

Appendix D: CEDS Survey Results (Open Responses)

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

Q4 How can your county use its best resources to boost the economy?

Answered: 648 Skipped: 335

#	Responses	Date
1	Jobs Use those resources to develop jobs	3/13/2017 9:51 AM
2	Businesses By developing realistic training curriculum that focuses on future business needs that includes comprehensive health fields, manufacturing, and IT.	3/13/2017 8:58 AM
3	Economic development through group and advertising	3/12/2017 9:49 PM
4	By identifying a need that involves resources resident within Burke County but yet aren't being recognized/utilized to strengthen the local economy	3/12/2017 8:32 PM
5	Utilizing all public resources to enhance low income families to excel in their lives and become self sufficient	3/12/2017 4:26 PM
6	Education Young People Invest in public education and in the young people of Burke County	3/11/2017 9:41 PM
7	Businesses Jobs Attracting businesses to come to Burke County. Jobs left with the ending of furniture business. Very little opportunity except in healthcare.	3/11/2017 6:34 PM
8	Education Invest in education	3/11/2017 4:32 PM
9	Community College Industry Our Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute can set up training classes for almost any industry that requires assistance.	3/11/2017 11:56 AM
10	Planning to assist in developing multi-family residential, apartments and townhomes, other than subsidized projects. Caldwell has too many workers who have to live outside the County due to lack of inventory of housing	3/11/2017 9:53 AM
11	Businesses Education Start with the education system to train individuals in certain areas. Then recruit businesses that need those skilled laborers.....i.e.: the Furniture Academy	3/11/2017 8:24 AM
12	MAKE MORE FAMILY /SENIOR CITIZEN FRIENDLY	3/11/2017 7:51 AM
13	Community College Jobs Use the community college to train people laid off from the loss of manufacturing jobs.	3/11/2017 7:09 AM
14	Jobs Bring in new employers to create new jobs	3/11/2017 6:15 AM
15	Tourism Improve ROADS in VALDESE for tourism!!!	3/11/2017 3:56 AM
16	Invest in future growth	3/10/2017 9:59 PM
17	Community College Jobs Bring in manufacturing jobs that utilize the degrees the local Community Colleges provide. NOT health care. This area is over-loaded with health care degree holders, which has driven the pay down \$2-\$5 lower than the national average. Free WiFi connectivity in public spaces.	3/10/2017 9:22 PM
18	Education encourage diversity...educate in technical areas	3/10/2017 8:35 PM
19	Businesses Attracting small and large businesses and companies thru low taxation, especially near and in maiden and with incentives.	3/10/2017 8:34 PM
20	Jobs Invest in job training	3/10/2017 6:41 PM
21	Community College Offering more night/ evening classes at the community college so people who work can still go to school if they desire	3/10/2017 6:27 PM
22	Education INVEST in PUBLIC Education, including EARLY Childhood Education!	3/10/2017 5:29 PM
23	Young People Bring back the young people. Please improve green spaces and make the area more attractive to young people - culture, arts, outdoor events/spaces	3/10/2017 5:06 PM
24	Jobs Continue to support CCC&TI's involvement with App State, support STEM and Early College, and their involvement with technical jobs within the County.	3/10/2017 4:46 PM
25	Support the public schools for our students, economic vitality and containment of health and social welfare programs.	3/10/2017 3:57 PM
26	Get rid of the conservative city leaders and replace them with progressive individuals that aren't afraid to try new policies.	3/10/2017 3:49 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

27	I think Catawba County can use Lake Hickory and Lake Norman to promote water based recreation. The County has a lot of historical preservation that could be used to create more prestigious historical areas to live and play in. Catawba County is also part of the Carolina Threadtrail Network.	3/10/2017 3:47 PM
28	Education Focus on education and training! Develop the workforce of today and tomorrow!!	3/10/2017 3:20 PM
29	Industry Jobs Training for skilled jobs within this industry	3/10/2017 3:18 PM
30	Businesses Jobs Continued business recruitment to bring in new jobs	3/10/2017 3:12 PM
31	Jobs Create more jobs, create more affordable housing, better public transportation to WHOLE county	3/10/2017 2:53 PM
32	Combine large unused factory and store space with a good transportation hub and a large hands-on experience factory population to produce products like modular homes.	3/10/2017 2:49 PM
33	Businesses Stop making it hard to do business in the county. I.E. - Not only through our own experiences, but also through the experiences of our customers, building in the county is often difficult and expensive due to the processes and inspectors. We have heard repeatedly how difficult and frustrating it is do build commercial buildings in our county simply because the attitude and push back companies get. If we simply started to try to help people rather than looking for/ creating issues it would make a huge difference.	3/10/2017 2:34 PM
34	Redevelop the areas that are full of vacant buildings. Use the hospital building for some type of ART.	3/10/2017 2:30 PM
35	Education Workforce development and education. Our populace is sorely under educated. Too many children are born to unmarried mothers who use drugs, have no work ethic, have no skills, who do not feed their children nutritious food and who have terrible parenting skills. We have to change the culture from one of making babies, using drugs, and living off the government to one of getting an education, working hard, and getting married before producing children.	3/10/2017 2:28 PM
36	High School Training upcoming youth starting in the Middle and High Schools.	3/10/2017 2:09 PM
37	Businesses Fund more businesses and things to do.	3/10/2017 2:02 PM
38	Create an environment where people want to work AND live. Recruitment is tough.	3/10/2017 1:37 PM
39	Businesses Community College The framework is in place for a vibrant, balanced small city (Hickory). Go get a big winner of a business to make this place a destination. This requires tax incentives (I know you know that, but lets do this thing!) Attract big events to the convention center to make Hickory a destination (i.e. we have the NC-SHRM coming in 2019). Also, 2019 is the 75th anniversary of the Miracle of Hickory. Tell this story. This defines the very best of us >>> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1UzRVOLsmo Learn from Hickory Hops...the entire downtown becomes a destination. Do more quality festivals. Encourage CVCC to reach out to Wilkes Community College and try to get a few Merlefest performers to perform in Hickory the week before the festival. There are hundreds of performers... we need a few to make this happen.	3/10/2017 1:28 PM
40	If people with brains could get elected to office it would be the biggest help. If not, then at least if the elected officials could do away with the good old boy and partisan network. Hell it is like listening to 7th graders argue about things. We need diversity (women and minorities) to help us get out of this quagmire.	3/10/2017 1:21 PM
41	more events. Night out on the square. Example: shops have sales and put their names out to the community and restaurants provide samples or discounted foods/wine tastings. More affordable living. We have 9-11 complexes that are ALL income based. That is wonderful we are catering to the needy but what about us who make over 21,000 but not quite enough to rent a home/townhome or apartment that rent reaches up to the 800 range. We need a affordable places to live so we can not have to travel 30 miles out of our town just to find a half decent place to live.	3/10/2017 1:13 PM
42	Market Market Assets	3/10/2017 1:06 PM
43	Businesses continue to attract new businesses	3/10/2017 1:01 PM
44	Market Market the benefits working in the county brings to the companies	3/10/2017 1:00 PM
45	Education The county needs to support those things that make our county unique in order to attract young families. The Bond Initiatives are good, but we need to do more. Education is important and we should provide support to the unique educational facilities such as Catawba Science Center.	3/10/2017 12:58 PM
46	More/cheaper skills-based training through CVCC	3/10/2017 12:37 PM
47	Education training and development of trade skills and the encouraging a vocational pathway for youth education instead of a one dimensional approach to academics	3/10/2017 12:31 PM
48	Education High School Jobs collaborate on education and training to improve overall education attainment, to provide high school graduates who are ready to work or be trained and to teach new and needed skills to adults to provide a trained workforce and attract more jobs	3/10/2017 12:15 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

