

Part IV

Goals and Recommended Actions

A. Goals and Recommended Actions and Planning Area Maps



Goals & Actions

Introduction

Four area task forces, each representing the municipalities that form one of Monroe County's school districts, have been influential in charting the course of Monroe 2020 and in maintaining both citizen and municipal participation throughout the process. Over more than two years of meetings, members became increasingly aware of common interests among municipalities in the district. The school system was playing many social and recreational as well as educational roles. School costs represented the biggest component of every residential property owner's tax bill, and members understood that economic development in any of the participating municipalities benefited all because the school tax base was shared. Also, certain topographic, economic, or cultural conditions were often shared and different from municipalities in other school districts. Over the course of Monroe 2020, the school districts became the "planning areas" for Monroe County.

Each of the task forces drafted a set of Goals for their planning area, and a comparable set of recommendations for early Actions which municipalities, business, institutions, and the County could take to move toward the Goals. Subjects were: *Land and Water Resources, Economic Development and Fiscal Balance, Community Character and Community Life, and Public Facilities, Infrastructure and Services*. These materials were distributed widely and discussed at well-attended public forums in 1997 where residents from the communities helped refine the proposals. By October, 1997 the County Commissioners, most municipalities and school districts had endorsed these recommendations- along with those of the county-wide task force - and they are reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. Indeed many of the recommended actions had already been taken even before the Comprehensive Plan was drafted - from the May 1998 open space bond referendum to the refinement and applications of the County's Geographic Information System

Following are the illustrated Goals and Actions recommendations of each of the area task forces, along with lists of participants and some basic information about each area. The Districts and their municipalities are:

- East Stroudsburg:*** East Stroudsburg, Middle Smithfield.
- Pleasant Valley:*** Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk, and Ross.
- Pocono Mountain:*** Barrett, Coolbaugh, Jackson, Mt. Pocono, Paradise, Pocono, Tobyhanna, and Tunkhannock.
- Stroudsburg:*** Delaware Water Gap, Hamilton, Stroud, and Stroudsburg.

Composite and conceptual maps of key features and opportunities follow the written text on each School District Planning Area.