



# From Vision to Action: Sustainability Planning *AND* Implementation at the Regional Scale

**Carol Davis**

*New River Valley Livability Initiative*

DEQ Environmental Excellence Conference

March 11, 2014



# Sustainability: How Do We Get There?

Vision



Action



# Sustainability: How Do We Get There?

Vision



Action

Planning

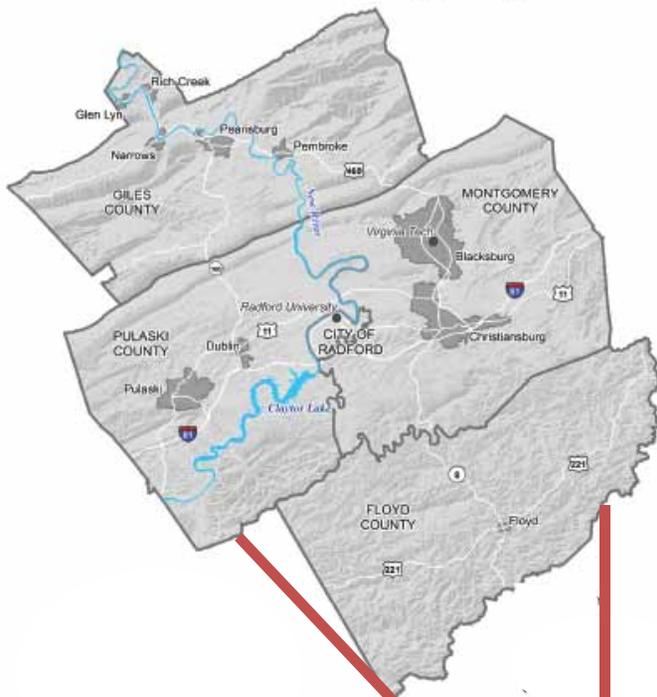


Implementation



# New River Valley Livability Initiative

## New River Valley, Virginia



- 3 year regional planning process
- Multiple topic areas
- Federal Partnership For Sustainable Communities



# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Parallel Engagement & Technical Process