49	Create affordable housing(apartments,townhouses, single-family detached homes) for all income levels along with cultural and recreational events/activities for all age levels, especially graduating college students and retirees.	3/10/2017 12:06 PM
50	Businesses Industry Jobs The working population needs to increase to supply workforce of the future. Investments in attracting and keeping 18-55 year olds need to be made now. Also, investments in properties that are attractive to new business and industry need to be made to create jobs for our workforce.	3/10/2017 11:58 AM
51	Market MARKETING THE AREA.	3/10/2017 11:53 AM
52	Jobs Create new jobs	3/10/2017 11:52 AM
53	Ensure the public is aware of the resource	3/10/2017 11:48 AM
54	Education Ensure there are plenty of education opportunities in a variety of fields	3/10/2017 11:48 AM
55	Industry Jobs Recruit labor intensive industries with high paying jobs.	3/10/2017 11:47 AM
56	Improve schools	3/10/2017 11:46 AM
57	Quality of life is tremendous and the story needs to be told.	3/10/2017 11:43 AM
58	Mecklenburg County is a significant driver of NC's economy. and due to proximity, the Catawba region benefits Mecklenburg's progress.	3/10/2017 11:40 AM
59	Take advantage of natural resources. Make the community a good place to play as well as work.	3/10/2017 11:35 AM
60	Businesses Better digital engagement. Our municipalities, organizations and businesses are still way behind. Many don't even have websites or use social media.	3/10/2017 11:27 AM
61	Jobs Boost job opportunities to Burke Co.	3/10/2017 11:17 AM
62	Jobs Bring job opportunities with livable wages.	3/10/2017 11:15 AM
63	Jobs More training for new/different jobs coming into the area.	3/10/2017 10:57 AM
64	Market Utilize the lakes and location. Market that were a small town but with big cities close by and about an hour from anywhere	3/10/2017 10:51 AM
65	Community College Workforce Community College work force training	3/10/2017 10:46 AM
66	Better advertising, buying local, making better connections to schools and other community outreach programs.	3/10/2017 10:26 AM
67	Re-establish manufacturing	3/10/2017 9:56 AM
68	Jobs Jobs, Jobs, Jobs....Take people off Government aid so they will go to work	3/10/2017 9:10 AM
69	Education Educationally.	3/10/2017 9:07 AM
70	no idea	3/10/2017 8:30 AM
71	J O B S !	3/10/2017 7:42 AM
72	Burke County has a great school system and is located geographically in a most desirable area. We need to continue to use this to keep young adults here.	3/10/2017 7:05 AM
73	We have many empty buildings that could either be used/rented or demolished and green spaces created. Magnolia Plaza is one where it would be highly beneficial to the residents out Hwy64 to have a city green space.	3/10/2017 5:38 AM
74	Promoting schools & funding them based on the needs not what fits the budget.	3/9/2017 8:57 PM
75	Na	3/9/2017 8:30 PM
76	Education Jobs Education, job training, substance use/abuse rehabilitation, mental health	3/9/2017 8:16 PM
77	Unknown	3/9/2017 6:42 PM
78	Businesses Jobs Continue to bring in new business in multiple sectors to continue to create new jobs	3/9/2017 6:12 PM
79	Jobs Anything that will provide more jobs for the community.	3/9/2017 5:38 PM
80	Tourism More tourism advertising for environmental treasures, like Table Rock, Lake James, South Mountain State Park	3/9/2017 3:08 PM
81	Further development of down town Morganton.	3/9/2017 2:19 PM
82	Tourism Increase advertising for tourism for Lake James.	3/9/2017 2:06 PM
83	Not sure	3/9/2017 12:41 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

84	Tourism Tourism could be a focus, with scenic areas both in the mountains and along the lakes. This could also be a pitch for retirees or others looking to relocate to the area.	3/9/2017 11:58 AM
85	Get a new school superintendent who has a better vision of vocational needs.	3/9/2017 11:52 AM
86	Jobs Bring more job opportunities to our area so that more people will move to our area and boost our county economy.	3/9/2017 11:39 AM
87	Jobs Local jobs incentives and workforce development	3/9/2017 11:36 AM
88	Businesses Fill vacant buildings with businesses	3/9/2017 11:32 AM
89	Businesses Invest more in our local businesses. Local businesses should interact more with community stakeholders and make members aware of who they are and what they offer to promote "buy in".	3/9/2017 9:28 AM
90	Training classes through CCC&TI.	3/9/2017 8:46 AM
91	Implement more resources and ways for individuals to become employed, and be able to afford health care.	3/9/2017 8:30 AM
92	CUT TAXES	3/9/2017 7:32 AM
93	Businesses Education Jobs Encourage education/business alliances and develop vocational programs in the schools that promote job readiness.	3/9/2017 7:23 AM
94	Industry Give incentives to attract new industry to our area.	3/9/2017 7:22 AM
95	Businesses Young People Invest in downtown, small businesses. Young people (18- 30) are looking for vibrant downtowns with walkability and restaurants that stay open past 8 PM. We can find a way to pay the bills, we just want a place to enjoy our lifestyle and spend our money!	3/8/2017 11:31 PM
96	Jobs Provide opportunities for others to be engaged and resourceful and offer job opportunities	3/8/2017 11:03 PM
97	Businesses Incorporate more small businesses	3/8/2017 10:33 PM
98	Build on things that going well already	3/8/2017 9:45 PM
99	Market use agriculture as a selling point for the community and use farmers markets and clean eating as selling points for our community	3/8/2017 8:51 PM
100	Need to fill the empty buildings we have with a company employing 300-400 starting out at \$15/hr. Need to take advantage of WPCC. WPCC needs to expand in the downtown area. Need to take advantage of the new artisan feel.	3/8/2017 8:47 PM
101	Community College Jobs I think the College does a great job bringing people into the community.	3/8/2017 8:08 PM
102	Businesses Bring in new retail stores & offer new business to locate outside of the cities.	3/8/2017 6:22 PM
103	Education Invest in education	3/8/2017 6:11 PM
104	Tourism Tourism	3/8/2017 5:16 PM
105	Burke County has a lot of potential as a tourist destination with numerous outdoor recreational opportunities. The Catawba River, Lake James, and the mountains (notably Linville Gorge) are huge draws for outdoor enthusiasts. Building on current offerings in a way that makes minimal impact on the environment and landscape would help to boost visits to the area. The new Fonta Flora trail is one example of a step in the right direction.	3/8/2017 5:00 PM
106	To help low income families	3/8/2017 4:24 PM
107	Businesses Jobs bring in more business/jobs	3/8/2017 4:11 PM
108	Provide better transportation for customer to be able to get to work.	3/8/2017 3:36 PM
109	We have too many empty buildings that are sitting empty, which would be a great place to start.	3/8/2017 3:20 PM
110	Tourism I feel that our location at the foothills and near the Linville Gorge lends itself to tourism, which could be emphasized even more than it is.	3/8/2017 3:08 PM
111	Businesses bring in business suited for the demographics	3/8/2017 3:06 PM
112	Businesses Jobs Bring in new businesses and jobs.	3/8/2017 2:51 PM
113	unsure	3/8/2017 2:49 PM
114	Businesses It can advertise and advise businesses to come to the county and occupy these many empty stores that now exist because the building of the newmall emptied them. It can encourage low rent availability.	3/8/2017 2:24 PM
115	Businesses There is plenty of land for businesses. Poverty is widespread.	3/8/2017 2:16 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

