalizing Our Downtowns

#### ***Recommendation 11***

Engage the professional expertise found at SUNY colleges and universities, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and private institutions in developing and implementing the community vision and conducting outreach programs to build local capacity and consensus.

#### ***Recommendation 12***

Enhance Governor Pataki's Main Street initiative, which encourages locating state facilities and offices in urban centers and promotes the use of public transportation by encouraging state employees to use tax-free commuter transit benefits.

#### ***Recommendation 13***

Encourage businesses and individuals to participate in the revitalization of urban centers by providing tax incentives for private preservation of historic downtown architecture.

#### ***Recommendation 14***

Maintain the historical and social prominence of neighborhood schools by making the facilities available for use by the community outside the regular school day.

### Quality for All: Strengthening the Place We Call Home

#### ***Recommendation 34***

Consider the creation of an employer-assisted housing program in New York that would provide incentives to private sector companies which successfully address regional jobs-housing imbalances.

#### ***Recommendation 35***

Establish a "Revitalize Rural New York" program to serve the North Country and other rural areas of the state by improving the appearance, vitality and quality of life in their communities.

***Recommendation 36***

The state should foster collaboration among businesses, not-for-profit corporations and community and professional organizations to assist low and moderate income residents in their communities to obtain affordable housing by identifying and utilizing existing state and federal housing programs.

***Recommendation 38***

Local government officials should take advantage of their ability to participate in the writing, review and implementation of the state's Consolidated Plan for housing.

## 2) Agriculture and Farmland Protection

### The Renewal of New York Agriculture

***Recommendation 21***

Continue funding the Agricultural Environmental Management program to assist farmers with developing and implementing environmental management plans addressing critical nutrient management and water quality concerns.

***Recommendation 22***

Extend the Farm School Tax Credit to cover land rented for agricultural use.

***Recommendation 23***

Create a Farmland Restoration Tax Credit program.

***Recommendation 24***

Enact legislation to extend agricultural assessment eligibility to start-up farming operations and land rented to farmers which would otherwise be eligible for agricultural assessment.

***Recommendation 25***

Refocus Cooperative Extension services and resources to provide farm management assistance within a regional delivery system that provides business planning services for current farm operators and new agri-business investors.

***Recommendation 26***

Request the New York State Advisory Council on Agriculture to consider the interaction and popularity of certain agricultural activities, such as farmers' markets and roadside stands, with land use policies.

***Recommendation 27***

Expand the Farm Viability Program to increase the benefits of implementation grants, strengthen the effectiveness of viability planning and support start-up operations.

***Recommendation 18***

Continue and enhance the dedicated funding source for the purchase of development rights on undeveloped lands, including farmland, and study alternative methods of protecting open space, particularly in areas not yet experiencing strong development pressure.



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### 3) Protection of Open Spaces and Other Critical Environmental Resources

#### Maintaining New York's Leadership in Open Space Conservation

***Recommendation 15***

Continue funding of open space protection and stewardship of locally significant open space, significant state open space and farmland protection.

***Recommendation 16***

Provide a Conservation Donor Credit to further the conservation goals of the state and its local governments by providing a tax credit to encourage landowners to donate real property or other interests in real property, such as conservation easements to nonprofit organizations or to governmental entities for conservation purposes.

***Recommendation 17***

Provide an important new open space conservation tool for local governments by authorizing the creation of open space districts.

***Recommendation 18***

Continue and enhance the dedicated funding source for the purchase of development rights on undeveloped lands, including farmland, and study alternative methods of protecting open space, particularly in areas not yet experiencing strong development pressure.

***Recommendation 19***

Explore the creation and funding of an innovative, voluntary transfer of development rights pilot project, operated by a municipality or coalition of municipalities, in conjunction with the implementation of regional farmland preservation and open space conservation plans.

### 4) Transportation and More Liveable Neighborhoods

#### Transportation Infrastructure: The Search for Quality in the Built Environment

***Recommendation 28***

State and local agencies and private utilities should coordinate highway improvement projects with community development plans to maximize use of road openings for infrastructure repairs, to bury cable lines and make aesthetic improvements while minimizing disruption to residents, businesses and visitors.

***Recommendation 29***

State agencies should take the lead in promoting the expanded use of clean fuel vehicles in New York.



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***Recommendation 30***

Initiate a transit services coordination program to coordinate public and human services transportation in rural and small urbanized areas.

