

## Appendix D: Buffalo County Summary

The Survey Research Center received 177 surveys from Buffalo County. Based on the estimated number of households in the County as reported by the American Community Survey (5,810), the results are expected to be accurate within plus or minus 7.25 percent.

Demographic Profile. Buffalo County respondents were more likely to be male, more than 55 years of age, and long-term residents of the County. About half were employed or self-employed, and approximately four in ten were retired. Their household was likely to consist of two adults with no minor children. Nearly 60% of the respondents had annual household income of less than \$50,000. Nearly seven in ten respondents had some post-secondary education, with 25 percent having completed a bachelor's or graduate/professional degree program.

### Demographics

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>				
	173	72%	28%				
<b>Age</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
	176	1%	5%	9%	19%	27%	40%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Self</b>	<b>Unemp</b>	<b>Retired</b>	<b>Other</b>
	172	37%	4%	13%	3%	39%	4%
	<b>Count</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5+</b>
<b>Adults</b>	166		23%	67%	9%	0%	1%
<b>Children</b>	155	79%	8%	10%	2%	1%	0%
<b>Income</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Under 15,000</b>	<b>15,000-24,999</b>	<b>25,000-49,999</b>	<b>50,000-74,999</b>	<b>75,000-99,999</b>	<b>100,000+</b>
	170	11%	19%	29%	24%	9%	8%
<b>Education</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Under High School</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>Some College</b>	<b>Tech Grad</b>	<b>Bachelors</b>	<b>Grad Degree</b>
	174	6%	25%	30%	14%	14%	11%
<b>Years Resident</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Under 1</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>	<b>10 - 24</b>	<b>25+</b>	
	176	1%	6%	7%	19%	67%	
<b>Residence</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Town</b>			
	168	36%	15%	48%			

## Key Points – Taxes and Economic Development

- Large majorities of Buffalo County respondents said that counties should be allowed to share law enforcement costs with other counties and that programs should be developed to increase the amount of locally produced food in schools and other local institutions. About two-thirds of the respondents agreed that the economics of sand mining need further study, that they would support raising the sales tax as a means of reducing property taxes, and that the business climate in Buffalo County is good. Solid majorities agreed the ecologic impacts of sand mining need additional study, that their local internet access is good, and that manufacturing will continue to be an important economic driver in the region.
- Somewhat more respondents disagreed than agreed that businesses that expand or start-up in Wisconsin should pay no state corporate income tax for the first 5 years of operations.
- Relatively few Buffalo County respondents believe that more overnight lodging is needed in their communities.

## Taxes and Economic Development

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Cost Share Law Enforcement	173	84%	9%	6%
Local Foods in Schools	176	77%	17%	6%
Study Economics of Sand Mining	176	68%	22%	11%
Raise Sales Tax/Reduce Property Tax	174	63%	14%	24%
Good Local Business Climate	176	63%	16%	22%
Study Ecology of Sand Mining	176	60%	26%	14%
Local Internet Access Good	174	59%	21%	20%
Manufacturing Economic Driver	174	59%	24%	17%
Fund Schools with Sales Tax	175	53%	23%	24%
Rec/Tourism Development	176	52%	27%	21%
More State Funding for Schools	173	51%	18%	31%
Minimize Industry Development in Rural Areas	176	47%	26%	27%
Business Development in Villages/Cities	176	45%	32%	22%
No State Corp Income Tax	176	37%	18%	45%
Need More Lodging	174	27%	33%	40%

## Key Points – Recreation and Tourism

- Buffalo County respondents were nearly unanimous in their belief that fishing and hunting would be acceptable as a tourism activities. These activities were also seen as most likely to be successful in attracting tourists to Buffalo County.
- Majorities of Buffalo County respondents, ranging from six in ten to nine in ten, said all other listed recreational and tourism activities listed would be acceptable in their communities. About half of the respondents believed that culture/fine arts and winter hill sports would not be successful in Buffalo County and more than half felt that way about ice skating/hockey, and tennis.