116	Industry Seek and encourage more retail and industrial development and employ more people...our people are our best asset.	3/8/2017 2:12 PM
117	Businesses Provide tax incentives for new businesses and restaurants.	3/8/2017 1:59 PM
118	Create a desire to spend money around the lakes and state parks which will result in sales taxes of all kinds being generated, food, lodging, apparel,automotive, gas etc.	3/8/2017 1:49 PM
119	Jobs bring the companies back that were once here (like furniture and hosiery) and provided jobs and opportunity for our citizens	3/8/2017 1:48 PM
120	Education Education	3/8/2017 1:34 PM
121	Industry Offer incentives to bring more industry to this area.	3/8/2017 1:31 PM
122	Tourism Tourism - Beautiful countryside for hiking, camping, etc.	3/8/2017 1:19 PM
123	Education Jobs Offer more education and training programs to all middle and lower class people that is free or affordable. Help out the nonprofit organizations with more grant money to help middle and lower class income people with programs that educate and train them so that they can have a better opportunity to get a job	3/8/2017 1:19 PM
124	Tourism tourism -- beautiful land, great restaurants boasting farm-to-table and local breweries and wineries	3/8/2017 1:13 PM
125	Quit building new facilities and update the ones that exist.	3/8/2017 1:07 PM
126	Education Improve pay for education.	3/8/2017 1:01 PM
127	Businesses Jobs Many empty buildings and strip malls with nothing in them. Businesses that open in them would provide jobs and let locals shop or use services in this county instead of going elsewhere	3/8/2017 12:58 PM
128	Tourism Tourism	3/8/2017 12:54 PM
129	Ecotourism of Lake James	3/8/2017 12:33 PM
130	Businesses High School Industry Jobs Continue to appeal and attract businesses and industry to Burke County. Offer more activities and business opportunities to attract younger families. Strengthen our community for the future by supporting public schools and providing job opportunities for them after high school.	3/8/2017 12:29 PM
131	Businesses Increasing incentives and lowering taxes for businesses to move here.	3/8/2017 12:26 PM
132	Tax distribution evenly between municipalities	3/8/2017 12:25 PM
133	Have a 21st Century mindset instead of the good ole boy and scratch each other's backs mentality.	3/8/2017 12:17 PM
134	We can include coursework for students who are going to go straight into a skilled trade rather than focusing on pushing a 4 year college on every student.	3/8/2017 12:09 PM
135	Not spend the money on fancy street signs in the city limits!	3/8/2017 11:44 AM
136	Market Better marketing	3/8/2017 11:44 AM
137	Education One of our largest employers in the county is the school system. Because of that, there are a lot of education opportunities in the county.	3/8/2017 11:29 AM
138	Jobs More Higher paying jobs with better benefits	3/8/2017 11:28 AM
139	Community College Community colleges should promote adjunct faculty to full time positions.	3/8/2017 11:16 AM
140	Jobs Job Creation Into Existing Facilities	3/8/2017 11:15 AM
141	Businesses Jobs It needs to draw in more business and trade jobs.	3/8/2017 11:11 AM
142	getting people to work addressing mental health issues supporting people with addictions and domestic violence	3/8/2017 11:11 AM
143	Jobs create new jobs	3/8/2017 10:51 AM
144	n/a	3/8/2017 10:35 AM
145	Market Continue with marketing	3/8/2017 10:30 AM
146	Jobs Bring back manufacturing jobs!	3/8/2017 10:30 AM
147	hire more, have more fun activities for the county, need more sites/etc. to bring in tourists, variety of entertainment	3/8/2017 10:29 AM
148	Jobs My county can use it's resources to boost the economy through jobs that can bring more people to live in the area and spend their money in the area.	3/8/2017 10:27 AM
149	We have a beautiful county, mountains, lake, parks. We also have plenty of room for growth.	3/8/2017 10:25 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

150	NA	3/8/2017 10:17 AM
151	Industry I'm not sure I understand your question. What is our best resources? We have some textile industry, a poultry plant, but very little else to attract anyone to our county. We need to bring the furniture industry back.	3/8/2017 10:16 AM
152	Jobs I think the county needs to do a better job of informing the citizens of what resources we actually have and how we can help make decisions about budgets and spending.	3/8/2017 10:14 AM
153	Industry Tourism Promote tourism and local industries to boost the economy.	3/8/2017 10:10 AM
154	Interstate access and proximity Recreation	3/8/2017 10:06 AM
155	n/a	3/8/2017 10:05 AM
156	Businesses I think if we build on the existing business structure and make sure we include something for all groups- adults of all ages and youth.	3/8/2017 10:03 AM
157	Jobs Making more jobs	3/8/2017 9:56 AM
158	Businesses Burke County has several empty manufacturing/furniture buildings that could be utilized to attract other companies or businesses.	3/8/2017 9:51 AM
159	Education I truly believe that the county needs to invest more in the education system of Burke County. If the schools are top-notch, families will want to settle here instead of just seeking work here and settling in other counties because of educational quality. We have a good system, but with the right resources, it can be top-notch!	3/8/2017 9:36 AM
160	I think that this county could and would boost the economy if they were to consider hiring people from inside the county. If people work outside the county it is more convenient for them to shop outside the county before they get home.	3/8/2017 9:36 AM
161	Tourism Nature's Playground - tourism	3/8/2017 9:30 AM
162	Businesses Trying to attract new businesses and even some manufacturing would be great!	3/8/2017 9:25 AM
163	Tourism I think tourism would be a way good way to boost the economy.	3/8/2017 9:22 AM
164	Businesses We need to develop the potential of the workforce that is in Burke County along with recruiting businesses that would thrive in the country.	3/8/2017 9:22 AM
165	Education Fund education	3/8/2017 9:20 AM
166	Businesses Attract more businesses to the area.	3/8/2017 9:17 AM
167	Businesses Make the county more business friendly and attractive for new business to come to Burke	3/8/2017 9:17 AM
168	Tourism Tourism would be a great economy boost. We are a gateway to so many tourist spots...outdoor and shopping.Also many of our residents have experience in furniture. Let's tap into that resource and bring it back to the USA.	3/8/2017 9:14 AM
169	Stop wasting money.	3/8/2017 9:03 AM
170	Reach out to the youth. They need to find a way to connect with them so they will want to stay and do their part to contribute and not leave to relocate somewhere else.	3/8/2017 9:03 AM
171	By encouraging consumers to purchase locally made goods and services.	3/8/2017 8:59 AM
172	support and provide for latino community, partner with the school system for workers post-graduation,	3/8/2017 8:58 AM
173	I'm not really sure.	3/8/2017 8:56 AM
174	Businesses Young People Bring in stores and businesses that attract young people. This is a great family town but the young people get into too much trouble with nothing to do.	3/8/2017 8:56 AM
175	Businesses Tourism Boost tourism & build/promote retirement communities. Raise the minimum wage in Burke Co. We have too many working poor! If people make more money, they spend more money, and the economy grows. Bring back furniture manufactures that have closed. Get rid of Wal-mart and big-box stores that drain money from the local economy, and instead insensitize local owned business an co-ops that keep money circulating in Burke Co. Promote/support the arts-and-crafts community.	3/8/2017 8:54 AM
176	utilize furniture plants	3/8/2017 8:52 AM
177	Education Invest in STEM education; especially in alternative schools. These kids "don't connect" in traditional settings, so provide opportunities to engage these kids in learning.	3/8/2017 8:51 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

