



Sustainable Communities
for all ages

Principles Underpinning *Livable New York*

The *Livable New York* initiative focuses on various areas of community life: housing, universal design, development, planning, zoning, green building, energy alternatives, mobility, and transportation. As a means of improving community livability, education, training, and technical assistance will be provided to communities to help them plan, design, and implement projects and activities in these various areas.

A set of principles underlies all of *Livable New York's* products, activities, and processes. These principles frame *how* a community carries out its planning and development efforts—promoting greater effectiveness in achieving overall community livability, as well as reinforcing the sustainability of planning goals and the projects implemented to meet those goals.

Principles Underpinning *Livable New York*

- Planning is **future-oriented**, based on projected demographic, social, public policy, and global changes—to assure that the definition of issues and the design of solutions accurately reflect the continuing evolution of a community's resident profile and the community's circumstances.
- An **inclusive, collaborative approach** is used in planning and when implementing activities—to take maximum advantage of the expertise, resources, creativity, and diverse perspectives residing within a community's multiple professions, sectors, and citizen groups.
- A **cross-community approach** is used when defining issues and identifying solutions—which includes all ages, all cultures, and all abilities—in order to fully capitalize on the capacities and innovative ideas inherent in diversity.
- **Broad resident participation** is ensured—in order to gain the benefits derived from greater community engagement and empowerment, to strengthen a "sense of community," and to help stabilize a community's population base.
- Actions and activities stem from **community-driven planning and development**—for greater assurance that a community's efforts truly reflect the expressed needs, preferences, and expectations of its members.