



Forging Our Community's United Strength

F·O·C·U·S
GREATER SYRACUSE

- Mission:
F.O.C.U.S. enables citizens to work together with government, organizations, and businesses to improve the quality of life and economic future for all citizens.



How do we enable citizens



- F.O.C.U.S. engages in research, public policy advocacy, public education, and public outreach to promote intelligent, inclusive, sustainable decision making.



SUSTAINABILITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 10 YEAR RECORD OF:
 - Public engagement – Vision sessions
 - Building citizen capacity
 - Deliberative democracy decision making
 - Forming partnerships – collaborations
 - Convening diverse thinkers
 - Imparting knowledge – separating myth from fact



F.O.C.U.S. BUILDS CAPACITY

- F.O.C.U.S. is rare, almost unique, organization that values and solicits citizen's input in decision making
- F.O.C.U.S. is positive, inclusive, and non-judgmental



ACTION ON CITIZENS' GOALS

- Citizen strategic plans
 - Arts and Culture Downtown
 - Water and Waterways
 - Building sustainable communities
- Citizen's Academy
- Monthly Core Group sessions
- Advisory – building collaborations, organizational and community capacity



INFLUENCE OF CITIZENS

- 87 Goals:
 - Community resource:
 - Syracuse City Comprehensive Plan
 - SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team)
 - City and County Governments



INFLUENCE OF GOALS

GOALS ADVANCE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

- Parks and Recreation – loop the lake, playground for special needs
- CENTRO – new buses with bike racks
- Housing Visions – veterans and low income
- Home Headquarters – rehab older homes
- Lakefront – land acquisition, brownfields
- Others



F.O.C.U.S. COLLABORATES

- Collaborations, Partnerships, Connections
 - University College of Syracuse University
 - League of Women Voters
 - MACNY, Chamber of Commerce, Syracuse Center of Excellence, CASE Center of Syracuse University, TDO
 - City of Syracuse
 - Onondaga County
 - Onondaga Lake Partnership – Honeywell



ACCELERATE SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING CENTER

Foster youth/adult relationships



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

14 High Schools @ Accelerate 2008

- Mix w/adults
- Learning
- Doing
- Experiencing



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

- F.O.C.U.S. invites all participants
- Citizens come from many workplaces
- Including students is important
- Diversity reigns supreme



NEW GENERATION OF CITIZENS (AND CARS)



HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY F.O.C.U.S.

- BREAKING NEWS
 - 10 events – measure progress on goals
 - Solicit new ideas and visions
 - Report to the community



F.O.C.U.S. VISION

VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS A
DAYDREAM

ACTION WITHOUT VISION IS A
NIGHTMARE