178	Tourism Burke County should invest more in tourism and environmental projects. We are "Nature's Playground" and should use our abundant resources to put us on the map. Continue investing in trails and outdoor activities while focusing on Green Energy (wind, solar, hydroelectric...)	3/8/2017 8:50 AM
179	Instead of building new use current vacant buildings with parking, structure, etc. already established. Which Burke Co. did when they expanded their county offices (taxes office, water office, etc.) but would like to see more of along with other public agencies do also.	3/8/2017 8:50 AM
180	Industry Provide incentives to attract new industries and grow existing industries	3/8/2017 8:42 AM
181	we have people skilled in manufacturing that just need a place to put those skills to use	3/8/2017 8:40 AM
182	Investing in the county	3/8/2017 8:38 AM
183	Businesses Bring more businesses to our area	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
184	Furniture or something else made locally. Many people are fed up with sub par products coming from China, and will pay top dollar for locally made.	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
185	Reach out to the ones who really NEED assistance.	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
186	Industry Don't waste the old Manufacturing Buildings. Turn them into another Industry.	3/8/2017 8:34 AM
187	Businesses Attract more business to our county.	3/8/2017 8:34 AM
188	Education Invest in education and offer help toward college for those who stay and work in the county.	3/8/2017 8:33 AM
189	More solar and alternative energy resources	3/8/2017 8:30 AM
190	Businesses promote small businesses more	3/8/2017 8:26 AM
191	Businesses By creating an environment where people and businesses want to come.	3/8/2017 8:23 AM
192	Businesses More entertainment, shopping and restaurants to make people and businesses move here. Accentuate Lake James and downtown areas.	3/8/2017 8:22 AM
193	We need folks to come in. Everyone is moving out. There is no reason for young families to settle here. We are a community of retirees who don't want their taxes raised.	3/8/2017 8:20 AM
194	Allow companies to come in so that people will be hired and that money will stay in our county.	3/8/2017 8:19 AM
195	Jobs jobs !!!	3/8/2017 8:19 AM
196	Industry We need more technical training in our schools so students can work in the industries we have.	3/8/2017 8:19 AM
197	Businesses High School Provide more businesses that have entry level positions for high school graduates	3/8/2017 8:17 AM
198	Jobs Provide more fulltime jobs with benefits	3/8/2017 8:13 AM
199	Jobs Work with each department and hire within departments for outside jobs.	3/8/2017 8:12 AM
200	Businesses Increase wages and attract more businesses	3/8/2017 8:09 AM
201	Businesses Invest in up and coming businesses and popular, successful business - not just what has "always" worked.	3/8/2017 8:01 AM
202	Jobs Bring factory jobs back that pay a fair wage from overseas.	3/8/2017 7:57 AM
203	Businesses There are plenty of empty buildings that could be used for a variety of businesses. Offer tax breaks/incentives for new or expanding businesses.	3/8/2017 7:57 AM
204	more factory work	3/8/2017 7:55 AM
205	Education Give to educational programs. Also give to programs the provide training in trade areas such as auto mechanics, brick laying, etc.	3/8/2017 7:55 AM
206	Businesses Jobs bring in more job opportunities /businesses	3/8/2017 7:51 AM
207	I don't know	3/8/2017 7:49 AM
208	Jobs Bring in manufacturing and jobs	3/8/2017 7:42 AM
209	Businesses reopen factories that have shut down Bring back businesses	3/8/2017 7:32 AM
210	Jobs Make smaller towns more appealing. Provide more chain stores. Provide more job opportunities in the outskirts of the county.	3/8/2017 7:28 AM
211	Education Put more money in education to help prepare for the future generations that will be leading the county	3/8/2017 7:23 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

212	To pay the state employees more and give better benefits.	3/8/2017 7:21 AM
213	Businesses Incentivize small and expanding businesses to move to the area by providing low interest loans, tax breaks/credits.	3/8/2017 7:21 AM
214	There are still trained artisans from our furniture factory days living in this county, but they are slowly leaving us. We need to offer "home made" furniture as an alternative to the poorly made and in my opinion styled "furniture" out there today. It would sell!	3/8/2017 7:15 AM
215	Better PR campaigns	3/8/2017 7:03 AM
216	By bringing in new companies and by offering them incentives to come into the county!	3/8/2017 6:56 AM
217	Industry Bring some industry back to our county!	3/8/2017 6:55 AM
218	Bring companies back to some of our smaller towns so they can have growth.	3/8/2017 6:53 AM
219	Support small, innovative manufacturers	3/8/2017 6:23 AM
220	Take care of it's own by rewarding efforts to better our county.	3/8/2017 6:19 AM
221	Businesses Create more entrepreneurial ventures by initiating "business incubator" programs to boost business creation.	3/8/2017 6:14 AM
222	Jobs training at WPCCC for jobs of the future	3/7/2017 11:21 PM
223	Education High School NCSchool for Math and Science is a good start. Now also bring into the county something for the high school students that focuses on trades, so that when they leave High School, they graduate High School with a Certification in a Trade area, such as Auto-Mechanics, or Cosmetology! Remember, not all students will be going into a 4 year university, and if we had options for that type of schooling here in this county, Students wouldn't need to go to McDowell or Spindale to receive their education in these areas.	3/7/2017 11:06 PM
224	I am not sure	3/7/2017 10:58 PM
225	Bring back some of the manufacturing companies	3/7/2017 10:47 PM
226	Industry Jobs Tourism The natural beauty can be utilized to draw more tourism in. Incentives should be increased to draw in small industry to increase the diversity of job base.	3/7/2017 10:21 PM
227	Education Industry Invest in education and industry recruitment	3/7/2017 10:07 PM
228	Jobs more technology related jobs	3/7/2017 10:03 PM
229	Unsure	3/7/2017 9:58 PM
230	Tourism Utilize Geographical make-up to bring in tourism.	3/7/2017 9:42 PM
231	Capitalize on keeping the younger generation here through modernization and nightlife.	3/7/2017 9:32 PM
232	I have no idea.	3/7/2017 9:25 PM
233	Vacant buildings - former shopping and manufacturing venues with empty parking lots are pretty prominent.	3/7/2017 9:22 PM
234	Training for lower income people in technology.	3/7/2017 9:19 PM
235	Tourism Part of Burke is near a river...tourism.	3/7/2017 9:16 PM
236	Create more opportunities for residents. Many residents work in surrounding counties	3/7/2017 9:08 PM
237	I believe the training of a dependable workforce is our best resource.	3/7/2017 9:08 PM
238	Diverssify	3/7/2017 8:57 PM
239	With the new breweries, cool restaurants, and mountains, I'd say the county has a great opportunity to attract more hikers/outdoorsmen. Also, being right on a major US interstate, more needs to be by the exits to attract travelers. For example, why not have a truck stop or a trucking firm?	3/7/2017 8:55 PM
240	Education Tourism I would like to see more tourism relate activities available. I think better restaurants would help our economy. I think our downtown area has been bringing more people out. I would like to see our downtown area grow more. I feel bringing better education opportunities, such as the school of math and science will be helpful. I feel we need to grow/ improve our healthcare as well. Our healthcare has a bad reputation in this area and I think more people would like to live here if they trusted our healthcare options more.	3/7/2017 8:55 PM
241	Education By supporting its educational institutions	3/7/2017 8:53 PM
242	Better public transportation	3/7/2017 8:49 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