## Recreation and Tourism

	Accepted			Successful		
	Count	Yes	No	Count	Yes	No
Fishing	172	98%	2%	165	95%	5%
Hunting	173	94%	6%	165	95%	5%
Motorized Outdoor Activities	172	90%	10%	165	88%	12%
Camping	172	94%	6%	166	87%	13%
Ag/Industry Tours	174	89%	11%	160	83%	17%
Golfing	171	88%	12%	164	82%	18%
Bicycling	173	86%	14%	166	81%	19%
Nature Recreation	172	86%	14%	160	81%	19%
Horse Events	169	86%	14%	165	80%	20%
Baseball/Softball	175	87%	13%	161	80%	20%
Non-Motorized Water Activities	170	87%	13%	162	79%	21%
Basketball/Volleyball	173	83%	17%	162	77%	23%
Football/Soccer	173	82%	18%	162	73%	27%
Get-Away Destination	170	81%	19%	162	72%	28%
Motorized Water Activities	172	78%	22%	164	71%	29%
Cross Country Skiing	167	72%	28%	160	59%	41%
Culture/Fine Arts	170	71%	29%	166	52%	48%
Winter Hill Sports	168	67%	33%	164	46%	54%
Ice Skating/Hockey	167	64%	36%	163	41%	59%
Tennis	169	63%	37%	157	41%	59%

## Key Points – Land Use, Housing, and Quality of Life

- Among the questions in this section, the highest level of agreement was for redeveloping existing residential, commercial and industrial areas rather than expanding into new areas. About 70 percent of Buffalo County respondents also agreed that government regulations and funding are needed to protect natural areas.
- About two-thirds of Buffalo County respondents agreed that they experience a high quality of life in their communities, but they are decidedly less optimistic about the future. Only about four in ten agreed that the quality of life in their communities will improve in coming years, and about four in ten had no opinion.
- Solid majorities of respondents agreed that government regulations are needed to protect farmland and forests, that local governments should work to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing, and that Buffalo County communities accept diverse populations.
- Respondents from Buffalo County had split opinions about the need for more land use planning in their communities. About a third of respondents agreed, another third disagreed, and the remaining third had no opinion.

## Land Use, Housing, and Quality of Life

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Redevelop Rather than Expand To New Areas	176	73%	18%	9%
Gov't Regs Needed to Protect Natural Areas	177	71%	11%	18%
Local Quality of Life is High	174	67%	16%	17%
New Housing Adjacent to Villages/Cities	177	62%	22%	16%
Gov't Regs Needed to Protect Farm/Forest	177	59%	14%	27%
Local Gov'ts Should Ensure Affordable Housing	174	59%	13%	28%
Local Community Accept Diverse Populations	175	59%	25%	17%
Local Housing for Elderly Adequate	175	53%	21%	26%
Sustainability Should Guide Development	176	53%	35%	13%
Gov't Regs Needed to Protect History	177	47%	28%	24%
Local Housing for Special Needs Adequate	175	42%	30%	28%
Local Gov't & Business Work Together	176	42%	32%	26%
Local Quality of Life Will Improve	173	39%	37%	24%
More Local Land Use Planning Needed	176	36%	33%	31%

## Key Points – Energy Alternatives

- Solar energy, burning biomass, and wind energy had the highest level of acceptability among Buffalo County respondents.
- With the exception of nuclear energy, smaller majorities of respondents, ranging from two-thirds to three-fourths, believed other forms energy production would be accepted in their communities. Burning biomass was, by a large margin, seen as the most likely form of alternative energy to be successful in Buffalo County.
- A majority of Buffalo County respondents said they do not believe that nuclear energy or biodiesel production, whether from plants or animal fats, would succeed in their communities.

## Energy Alternatives

	Accepted				Successful		
	Count	Yes	No		Count	Yes	No
Burning Biomass	170	84%	16%		157	75%	25%
Methane	164	76%	24%		161	66%	34%
Solar	169	86%	14%		158	64%	36%
Wind	166	80%	20%		158	64%	36%
Ethanol from Crops	168	77%	23%		156	63%	37%
Hydroelectric	162	76%	24%		155	61%	39%
Ethanol from Waste/Grasses	162	77%	23%		151	57%	43%
Biodiesel from Plants	167	67%	33%		154	45%	55%
Biodiesel from Animal Fats	166	65%	35%		153	42%	58%
Nuclear	166	31%	69%		157	36%	64%