The Detroit Region... a sustainable development future

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Detroit Region

...a sustainable development future

- Perspectives on American Cities
- Detroit and SE Michigan
- Environmental and Climate Issues
- A Potential Direction?
- Discussion
New Orleans
Perspectives on American Cities
Philadelphia

Perspectives on American Cities
Atlanta

Perspectives on American Cities
Kansas City
Perspectives on American Cities
Detroit
Perspectives on American Cities
Environmental Issues

Climate Change
Environmental Issues

Global Climate Change

By 2100:

• Increased Surface Temperature
  - Average Global Increase: 2 to 11.5 °F
  - Over Land More Than Over Water
  - Greater in Northern Hemisphere
  - Winters More Than Summers

• More Intense Precipitation
  - More Intense Global Precipitation
  - Reduced Rainfall in Continental Interiors
  - More Frequent and Intense Tropical Storms

• Sea Levels
  - Rise of 7.2 inches to 31.6 inches
  - Potentially 100 million people displaced

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and EPA
Environmental Issues

Michigan Climate Change

- More Extreme Heat Events
- More Heavy Precipitation Events
- Increased Drought and Flood Events
- Accelerated Species Shift
- More Forest Fires
- More Pollution/Ozone Events
- Lower Water Level in Great Lakes

Summers Like Northern Arkansas
Winters Like Ohio
74% of American voters are convinced that global warming is occurring. Zogby International Poll, August 2006

A Potential Direction?

US Rate 13.2%

US Rate 13.2%

Rust Belt

Sun Belt

Percent Change
Three Times U.S. Rate
Two Times U.S. Rate
U.S. Rate (13.2)
No Change
Less than 0
Assets of Great Lakes Green Belt

• Fresh Water
  - 20% of World’s Fresh Surface Water
  - 90% of US Fresh Water

...water scarcity will shape the next century

Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Institute
Assets of Great Lakes Green Belt

- Fresh Water
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- Relatively Disaster Free
  - Well Above Sea Level
  - Moderate Impact from Climate Change
  - Lower Natural Disaster Probability

A Potential Direction?
Landslides
Assets of Great Lakes Green Belt

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• Development Potential
  - Critical Mass
  - Industrial Base
  - Infrastructure Capacity

A Potential Direction?
Future Actions?

Detroit and Southeast Michigan

- Preserve the Great Lakes
- Diversify Michigan’s Economy
- Initiate “Smart Growth” Practices
- Lead in Multi-modal/Energy
- Efficient Transportation
- Regenerate Detroit
Future Actions?

Preserve the Great Lakes

- Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact
- Toxins and Pollutants
- Invasive Species
- Wetlands Restoration
- Agricultural Practices
- Development Practices

A Significant Coastline!
Future Actions?

Economic Diversification

• Research and Development
  - Higher Education
  - Creative Community

• Energy
  - Wind Electrical Generation
  - Geothermal, Biomass, and Solar
  - Environmental Businesses and Products
  - Eco-tourism

• Agribusiness and Agri-tourism
  - Extended Growing Season
  - Vineyards and Wineries
Future Actions?

**Smart Growth Practices**

- Regional Planning Strategies
- “Smart Codes”
- Sustainable/Energy Efficient/ Green Development
- More Compact, Full-service Communities
- Less Sprawling Subdivisions
Future Actions?

Multi-Modal Transportation Center

- Become the National Center for Design, Production, and Use of Multi-modal Transportation
  - Energy Efficient Vehicles
  - Alternative Transportation Modes
  - Public Transit
  - Aviation Hub/Aerotropolis
  - Shipping
  - Rail Cargo
Future Actions?

Regenerate Detroit

The Image of a region is linked to the perception of its core city!

- Subscribe to Detroit Renaissance & Regional Chamber Of Commerce Objectives
- Continue Core Redevelopment
- Create a 24 / 7 Live, Work, Play Environment
- Develop Mass Transit and TOD
- Select Critical Mass Neighborhoods
- Innovate with Interim Solutions
- Solve Taxation Problems
- Fix Detroit Public Schools
- Detroit needs a Regional Solution

Detroit is not Expendable!
Future Actions?

Regenerate Detroit

Is it Plausible???

• 600 Feet Above Sea Level
• Land Capacity for 1 Million People
• Infrastructure Base
• Beautiful Physical Setting
• History and Historical Legacies
• Significant Catalyst Projects
• Major Sports, Education, and Tourism Venues
• Large Corporations and Philanthropies

Pride, Commitment and Belief?
Photo Credits

- Cleveland State University Library
- Lynn Betts, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Brookings Institution
- Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Ford Motor Company
- Forgotten Detroit
- General Motors
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- United States Geological Survey
- Peter Krogh, Photographer
Discussion: What is our role???

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