243	Our best resources are our people. Put them to work using those skills.	3/7/2017 8:43 PM
244	N	3/7/2017 8:42 PM
245	Focus on diversity of communities and rural landscape.	3/7/2017 8:35 PM
246	High School More advancement in agriculture; add technical high school	3/7/2017 8:35 PM
247	Education Jobs provide more entry level jobs that also offer career and educational advancement opportunities	3/7/2017 8:31 PM
248	Businesses Downtown business could stay open later.	3/7/2017 8:30 PM
249	Community College Industry Workforce We have industrial space that could be repurposed. Our community colleges could facilitate a skilled work force.	3/7/2017 8:27 PM
250	Education Put more money into public education	3/7/2017 8:26 PM
251	Businesses Engage more fully the minority members of the community in planning and also by supporting the establishment of more minority businesses.	3/7/2017 8:20 PM
252	Tourism Tourism and recreation.	3/7/2017 8:12 PM
253	Businesses Allow new businesses in to the county.	3/7/2017 8:10 PM
254	?	3/7/2017 8:10 PM
255	By continuing to preserve the small town atmosphere by being timely and not making it a full blown retirement community.	3/7/2017 8:06 PM
256	we need to rec. grants for heavy ind.relocate here.	3/7/2017 8:01 PM
257	Businesses Jobs Continue to bring in new businesses with jobs available for local people. Give current businesses incentives to grow and therefore hire more employees.	3/7/2017 7:51 PM
258	Businesses Recruit new businesses	3/7/2017 7:50 PM
259	Take advantage of the state institution	3/7/2017 7:45 PM
260	More concerts like at Morganton festival.	3/7/2017 7:40 PM
261	Jobs Needs more jobs	3/7/2017 7:39 PM
262	Make better use of what facilities are already here. NCSD is a good example	3/7/2017 7:39 PM
263	More school outreach.	3/7/2017 7:36 PM
264	Community College Tourism Focus on environment, tourism, the community college, state government and upcoming school of math and science. Build capacities and partnershipships	3/7/2017 7:31 PM
265	Jobs We have people experienced in textiles, furniture, machinest, but no jobs. The people are our best resource.	3/7/2017 7:29 PM
266	Market We are in a beautiful area. Need to market to younger outdoor activities.	3/7/2017 7:27 PM
267	Young People More money for public schools and opportunities for young people.	3/7/2017 7:26 PM
268	Not sure	3/7/2017 7:25 PM
269	Education By promoting our public education system.	3/7/2017 7:24 PM
270	Education Use the educational opportunities of Burke County. BCPS is a great system. WPCCC offers an opportunity to get a two year degree close to where you live. The Higher Ed. Center offers classes from local universities. The NCSSM is coming in the next few years. There is much to be proud of in the county with the public school system and on and off campus opportunities.	3/7/2017 7:22 PM
271	what resources?	3/7/2017 7:17 PM
272	Industry Have industries move back in to the area.	3/7/2017 7:12 PM
273	Invest in a healthy lifestyle for the community by providing grants/money to build walkways, etc..	3/7/2017 7:04 PM
274	Businesses Jobs Recruit more businesses in order to provide more jobs	3/7/2017 7:03 PM
275	Jobs More jobs	3/7/2017 6:57 PM
276	Education Train and educate students and folks out of work.	3/7/2017 6:56 PM
277	Utilizing forest products appropriately. Use solar and wind resources to reduce dependence on the local power grid.	3/7/2017 6:48 PM
278	Increase outdoor recreation opportunities	3/7/2017 6:44 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

279	Tourism Promote our beautiful area for tourism.	3/7/2017 6:43 PM
280	Businesses Bring businesses to the area, increase teacher pay.	3/7/2017 6:37 PM
281	Businesses We need to make it easier for businesses to locate in our county. We need more opportunity to draw people to the area and therefore increase the county as a whole.	3/7/2017 6:36 PM
282	Keep unemployment rates low.	3/7/2017 6:34 PM
283	Businesses We need to develop a plan to attract businesses to our area.	3/7/2017 6:22 PM
284	Tourism Invest in attracting tourism Craft beer Improve locally owned high quality dining establishments	3/7/2017 6:19 PM
285	Invest in building new homes.	3/7/2017 6:15 PM
286	There's not a lot unless we want to be know as an area for retirement	3/7/2017 6:12 PM
287	Expand training at WPCC	3/7/2017 6:10 PM
288	I really don't know.	3/7/2017 6:05 PM
289	Jobs Get more jobs in Burke County	3/7/2017 6:01 PM
290	ldk	3/7/2017 5:57 PM
291	Many textile vacant buildings... bring textile and furniture making back to Burke County	3/7/2017 5:50 PM
292	Furniture and Textiles need to be brought back	3/7/2017 5:47 PM
293	Businesses STEM is coming to Morganton and there will be many businesses needed to support the people coming in for the school.	3/7/2017 5:41 PM
294	We could use our natural resources to better support energy needs (solar, wind, etc). We need to reduce the environmental nastiness of factories. The Case Chicken factory smells awful as does the Carbon City Plant. The Carbon City Plant in particular is an ugly eyesore. It takes our town down to have that on a main road leading into town.	3/7/2017 5:40 PM
295	Jobs Create more jobs. Bring back factories/textiles	3/7/2017 5:39 PM
296	Utilize and repair existing structures and convert them to meet the needs of the community instead of building new ones. This will also help with property values of surrounding properties.	3/7/2017 5:39 PM
297	Education More support to the Public School system for technical education	3/7/2017 5:35 PM
298	Businesses Industry Bring new industries to the county. We've lost furniture and textiles. We need to bring back businesses.	3/7/2017 5:35 PM
299	Put people back to work.	3/7/2017 5:33 PM
300	Businesses Bring in more businesses	3/7/2017 5:32 PM
301	Industry Jobs By bringing in jobs to help the failing furniture industry.	3/7/2017 5:32 PM
302	Market Brewing is a growing market in the county. More resources put toward this will bring in people and grow the community.	3/7/2017 5:31 PM
303	Businesses More businesses	3/7/2017 5:29 PM
304	Education Textile, better use of education and training for 21st century careers	3/7/2017 5:28 PM
305	I believe we could use a better walking track on the eastern end of Burke County and more adequate programs for the aging.	3/7/2017 5:28 PM
306	Jobs Create more jobs!	3/7/2017 5:23 PM
307	Businesses We have a lot of empty buildings that can be used to house new businesses.	3/7/2017 5:22 PM
308	Provide more opportunities in the school system for students to graduate with a certificate with their diploma	3/7/2017 5:20 PM
309	Use the available Buildings from old factories	3/7/2017 5:18 PM
310	Businesses There are a lot of empty buildings that could be utilized for businesses. Also the county Commissioners need to use the tax surplus to bring in business instead of giving the health department friends big raises.	3/7/2017 5:17 PM
311	Build infrastructure to help boost more interest into moving into the area.	3/7/2017 5:17 PM
312	We need more technology and green energy manufacturing.	3/7/2017 5:16 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

