

Charting the Future of Our Community

Where We Are

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences
Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Charting the Future of Our Community is a strategic visioning process designed to help communities plan for and control their future. It uses the broad diversity of viewpoints in a community to discover a common vision for the future, and to develop a plan of action to achieve that community vision. The *Charting* program is facilitated at the local level by trained facilitators (typically Penn State Cooperative Extension staff) and involves 25 to 40 participants (reflecting the wide range of and often conflicting perspectives in the community) in a series of four three-hour meetings.

This workbook is one of a series used to facilitate the *Charting* process. The workbooks include:

Charting Workbook 1: Setting Our Course

Charting Workbook 2: Where We Are

Charting Workbook 3: Where We Want to Be

Charting Workbook 4: Making the Trip

For more information, contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county, or visit the Penn State Cooperative Extension Charting Web site at <http://visioning.aers.psu.edu>

Prepared by

William Shuffstall, extension agent, community and economic development in Clearfield County;

Walt Whitmer, extension agent, community and economic development in Juniata County;

Kelly O'Neill, former extension agent, community and economic development in Clinton County;

Joann Kowalski, extension agent, community and economic development in Susquehanna County; and

Timothy W. Kelsey, associate professor of agricultural economics.

The Charting program was adapted from "Mapping the Future of Your Community," which was developed by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
What Do the Numbers Tell Us?	1
What Are the Forces and Trends Shaping Our Future?	2
Successful Communities Understand and Take Advantage of Their Interdependencies	4
What Resources Do We Have in Our Community?	5
What Do We Like About Our Community and What Do We Want to Preserve?	7
Conclusion	8

Visit Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences on the Web: <http://www.cas.psu.edu>

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This publication is available from the Publications Distribution Center, The Pennsylvania State University, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. For information telephone 814-865-6713.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. T. R. Alter, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2002

Produced by Information and Communication Technologies in the College of Agricultural Sciences

CAT UA363

2M1/02printer4478(2)