

# American Institute of Architects: Center for Communities by Design



Matthew J. Driscoll, Mayor

## **SDAT Program:**

~ Sustainable Design Assessment Team ~  
“Communities Making Connections at the  
Crossroads of Upstate New York”

### 6th Annual Green Building Conference and Seminar on Green and Sustainable Schools II

- Fernando Ortiz, Jr., Commissioner
- Andrew M. Maxwell, Neighborhood Planner
  - City of Syracuse, Department of Community Development



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# What is SDAT?

- Sustainable Design Assessment Team
- The SDAT program is an interdisciplinary community assistance program that focuses on principles of sustainability.



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“The SDAT program is based on an understanding of design as a process that...”

- **Is integrative, holistic, and visual**
- **Is central to achieving a sustainable relationship between humans, the natural environment, and the place**
- **Gives three-dimensional form to a culture and a place**
- **And achieves balance between culture, environment, and economic systems.**



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# Collaboration: The SDAT Application

- Who was on board?
- How were these parties convened?
- Why was this successful?
- Why was this appealing?
- Who saw the potential?



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# SDAT Program Visits

- Preliminary Visit: October 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Team Leader Chris Giattina and Program Coordinator Erin Simmons from AIA National came for a scoping visit to learn the basics about the Greater Syracuse community.
- City tour.
- Assessment subcommittees included Economic Development, Housing, Environment, Social Equity, Transportation, and Planning & Design.



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# SDAT Program Visits

- Full SDAT Visit: December 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- The full SDAT team of 5 members spent 3 days touring, reviewing information, and meeting with members of the Greater Syracuse community to determine...are we on a sustainable path?



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## What did the SDAT team conclude?

“...despite these assets and the city’s potential, Syracuse is charting an unsustainable trajectory and is faced with serious challenges to its future....The time to reposition is now.”



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Now What?



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**“Finding ways to create catalytic partnerships between Syracuse’s principal institutions and other institutions, new or old, public or private, big or small, appears to be Syracuse’s best vehicle to strategically reposition the city and its population for a sustainable future.”**



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# Sample Recommendation:

- **Build on the model of the Syracuse Center of Excellence to launch technology transfer programs.**
  - Harness the academic and professional expertise from these institutions, and their graduates, to build a stronger base in professional development and job growth.
  - Fight the brain drain.

# Sample Recommendation:

- **Partner with Syracuse's public schools to provide both job readiness and financial literacy classes open to every interested neighborhood resident.**
  - Community Schools strategy.
  - Lifelong education.



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# Sample Recommendation:

- **Foster local entrepreneurship through a joint program with the Whitman School of Business at Syracuse University.**
  - Harness local academic resources, possibly on a volunteer bases, for professional training to needy individuals.

# What is being done now?

- SDAT Advisory Committee.
  - Monthly meetings
  - Acting as a convener
  - Not preaching to the choir – growing ideas, making connections
  - Bring key players and champions together to take action

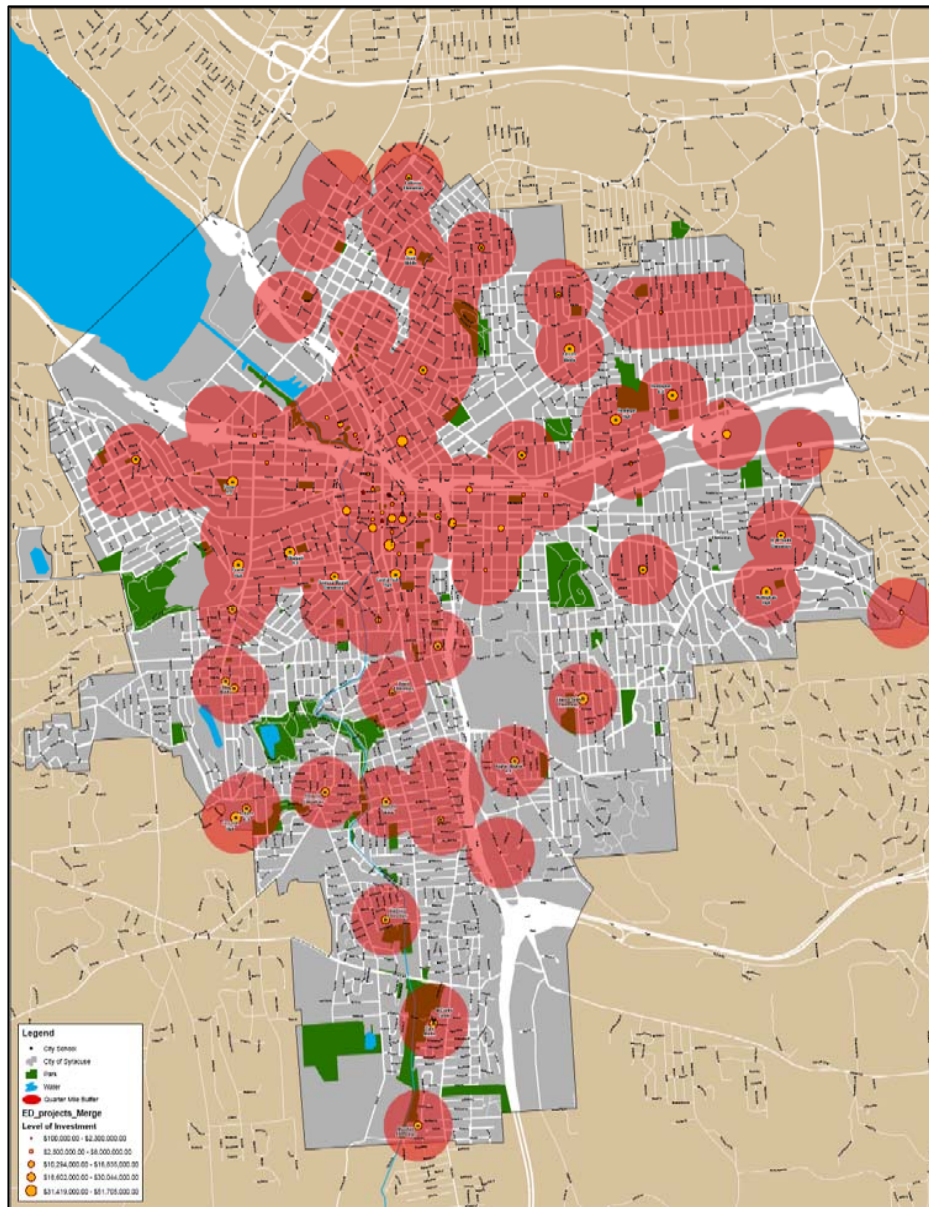


# What else can the City do?

- From Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll's 2008 State of the City Address...
  - LEED-Certified Residential Tax Exemption program
  - \$1 Vacant Housing Program
  - Architectural Style Guide
  - Westcott Reservoir Renewable Energy
  - Carbon Credits & Land Acquisition



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# For More Information See...

- [http://www.aia.org/liv\\_sdat](http://www.aia.org/liv_sdat)

**OR**

- **Contact Andy Maxwell at**  
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