313	Education Invest in vocational education, addressing the healthcare and manufacturing needs. Implement a better public transportation system.	3/7/2017 5:13 PM
314	Education Jobs Educational futures through WPC and other resources and getting more people into jobs rather than onto federal support.	3/7/2017 5:13 PM
315	Education Education	3/7/2017 5:12 PM
316	Offer more incentives to keep shopping here vs other counties.	3/7/2017 5:07 PM
317	Businesses Promote business opportunity by removing regulations that prohibit business expansion and make it hard to business in our counties.	3/7/2017 5:05 PM
318	Industry Bring more industry back to the county	3/7/2017 5:04 PM
319	Unsure.	3/7/2017 5:04 PM
320	Tourism Tourism, parks, and recreation. Health care.	3/7/2017 5:03 PM
321	Hire people within the county. Repurpose old buildings instead of building new ones.	3/7/2017 4:49 PM
322	Education Support Education	3/7/2017 4:49 PM
323	Jobs Create more jobs and offer higher wages.	3/7/2017 4:33 PM
324	Unsure	3/7/2017 4:12 PM
325	Jobs Create more jobs and give people more incentives	3/7/2017 4:07 PM
326	Use county location and beauty to entice people to live and work in Burke	3/7/2017 12:40 PM
327	Tourism cultural heritage tourism, outdoors "Nature's Playground"	3/7/2017 12:34 PM
328	Education Education	3/7/2017 12:11 PM
329	Offer more events, priced affordably, for the younger populations (20-28, 28-38). Also at times other than 8-5pm, when we are working.	3/7/2017 12:06 PM
330	Work to encourage students into training programs to address specific needs of the economic community. No sense to train race car drivers, if we are not going to build a race track.	3/7/2017 11:55 AM
331	Businesses Market Solicit companies to fill all the empty manufacturing buildings in the county. Provide training to help current businesses improve their P/L so they can stay competitive in their current market.	3/7/2017 11:42 AM
332	Businesses offer incentives for small businesses to operate in the county, tax credits, etc.	3/7/2017 11:37 AM
333	Needs to continue to promote those assets that appeal to younger people - greenways, access to outdoor activities, breweries.	3/7/2017 11:28 AM
334	Exploit our location - I40 corridor	3/7/2017 11:26 AM
335	to support low income people	3/7/2017 11:22 AM
336	Industry Begin to develop industry that is attractive to younger families	3/7/2017 11:19 AM
337	Industry Jobs We currently have a large Industrial park that was built but has not been put to use. Our county needs to put more effort into developing this park for future jobs.	3/7/2017 10:05 AM
338	I don't know.	3/7/2017 9:38 AM
339	Jobs Market promote innovation within the specified domain so that new markets and new opportunities can create more jobs;require those unemployed to volunteer at non-profit organizations to gain skills and contacts that will help them be successful at their next job	3/7/2017 9:07 AM
340	By reaching out to get people of the county involved and motivated.	3/7/2017 9:03 AM
341	Industry Tourism They are trying to promote tourism. If the opportunity arises to bring the furniture industry back, that would be great.	3/7/2017 8:55 AM
342	Education Continue to support the arts and higher education	3/7/2017 8:40 AM
343	Bring in people o work, live and play!	3/6/2017 10:42 PM
344	Concentrate on small/intermediate manufacturing facilities.	3/6/2017 5:51 PM
345	Jobs I believe investing in companies that want to bring jobs and have a lasting impact on the community is where we need to focus.	3/6/2017 3:42 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

346	Stop spending monies on third party or any party to "study" the feasibility of what the local government should spend money on - example \$700K on if the County should build another jail. PLEASE!	3/6/2017 3:19 PM
347	Tax advantages to companies to locate here have benefited other areas.	3/6/2017 3:00 PM
348	Tap into culturally diverse populations to gauge growth potential. Include varying ages as well.	3/6/2017 1:47 PM
349	Businesses Education Recruiting businesses & provide education opportunities to assure a trained/trainable workforce for those and existing businesses.	3/6/2017 1:35 PM
350	Push trade school possibilities.	3/6/2017 1:13 PM
351	Businesses Jobs We seem to have few opportunities for people with advanced degrees (particularly in biotech, engineering, research, etc.). Many of my peers chose to go other places for stronger job opportunities and better career advancement options (banking, biomedical, etc.). Finding ways to help encourage both small business development and bring in some larger employees would be nice. Better support for starting your own business would be nice. In trying to start my business, it has been very difficult to determine what steps to take within our county (compared to the readily available resources in other places).	3/6/2017 1:06 PM
352	Jobs Formalized training for jobs	3/6/2017 12:55 PM
353	Businesses Education Industry Support education at all levels to attract talented people to support business and industry.	3/6/2017 12:25 PM
354	Provide financial resources for additional training, expand mass transit.	3/6/2017 12:22 PM
355	Tourism Tourism is something that I've seen an upswing in and the revitalization of the down town area.	3/6/2017 12:20 PM
356	Emphasize local economy	3/6/2017 12:17 PM
357	Encourage and promote variety in the types of economic opportunities that exist and are developing in the county.	3/6/2017 11:58 AM
358	High School Put resources into students at Challenger High School because they will then come back to this area to work after graduation. Challenger is in need of a building to house all students & staff in one location on the grounds of CVCC.	3/6/2017 11:57 AM
359	Use the lake as an attraction; create more entertainment venues; use the parks as an attraction	3/6/2017 11:31 AM
360	Businesses Tourism Look to continue to grow small business. Attract seniors. Leverage farm-to-table and micro-breweries to grow tourism.	3/6/2017 11:08 AM
361	become a travel destination, great environment and parks for recreation	3/6/2017 10:23 AM
362	Our citizens are our best asset. Continue to invest in developing and retraining people to work in new economy.	3/6/2017 10:10 AM
363	Alexander County is a beautiful area. More parks (like Rocky Face) would bring more people to this area and boost the economy. Since the area is known for agriculture and technical fields, it would be great to look into some kind of technical college for this area.	3/6/2017 10:04 AM
364	Outdoor activities--hiking, rock climbing, etc. (Linville Gorge) Tourists	3/6/2017 10:00 AM
365	entrepreneurship	3/5/2017 1:47 PM
366	Better proven leaders in paid positions. Advertise better. Be forward thinking and invest in areas of interest for middle age and younger generations. Diversify its economic base. There's more potential than just yard sale companies, chicken houses, and correctional facilities.	3/5/2017 8:46 AM
367	1. Decide what you want to invest in, then do it. 2. Create beautiful spaces, not continuing to build/widen roads with no wide sidewalks 3. Discourage multiple entrances to streets - force traffic to turn at lights	3/4/2017 5:56 PM
368	Do something to make this area attractive to Millenials and young families. There is NOTHING to do here.	3/4/2017 4:49 PM
369	Businesses Industry The bond is a disaster. 60M for more parks, a stupid walkway next to a train track... An industrial park in a very inconvenient location that goes right past elected officials businesses. I park in Burke county that will be funded by city residents. NO PARK in Mt. View but we pay the ridiculous tax rate. We should have never fixed the sink hole property- an out of town person owns it.	3/4/2017 4:36 PM
370	Market Marketing and program development.	3/4/2017 2:07 PM
371	Industry advertise our resources and recreational assets. develop our industrial park	3/3/2017 7:35 PM
372	Businesses Develop business park potential at regional Foothills airport. Support runway expansion under Trump infrastructure commitment plans to come by 2020. Develop 100k sq ft spec building on Kathy Road Burke Business Park or sell it to a private buyer even if at a \$\$\$ loss. One good size company or buyer would well take the entire site so limited is its size.	3/3/2017 6:08 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