***Recommendation 31***

Continue to construct or rehabilitate new or existing internodal transportation centers to address passenger needs and anticipated future growth.

***Recommendation 32***

Build upon existing state and local partnerships and expand efforts to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access and mobility on all new and improved transportation facilities.

***Recommendation 33***

Continue to encourage community transportation planning and coordination.

## 5) Sustainable Economic Development

Using Technology to Distribute Information, Create Development Tools and Eliminate Barriers to Quality Development

***Recommendation 8***

New York state should work with local governments to identify and inventory the availability of broadband infrastructure and to develop master plans to address gaps in services.

***Recommendation 9***

Enhance the work of the state's Office for Technology to establish a statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) as a sound and efficient research and planning tool for municipalities, planners, businesses and other interested parties. All local governments should be encouraged to participate in the GIS Data Sharing Cooperative to increase the amount and quality of available data layers.

***Recommendation 10***

Create a New York State Quality Communities centralized clearinghouse to maintain a website and provide local officials and citizens with instant access to data, programs and state resources useful for planning, developing and sustaining quality communities throughout the state.

### Economic Growth: Sustaining a Community

***Recommendation 39***

Amend the General Municipal Law to improve state guidelines for comprehensive planning and encourage local governments to engage in such planning as a foundation for economic and community development.



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***Recommendation 40***

Encourage the use of shared services across municipal boundaries and the development of regional economic development alliances through the formation of inter-municipal agreements.

***Recommendation 41***

Coordinate existing state agency and university resources to create regional inventories and indicators to assist communities in understanding the economic profile of their region, to develop targeted strategies consistent with regional strengths and preferences, to facilitate the dissemination of economic development information, including industry cluster analyses, to assist local leaders in developing local plans and to establish a regional context for state and federal government actions.

Maintaining New York's Leadership in Open Space Conservation

***Recommendation 20***

Enhance incentives for brownfields redevelopment and hazardous waste site remediation to encourage development of land which is already developed and served by infrastructure.

**All workshops will touch upon the following recommendations:**

State Leadership, Interagency Collaboration and Assistance to Local Governments

***Recommendation 1***

New York should adopt a set of uniform Quality Communities Principles and the governor should direct all executive agencies and personnel to utilize them in the implementation of state policies and programs and the allocation and administration of state resources related to the concept of building and sustaining quality communities.

***Recommendation 2***

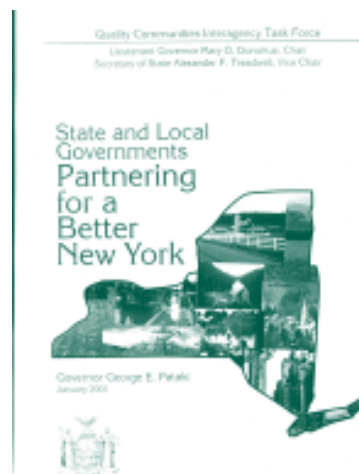
Establish an interagency working group to advise about the incorporation of Quality Communities Principles into state agency programs, to identify appropriate federal and private partners and resources, to collaborate on conference planning and to continue discussion among agency personnel on quality communities projects.

***Recommendation 3***

Refocus state training and technical assistance programs for local officials to incorporate the Quality Communities Principles and to enhance local government capacity to adopt and adhere to such Principles in community planning and development.

***Recommendation 4***

Review current policies and practices concerning state grants to local governments and not-for-profit organizations to increase accountability, recognize success and measure results for ongoing public participation.



***Recommendation 5***

Streamline the state grant application process by incorporating “Smart Paperwork” concepts so that local officials may complete one grant application to seek funding for programs which foster quality communities rather than submitting several applications to various agencies in the hopes of obtaining funding for a particular project.

***Recommendation 6***

Establish a state grant program, modeled after the Quality Communities Demonstration Grant program, to encourage municipalities to engage in comprehensive planning and to implement innovative projects which advance Quality Communities Principles.

***Recommendation 7***

Create the governor’s Quality Community Award for Excellence to recognize municipalities and neighborhoods which rise to the challenge and embrace the goals of Quality Communities.

***Recommendation 37***

State decision makers should be cognizant of the impact their decisions will have throughout a community, region and the state.



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*Rehabilitated bridge carrying Route 30  
over the Pepacton Reservoir in the Town of Andes  
(Delaware County).*