

LORAIN COUNTY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project's objective is to create a comprehensive and sustainable Strategic Action Plan for Lorain County.

The attention is on extensive research and community engagement that focuses on County services for users, non-users and stakeholders (including board and staff). This research and engagement will identify the needs and wants of the community, as well as ways to raise awareness and provide clarification to the community on the scope of services provided by Lorain County Government. The project will result in the Lorain County Strategic Action Plan that will be released in April 2024. This plan aims to position Lorain County on a continued path of a diverse, resilient, and vibrant community.



LORAIN COUNTY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN THINK-TANK WORKSHOP



The Lorain County Think-Tank scenario-based Think-Tank workshop was conducted on October 30 and 31 at Lorain County Community College and was attended by almost 100 individuals.

The workshop facilitated the understanding of future drivers that may impact Lorain County, looking out to 2035, using scenario planning methodology. The scenario narratives and descriptions were developed by the participants, and the axis reflect the drivers and themes generated at the Think-Tank.

To get involved and stay up to date on the project, visit:

lab2.future-iq.com/lorain-county-strategic-action-plan-project/

For more information about the Lorain County Strategic Action Plan project, please contact:

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Project Stages & Opportunities to Engage



SCENARIO A: STRENGTHENING TRADITION THROUGH INNOVATION

This scenario forecasts a future where Lorain County focuses on a more traditional approach to industry development. Public investment and policy are directed to tried and tested traditional industry, rather than new and emerging industry. Municipalities work on their own instead of taking a regional and collaborative approach.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- A traditional approach to industry and economic development
- Investment and Policy aimed at traditional rather than emerging industry
- Focus on creating a 'future ready' community and associated education, housing, and transportation
- Engaged and contented community but pressure to retain youth

SCENARIO B: UNIFIED LORAIN COUNTY

This scenario forecasts a future where Lorain County is focused on emerging and future-orientated industries and builds on existing industries in innovative ways. Attention is also given in this economic approach to environmental sectors including water, energy, and food. Critical infrastructure receives investment through high levels of institutional collaboration and forward-thinking policies.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

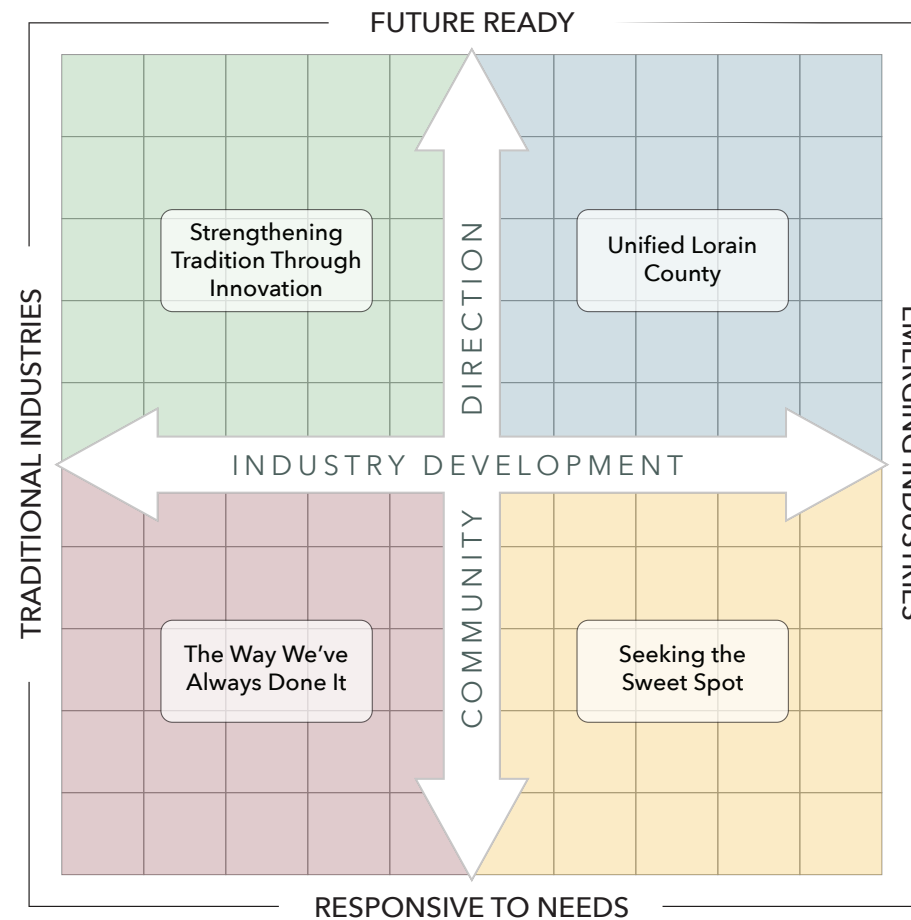
- Embracing emerging industries through building on to existing traditional industries.
- Strong environmental focus
- 'Future ready' Community Direction with intentional investment in youth, workforce, and resident education
- Diverse community with elevated amenities including transportation, safe and affordable housing, and education

SCENARIO D: THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT

This scenario forecasts a future where Lorain County focuses on a more 'tried and tested' traditional approach to industry development. Public investment and policies are targeted to the current industrial sectors with each municipality working on their own priorities.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- The focus is on traditional industry development and 'responsive to needs' community direction
- There is a lack of a regional and collaborative approach
- Workforce becomes an issue across the county
- Poverty remains or increases and people leave Lorain County for a better lifestyle and work opportunities
- Crime and substance abuse increases
- There is a lack of affordable housing and a fragmented transportation system



SCENARIO C: SEEKING THE SWEET SPOT

This scenario forecasts a future where Lorain County focuses on emerging and future-orientated industries and builds on existing and traditional industries creatively. Emerging sectors such as technology, water and energy are invested in to help mitigate climate change and improve environmental standards across the county.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT - FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Focus on emerging industries and a 'more responsive to needs' community direction
- Market driven community infrastructure
- Work Skills gap experienced by new industries and challenge in finding a new workforce
- More young people move to Lorain County and so amenities and activities are enhanced to meet their needs