373	Tourism Our best resources are location and environment. We should promote tourism and hospitality as well as a place to retire.	3/3/2017 5:01 PM
374	Brewing perhaps, increasing awareness about recreational opportunities and build more of them (like Hickory Hops and Oktoberfest).	3/3/2017 4:19 PM
375	Businesses Revitalize and renovate old unused buildings to attract new business.	3/3/2017 3:41 PM
376	Education By being visible and educating citizens.	3/3/2017 3:33 PM
377	Businesses Industry Expand the Burke Industrial Park. Our county has done next to nothing to recruit businesses into that area. It's a wasteland.	3/3/2017 3:31 PM
378	Community College Downtown Morganton should attract more shops and restaurants that would appeal to visitors. The CoMMA should book better shows that appeal to younger crowds. The community college should improve its infrastructure to attract events like outdoor concerts on the lawn. Someone should open an entertainment complex with a bowling alley and other amenities that would appeal to teenagers and families.	3/3/2017 3:09 PM
379	Industry Market Market the Hwy 16 expansion to bring new industry to southern part of the county.	3/3/2017 3:09 PM
380	We currently have the two largest internet based companies in our area (Google, Apple), yet we do not offer free Wi-Fi or a ultra high speed access to the internet. The 321 corridor is a fast growing area and should be pushed for growth and the attraction of millenials.	3/3/2017 3:02 PM
381	Tourism Promote tourism and a great retirement aera.	3/3/2017 2:45 PM
382	Jobs Specialized training for jobs in manufacturing.	3/3/2017 2:21 PM
383	Market Enhanced advertising and marketing strategies	3/3/2017 9:18 AM
384	Housing	3/2/2017 8:23 PM
385	Businesses Education More communication between businesses (including non-profit), education system and local government	3/2/2017 10:56 AM
386	Create a research and development culture. We need to become an economy of ideas, creativity and intelligence, not a simply a storehouse for such; google/apple.	3/2/2017 9:58 AM
387	Work to reopen some of the furniture factories that have been shut down.	3/2/2017 7:47 AM
388	Education More education to the general public of what is already out there	3/1/2017 4:01 PM
389	Though the local newspaper, internet and social media.	3/1/2017 3:27 PM
390	Education Support education	3/1/2017 3:21 PM
391	By utilizing the younger generation. What their interest is and how they can contribute to society after graduation. Also NEW ROADS!!	3/1/2017 3:07 PM
392	Jobs By supplying good job and activities for the communities so that they can bring in more people and money into the area.	3/1/2017 2:58 PM
393	Businesses trying to draw in new businesses to provide more employment inside the county	3/1/2017 2:57 PM
394	Jobs We need to bring more jobs back to this county. We are a manufacturing county and an agricultural county but the quality of life does not attract people to move to our county	3/1/2017 2:52 PM
395	Maybe a couple more festival for spring and summer	3/1/2017 2:34 PM
396	Have better partnerships with employers and agencies s	3/1/2017 2:03 PM
397	Putting more people to work. Loosening the reins on hiring procedures and giving former offenders more chances to prove themselves	3/1/2017 1:45 PM
398	Businesses We have some great attributes like Rocky Face Park, the orchards, 4-wheeler and dirt bike trails, and others... However we desperately need to update our main street and down town. We have businesses growing here but we need a specialty restaurant as well that offers outdoor dining for spring, summer and fall. One that will can have local bands or performers or at least be a short walk to hear the summer concerts in town and offer craft beer. With all of the orchards we have I would love to see a restaurant that feautured Hard Apple Cider and some apple themed menu items. Let's make down town live again!	3/1/2017 12:52 PM
399	Education Recreation and environmental education	3/1/2017 8:15 AM
400	Be willing to to train new ppl	3/1/2017 5:55 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

401	Jobs Providing more jobs and expanding the city. Feel like we get the same types of places that move to the area all the time. Example: Mattress Firm	2/28/2017 3:47 PM
402	We can use our local resources like technically skilled labors to rehab some of our abandoned buildings around downtown and surrounding areas so that new companies have more incentive to use an existing building instead of building a new structure.	2/28/2017 3:43 PM
403	Education Jobs by expanding the education levels of our students in technically oriented programs and prepare the for jobs of the future	2/28/2017 3:26 PM
404	Train and encourage the youth to develop work skills.	2/28/2017 10:37 AM
405	Better entertaining activities	2/28/2017 8:49 AM
406	Industry Support industry	2/28/2017 12:31 AM
407	Start an incubator, and/or accelerator for entrepreneurial start-ups. Start & support a venture/angel capital group to help put equity funding into these more promising start-ups	2/27/2017 10:54 AM
408	Jobs Create more entry level jobs, non-skilled jobs	2/27/2017 10:06 AM
409	Training Workers	2/27/2017 9:53 AM
410	Refill empty shopping centers with new stores	2/27/2017 8:52 AM
411	Offer building space to new companies/employer.	2/27/2017 8:08 AM
412	We need a hospital. We are probably going no to loose our Hospice because of this. Our county is under paid and over worked. We do not have enough EMS trucks/staff to keep up with the demand. We are currently getting another automotives store that will now make 4 different chains not to mention locally owned garages/automotive. Agriculture is HUGE in our town. How can we promote it better and take advantage of it as a resource.	2/27/2017 8:05 AM
413	infrastructure	2/27/2017 7:46 AM
414	Businesses There are oppourtunities (land in particular) for businesses to purchase and get established in my county.	2/26/2017 10:39 PM
415	Community College The people and the collaboration are the best resources in Alexander County. There is still opportunity for improvement in this area, if the county, town, Community College and school system were to develop an Alexander County Strategic Plan for development and progress and involved community; the sky would be the limit.	2/26/2017 6:03 PM
416	Community College Continue to expand our local community college opportunities	2/26/2017 4:13 PM
417	Provide engaging opportunities for all age groups to experience various oppourtunities that will remain in the county.	2/26/2017 7:16 AM
418	By making use of the diversity of its people, and their abilities and expertise. Our people are our best resources. The only problem, our economic resources are slim.	2/25/2017 7:42 PM
419	By bringing together various age groups to bounce ideas off each other.	2/25/2017 1:02 PM
420	Businesses It can try to focus on small businesses and try to strengthen the economy from the bottom up.	2/25/2017 1:14 AM
421	Businesses Small business support	2/24/2017 6:47 PM
422	Focus on maintaining these resources as promotion to lead to the betterment and relation in other needed areas.	2/24/2017 6:38 PM
423	My county can use its resources to inform and train humans to fulfill these growing positions in order to boost the economy.	2/24/2017 6:27 PM
424	Market Our county has lots of breweries. Marketing those as a tourist destination could help permanently bring people to our area.	2/24/2017 6:07 PM
425	Burke county receives many tourists annually and therefore could boost the economy by catering to tourists traveling to the mountains by opening new restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues.	2/24/2017 5:33 PM
426	Better promotion of the strengths of Alexander County.	2/24/2017 4:54 PM
427	The county can tap into its water recreation resources by creating a "paddle trail" or greenway trail, to encourage visitors and local residents to exercise and experience the outdoors.	2/24/2017 4:45 PM
428	support medical and recreational infrastructure	2/24/2017 4:42 PM
429	Spend money and invest in the future	2/24/2017 4:35 PM
430	Invest in water and sewer	2/24/2017 4:33 PM
431	Education Jobs To continue to educate people for the 3,000 plus jobs open.	2/24/2017 3:16 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Survey

