Decisions and Investments

How do we make decisions and investments that honor the Haudensonne’s call to action in 1992 at the United Nations to “make every decision on behalf of the seventh generation to come”? What does it mean to apply their Law of Regeneration to the transformation of our economy, our processes for production and the design of spaces and places for manufacturing? What would it look like if we put social and environmental factors at the front-end of our decision-making around industry and materials design and manufacturing?

Factory of the Future

CoRE, the Collaboratory for the Regenerative Economy is a partnership across Niagara Share, University at Buffalo’s Material Design and Innovation Department (MDI) and Clean Production Action. Through CoRE, we are working to advance a new framework and learning platform for the regenerative factory of the future. With the WNY Environmental Alliance and Blue Sky Design, we are bringing people from across sectors together to design solutions towards an end that none of us could achieve by working in silos. We want to model a process of engagement with people, organizations and companies that is iterative and can adapt to new science, evolving social and environmental conditions, community impact and the needs of the local and global economy. This work will define new types of leadership in the industrial space.

Initially focused on solar production and advanced manufacturing in Buffalo, this framework will culminate and organize policies, best practices, and resources in:
- Clean Production (clean energy, supply chain management, material innovation, chemical footprinting, greener, safer chemical use)
- Placemaking (urban regeneration, water and land stewardship)
- Education and Jobs (economic inclusion, entrepreneurialism and adaptive learning)
- Innovation Ecosystems (local sourcing of materials and services, zero waste, the circular economy)
- Procurement (creating and meeting demand for sustainable products)

CoRE is a three-year initiative generously funded by the JPB Foundation.

Inspiring Leadership

We already see leadership in this space and in pockets of activity across Buffalo – it inspires and informs our work. This map is a snapshot of those institutions, companies and places we’ve identified as leaders in this first phase of a multi-year project. It is meant to inspire discussion and invite more thoughts and ideas on leadership within Buffalo, and beyond, and identify models that we can learn from as we work to transform manufacturing and the factory of the future.

PUSH Buffalo & Montante Solar Collaborative
A partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools to expand green job opportunities and build our clean energy economy including 19 solar installations on schools, accounting for nearly 3 megawatts.
McKinley High School
A vocational training program for the Buffalo Public Schools that provides students with a solar installation certification and enables career development in the renewable energy industry.

NYS STEM Master Teachers
A WNY Climate Summit for high school students to develop leadership skills to abate climate change through new food, energy and transportation systems.

Northland Corridor Redevelopment Project
50 acres and 700,000 square feet of industrial buildings for a new manufacturing and community revitalization hub that includes state of the art workforce development facilities.

PUSH Buffalo & Montante Solar Collaborative
A partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools to expand green job opportunities and build our clean energy economy including 19 solar installations on schools, accounting for nearly 3 megawatts.

BNMC Innovation Center and DIG
A space to build the region’s innovation ecosystem and home to 43 North, Niagara Share, and the WNY Environmental Alliance.

UB’s Center for Computational Research
A super computer that the Material Design and Innovation Center is using for CoRE’s work on environmentally preferred material development for solar manufacturing.

NYS’ High Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at Riverbend
Urban based industrial campus now home to Tesla and Panasonic EcoSolutions, creating new jobs and the opportunity to build solar panels in the United States.

DL&W Corridor
A new rail to trail project led by the WNY Land Conservancy that brings nature downtown through the development of a trail connecting Canalside to Riverbend.

Buffalo River
A waterway that supported our industrial heritage and now has been restored to support aquatic habitats and recreational life.

SUNY Erie
A partnership with South Park High School’s Be Solar Pathway Program allows high school students the opportunity to continue their education at the community college and be well positioned for a job at Tesla.

PUSH Buffalo & Montante Solar Collaborative
A partnership with the Buffalo Public Schools to expand green job opportunities and build our clean energy economy including 19 solar installations on schools, accounting for nearly 3 megawatts.

Harmac & Dally Green
A medical device manufacturer committed to the triple bottom line through its operations and community engagement work that includes Dally Green, a development project to restore the fabric of 30 acres of distressed nearby neighborhoods.

Bak USA
Tablet manufacturer and social enterprise contributing to a new era of American manufacturing that empowers women and minorities to benefit from technology through employment and use.

Localizing Buffalo’s Renewable Energy Future
A UB led partnership to create 100 megawatts of new solar energy by 2020; with installation in our urban core, providing green jobs and clean energy.

Honeywell
Research and Development lab that has been an anchor for the $100M clean up of the Buffalo River and now uses the Green Screen to do human health and environmental assessments of materials used at their Buffalo River plant.

South Park High School
BESOLAR Pathway Program is a high tech clean energy readiness program for the Buffalo School system that creates opportunities for students to build careers in solar panel manufacturing.

Outer Harbor
Urban green space on Buffalo’s waterfront, providing a gateway to the Great Lakes.