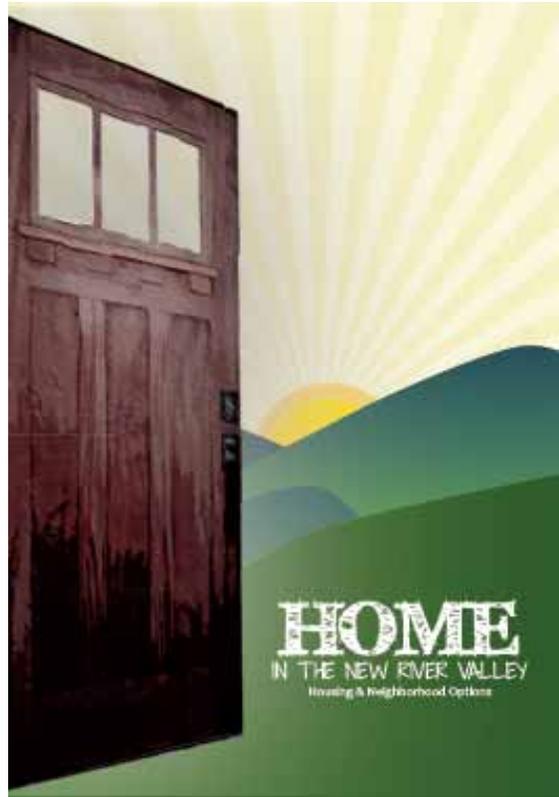
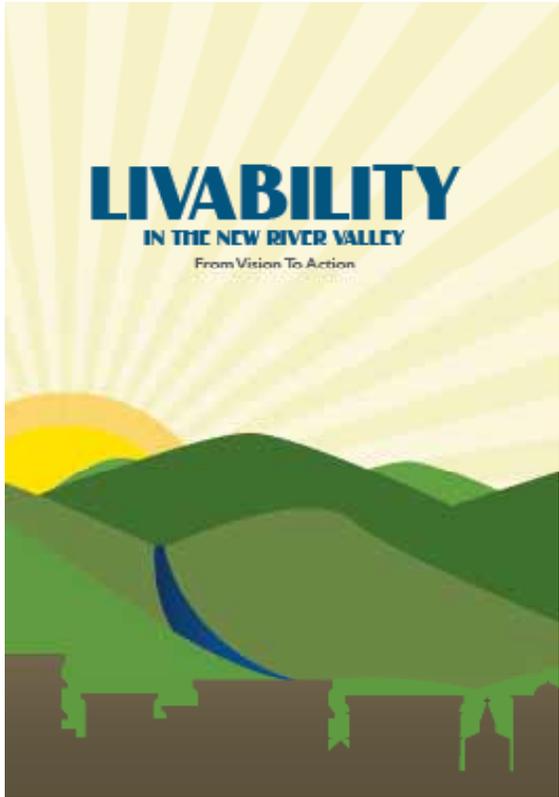
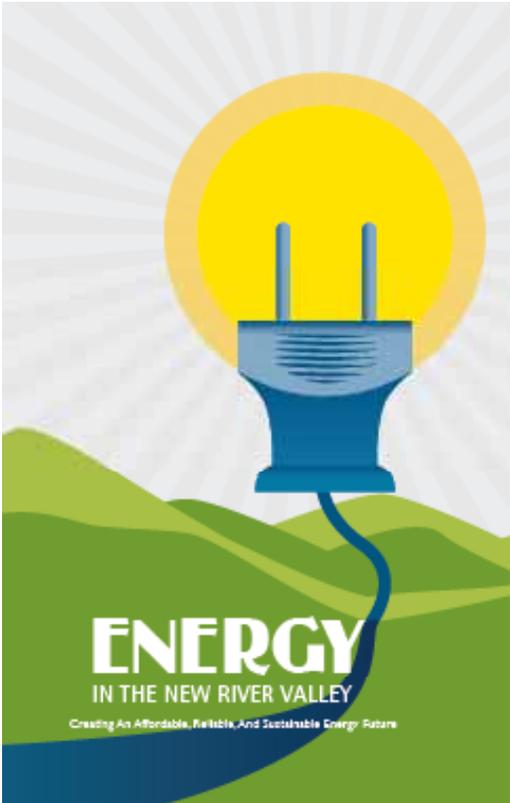
- **Housing (*Aging In Place*)**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Economic Development (*Internet Access*)**
- **Natural Resources (*Agriculture; Water Infrastructure*)**
