



DAVID R. ATKINSON CENTER
for a Sustainable Future
Cornell University



Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Topical Lunch

Title: *Opportunities for Synergistic Research among Atkinson Center Working Groups in Upstate New York: A Conversation with Paul Beyer*

Hosts: **Natalie Mahowald**, Irving Porter Church Professor of Engineering, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty Director for the Environment, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future

Linda Shi, Professor, City and Regional Planning

Date: Monday November 19, 2018 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

The Atkinson Center has formed several working groups around energy transitions, food security, water pollution, climate risk reduction, enhancing one health, and conservation finance. These groups share overlaps, synergies, potential contradictions in their missions, as well as reliance on similar political, social, and economic institutions, organizations, and individual leaders for their success. This lunchtime roundtable discussion is an opportunity to discuss these issues and explore ways to collaborate so that they add up to more than the sum of their parts. The roundtable includes a guest - Paul Beyer from New York's Department of State - to explore possibilities to conduct some of the working groups' research in a shared geography, such as a region, county, or watershed in Upstate New York. A shared geography may help foster the development of an integrated or holistic model of sustainable development that could be scaled up or transferred to other geographies.

Paul Beyer is the State Director of Smart Growth Planning at the NYS Department of State. In this position, Paul promotes the principles of Smart Growth on the state, regional and local level in New York. Paul's experience in land use and Smart Growth began when he worked in the New York State Legislature, where he focused on land use, environmental and public health policy. Paul served on the Planning Board in the Town of Amherst, NY for five years, where he helped develop the town's Comprehensive Plan. Paul also served on the Board of Directors of Partners for a Livable Western New York, the premier Smart Growth advocacy group in the Buffalo-Niagara region. Paul has a law degree from the University at Buffalo