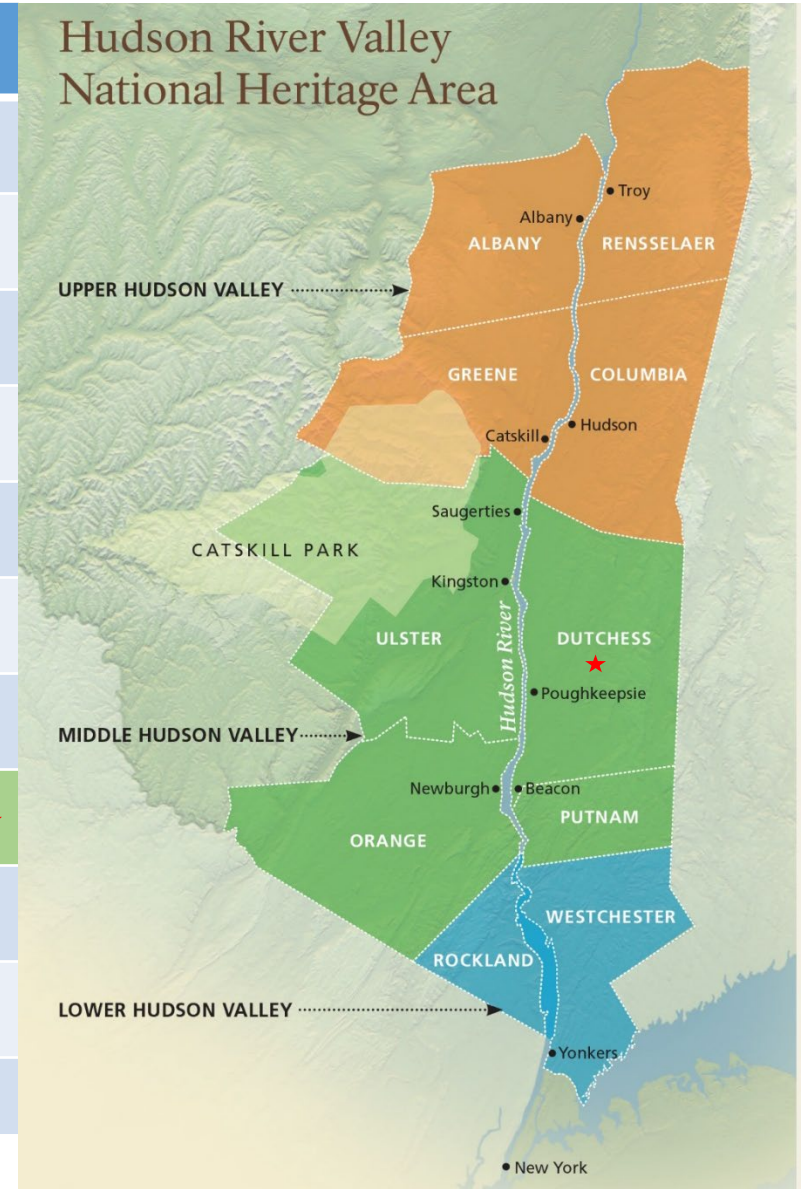


The Continuum of Urbanity as an Organizing Concept to Promote Sustainability in the Mid-Hudson Region

Core Network	Organization
Adam Bosch	Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress
Elizabeth Cook	Barnard College
Ruth DeFries	Columbia University
Robert Freudenberg	Regional Plan Association
Winslow Hansen	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
David Maddox	The Nature of Cities
Leonard Nevarez	Vassar College
Steward Pickett	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies ★
Chris Solomon	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Russell Urban-Mead	LaBella Associates



Guiding Question

How do changes in connectivity interact with legacy effects to create obstacles and opportunities for sustainable development, adaptation, and transformation across a continuum of urbanity?

Triggers of change:

- 9/11
- Hurricane Sandy
- Great Recession 2008
- COVID-19
- Climate change



Project Goals

1. Build an inclusive network
 - Engage with additional contacts
 - Learn from key community focused organizations
2. Analyze existing regional and local sustainability plans
 - County, city, and town levels (30 plan analyzed)
 - Identify planner and municipal issues (Stakeholder sessions)
3. Facilitate stakeholder interaction
4. Identify the scope of future research
 - Align landscape dynamics research sustainability needs
 - Align continuum of urbanity theory with Hudson Valley region

1. Continuum of Urbanity

Influenced by historical triggers & legacies

Urban

Suburban

ExUrban

Rural &
wildland

Present landscape

Increasing connectivity

Transportation, urban/suburban
transformation, communication, etc.

Livelihoods

Employment,
remote work,
online networks,
etc.

Places

Built environments,
natural settings and
amenities, risk,
vulnerability, etc.

Lifestyles

Social groups,
value systems,
households,
consumerism, etc.

Urban

Suburban

ExUrban

Rural +
wildland

Future landscapes?

2. Sessions with Planners & Communities: Example Insights

- Identified knowledge needs
- Ecologists help inform publics
- Wetland & forest hotspots
- Coastal & tributary flooding projections in region
- Invasive & pest species (e.g. algae) with climate change
- Improve small city environments
- Conservation: wildlife, farms
- Trends in surface & groundwater quality
- Soil quality and threats
- Solar vs. farm trade-offs
- Personnel gaps in small towns/cities

Novelty of meetings among HVR planners and with ecologists.