- **Energy**
- **Transportation**
- **Community Health**

# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Parallel Engagement & Technical Process

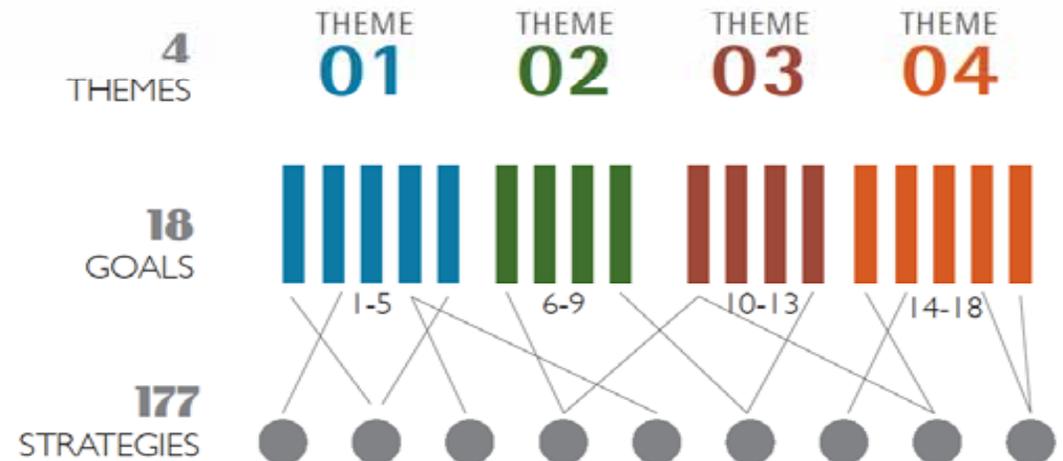
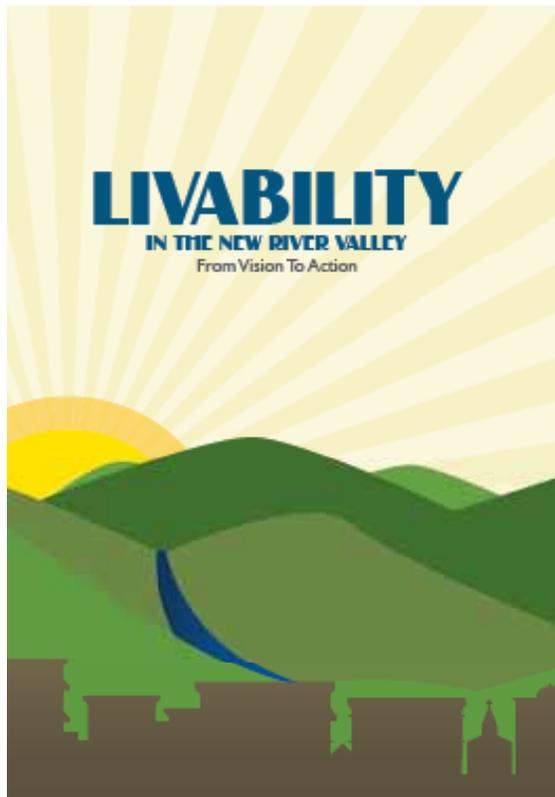
## Stakeholder Engagement:

Legitimacy, Buy-In, Trust Building, Implementation Partnerships

- **Housing (*Aging In Place*)**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Economic Development (*Internet Access*)**
- **Natural Resources (*Agriculture; Water Infrastructure*)**
- **Energy**
- **Transportation**
- **Community Health**



# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Regional Plan



ENHANCING LIVING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENTS



PRESERVING RURAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER



MAKING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT MORE PRODUCTIVE AND RESILIENT



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Next Steps

Vision



Action

*“It has become clear that **pursuit of the vision** for the future that has emerged is **not likely to be the responsibility of any single organization or sector.**”*

*There exists great potential for **collaboration** across the region to better meet the needs of citizens, **leveraging all sectors** of society including **local and regional governments, private businesses as well as non-profits and voluntary citizen initiatives.**”*

# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Next Steps – Sharing Leadership

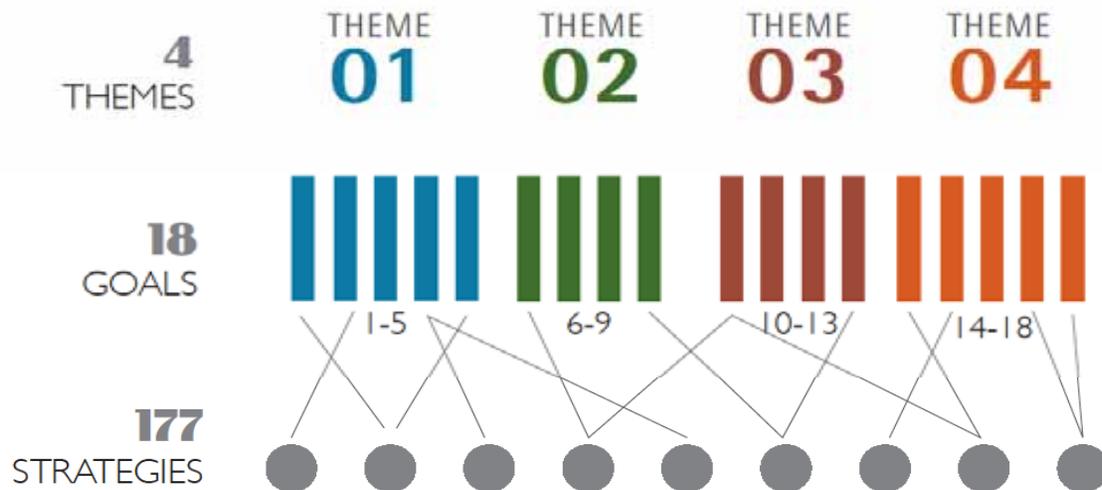
Vision



Action

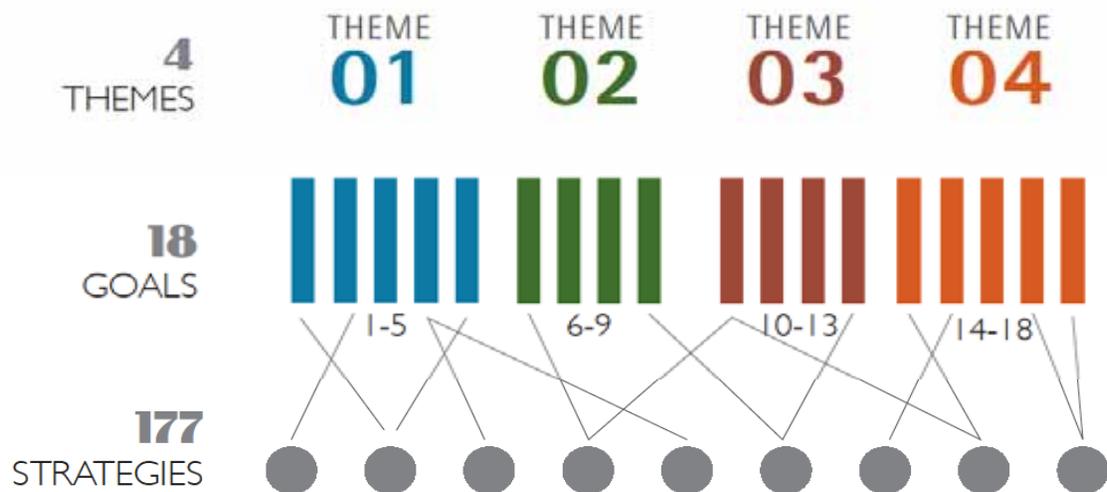


# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Next Steps - Aligning Giving & Grants



# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Next Steps - Convening the Implementers

“Third Thursdays and First Fridays” with the Foundation



# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Emerging Programs & Partnerships



**Aging Successfully at Home  
and in Our Communities**

**Community Impact Grant:  
NRV Habitat for Humanity  
for Critical Home Repair**



**Solarize  
Blacksburg**

**Lowering the Cost and Complexity  
of Residential Solar: Pilot project  
launching in Blacksburg now!**

# New River Valley Livability Initiative: Emerging Programs & Partnerships

11 partners



**Aging Successfully at Home  
and in Our Communities**

**Community Impact Grant:  
NRV Habitat for Humanity  
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**Realignment of  
program mission  
and grant-making**

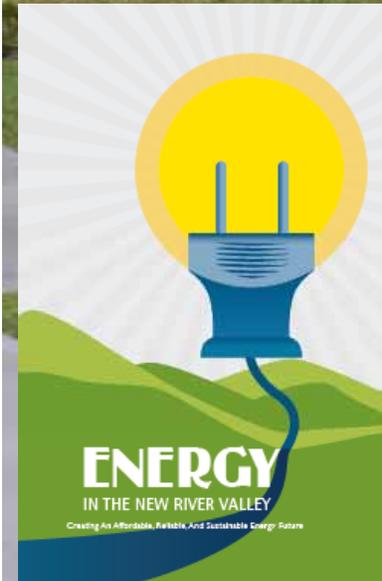
9 partners



**Solarize  
Blacksburg**

**Lowering the Cost and Complexity  
of Residential Solar: Pilot project  
launching in Blacksburg now!**

# The Solarize Concept



Priority Implementation Strategy from  
Livability Initiative Regional Energy Plan

# The Solarize Concept



**suncommon**



# The Solarize Concept

Makes solar purchasing **easier and more affordable:**

reduces base cost for “hard” and “soft” costs:

**group-purchasing** on equipment

**customer acquisition** process!

favorable and/or solar-specific **financing options**

**reduces complexity** on site assessment, permitting, and financing, tax credits, and SRECs

# The Solarize Concept

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Solarize outcomes:

builds support for **local renewable energy market** that lasts

keeps **energy dollars** circulating in the local economy

guards against **future utility price increases**

# The Solarize Concept

Makes solar purchasing **easier and more affordable:**

reduces base cost for “hard” and “soft” costs:

~~group purchasing on equipment~~



**Solarize  
Blacksburg**

keeps **energy dollars** circulating in the local economy

guards against **future utility price increases**

TOWN OF  
**Blacksburg**  
*a special place*



**Solarize  
Blacksburg**

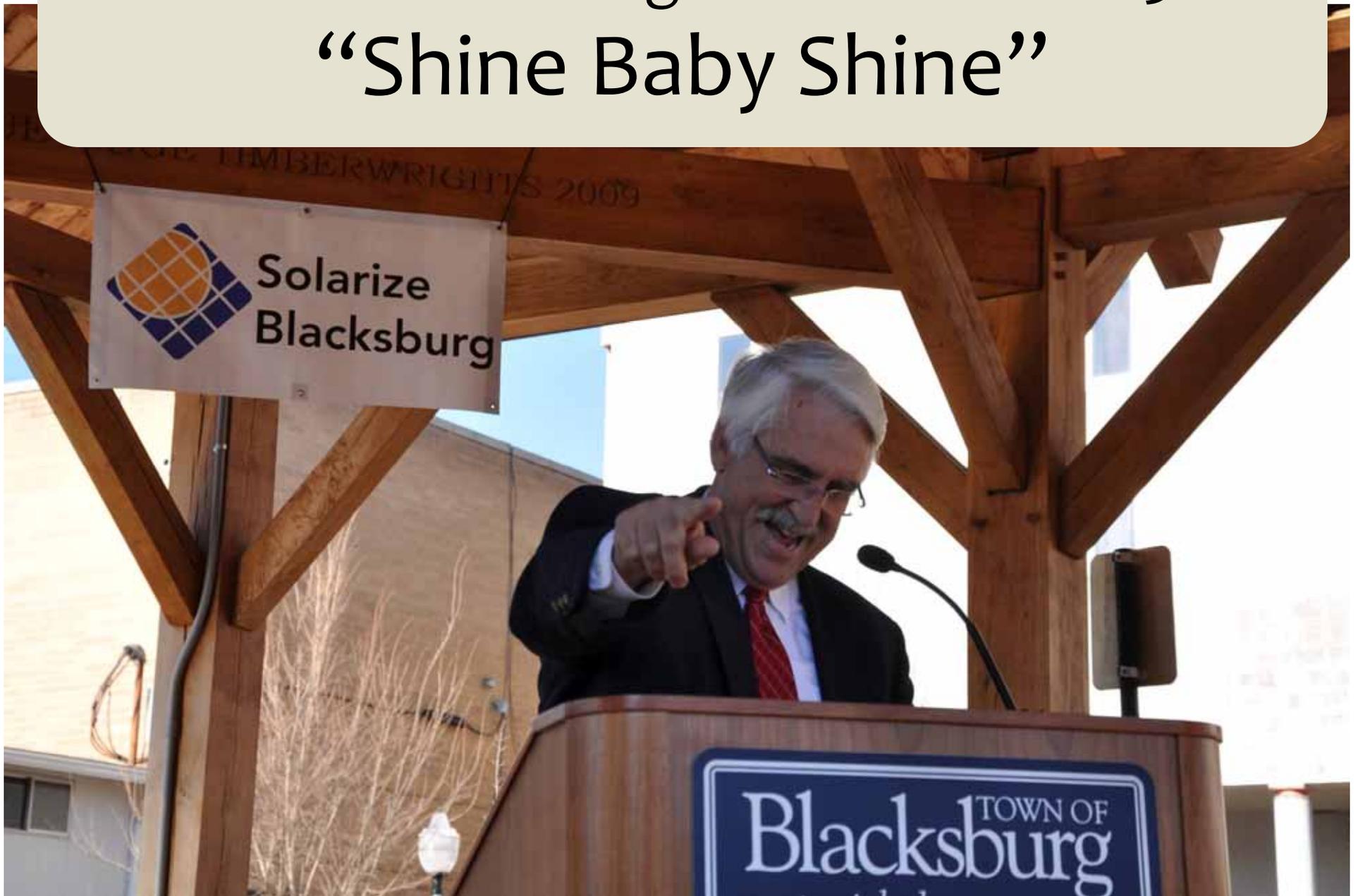
Community  
Members



Environmental  
Coalition at  
Virginia Tech



Solarize Blacksburg Launch - March 5th  
“Shine Baby Shine”



# Questions?