432	Businesses We need a comprehensive sewer system to attract new businesses in area. We would also benefit by building our own water management system instead of paying Catawba County for Water	2/24/2017 2:53 PM
433	Tourism Continue to try to bring more manufacturing to the area. Invest in more local breweries and hospitality for tourism. Burke County is so beautiful.	2/24/2017 2:44 PM
434	buy and shop local	2/24/2017 2:42 PM
435	Businesses A "Visit Taylorsville" ad featuring our small town friendly service and local businesses would be helpful if advertised in the Hickory area. Possibly a billboard. Just an idea...	2/24/2017 2:42 PM
436	Tourism Tourism. We have mountains, a lake, and a fabulous county park for rock climbing and hiking. With views and an agricultural base, we could be the next Napa!	2/24/2017 2:40 PM
437	Businesses Reasonable incentives (be it financial or limiting restrictions/ordinances) for businesses to come to or expand in the county.	2/24/2017 12:53 PM
438	Businesses Education Jobs Young People The county best resources are it's young people. If the young people had job opportunities, a good quality of life and entertainment then they would return after higher education to boost the economy. What is the county doing to encourage opportunities to retain is best resources? Some of the counties best natural resources are Rocky Face Park and Lake Hickory. Businesses that support both recreations could benefit the economy.	2/23/2017 10:54 PM
439	High School Jobs Tourism The way it can use them is not only to look to attract tourism but to engage in the community already living in here. By boosting creation of living-wedge jobs for those who are "uneducated" or only have a High School Diploma/GED.	2/23/2017 10:28 PM
440	Businesses Education Invest in education, business partnerships, etc.	2/23/2017 8:30 PM
441	Community College Putting money toward community college courses.	2/23/2017 6:52 PM
442	Our roads and Bridges need work	2/23/2017 1:00 PM
443	Advertising and Branding	2/23/2017 12:50 PM
444	Businesses Appeal to businesses looking to relocate by offering lower taxes, utility incentives and pitching the importance of Interstate 40	2/23/2017 12:36 PM
445	It's people are it's best resource! Being opened minded as to what they (the people) can offer, what they can develop, and what they need now and into the future will provide the necessary guidance for growth!	2/23/2017 11:56 AM
446	Industry Advertise available "for sale" spaces. Maintain roads to be attractive to industries. Continue to promote community events.	2/23/2017 11:53 AM
447	Market Young People We have a tremendous amount of recreational options that are underutilized or unmarketed. This includes numerous unique parks, nature trails, greenways, and the lake. These should be marketed properly to increase the flow of young people into the area, or at least stop them from leaving in large quantities to competing areas, some even adjacent or very close.	2/23/2017 10:39 AM
448	Businesses Education Market Educate the younger generation on current economic status and woes. Challenge them to develop ideas and marketing strategies to help the businesses in our county. Be prepared to assist in renovations of existing buildings in our county. Tax incentives are also a plus to encourage new or existing companies to stay. Businesses need water and sewer capabilities.	2/23/2017 9:06 AM
449	Education Use education programs to retrain individuals	2/22/2017 1:11 PM
450	Community College Connect Cooperative Extension with community colleges, FFA and aging farmers with acerage to build the agricultural economy in new and innovative ways.	2/22/2017 10:44 AM
451	Businesses Continue to promote new businesses into the area	2/22/2017 7:58 AM
452	Jobs Recruit high-paying low skilled jobs.	2/22/2017 3:35 AM
453	They could provide more training for Healthcare employees and make it more accessible county residents.	2/21/2017 9:27 PM
454	Ecotourisim	2/21/2017 8:30 PM
455	Tourism Available land for residential development. Local farms for farm to table restaurants. Lake Hickory, Rocky Face Park to develop tourism	2/21/2017 8:23 PM
456	Businesses Encourage small town businesses instead of big box stores	2/21/2017 7:59 PM
457	Businesses Jobs The county can use its best resources to boost the economy by focusing on bringing business and job opportunities for young professionals.	2/21/2017 6:39 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

458	I feel that the county could be freshened up. We have a lot of older building that could be renovated it remodeled.	2/21/2017 4:46 PM
459	Try to lure tech and alternative energy companies to the county.	2/21/2017 4:20 PM
460	Tourism It would be best served to increase Hospitality, restaurant, and tourism. Good strides are being made in this direction	2/21/2017 2:40 PM
461	Industry Buy and support local industry and entities. Refuel the system.	2/21/2017 1:57 PM
462	Jobs Bring jobs back to the county by giving a tax break to make it attractive to move there. Instead we pass a silly alcohol referendum that will have little impact.	2/21/2017 12:45 PM
463	Businesses Continue to offer tax cuts to existing companies to build and retain labor in the county. Actively recruit new businesses who could use our available workforce.	2/21/2017 12:37 PM
464	Businesses Support small businesses and continue help manufacturing move back to this area.	2/21/2017 12:19 PM
465	To continue renewing the current buildings and infrastructures we have to revitalize the area.	2/21/2017 12:18 PM
466	Not work in isolation as a county. PARTNER with the region. You get more this way. Going it out alone as a county is short-sided. WORK with Caldwell, Burke and Alexander counties.	2/21/2017 11:57 AM
467	Businesses Encourage support of local businesses by arranging deals between manufacturing and agricultural sources and partners that use the manufactured or agricultural goods. For example, encourage local restaurants to use locally sourced food items.	2/21/2017 11:51 AM
468	Businesses Industry Our natural resources are our best resource. We need to protect our mountains, lakes, forested areas and use them to promote quality of life when recruiting industry, small business, millennials, retirees, etc.	2/21/2017 11:31 AM
469	Make serious preparations for the growing aging population. By creating an "Aging Friendly Community" our retired and soon to be retired residence will invest back into the community.	2/21/2017 10:21 AM
470	Promote available resources	2/21/2017 9:56 AM
471	The best resources are people. Enable them to earn.	2/21/2017 9:40 AM
472	We have some of the best climate conditions and ample water supply than anywhere in the country. We also have a great work ethic in our people	2/21/2017 8:46 AM
473	Jobs Use to create diverse economic development opportunities to recruit and retain jobs and other career opportunities.	2/21/2017 8:24 AM
474	Better recreational facilities	2/20/2017 10:06 PM
475	I think we have a good county but we need things that will make people stop here instead of driving through to Boone or Hickory.	2/20/2017 8:16 PM
476	Pay employees more	2/20/2017 3:43 PM
477	Education provide training and education to the community and bring in additional attractions (ie: shopping centers, resturants) to the county to attract people to move to the area.	2/20/2017 2:45 PM
478	Jobs Get more jobs in the county and get more people back to work in better paying jobs.	2/20/2017 2:30 PM
479	Tout the rail line that runs through part of the county, subsidize it's expansion if needed.	2/20/2017 12:57 PM
480	Use existing buildings to enhance quality of life opportunities e.g. a two screen movie theater, skating, bowling, laser tag, mini museum that provide science, geological, ocean, and environmental experiences.	2/20/2017 12:10 PM
481	Businesses Jobs Tourism Keep family farms running. Finance & cut taxes for small businesses. (65% of new jobs are produced by small businesses, not large corporations) Would like to see housing around organic farms. (New idea becoming popular benefiting home owners & farm) Agro tourism also.	2/20/2017 11:47 AM
482	Tourism By promoting tourism, One of the major accesses to the mountains, skiing and other outdoor activities.	2/20/2017 11:42 AM
483	entertainment/activities	2/20/2017 10:32 AM
484	Businesses Take advantage of the beautiful area, e.g., recreation areas, Catawba River, mountain range for trails and hiking. Need more businesses in Town of Taylorsville and encourage business to stay open in evening and weekends.	2/20/2017 10:32 AM
485	Market continue to market area	2/20/2017 9:50 AM
486	looks like incentives to lure them in does the trick, but commissioners want to spend that money elsewhere. low utilities and low tax rate is an incentive as well.	2/20/2017 9:39 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

487	Tourism Utilize local historical references. Apply for national historical marker (Smithsonian, etc) to generate tourism and boost local history programs. Utilize local farming for local use.	2/20/2017 9:24 AM
488	Jobs JOB FAIR	2/20/2017 9:13 AM
489	Businesses Support local businesses and better communication.	2/20/2017 9:08 AM
490	Businesses Jobs By attracting new businesses to the area to stimulate new jobs.	2/20/2017 8:59 AM
491	Attract more retail, especially apparel.	2/20/2017 8:39 AM
492	Jobs Draw college graduates back to jobs in this county with better jobs. Most never return. Passage of the alcohol referendum was a great first step.	2/20/2017 1:03 AM
493	It can't without effective leadership	2/18/2017 9:32 PM
494	Find the root of the problem. Don't work on issues at the surface level. Look deeper into why people are unable to keep employment, treat those issues to build a stronger community.	2/18/2017 6:06 PM
495	Sell the location	2/18/2017 4:13 PM
496	Clean it up! Keeping the streets, ROWs, and sidewalks clean is much easier and cheaper than repaving, striping, etc. Code enforcement is a must for those who let their properties go, but it has to start with local government maintaining their own areas of responsibility.	2/18/2017 3:51 PM
497	Jobs Bring in jobs.	2/18/2017 9:07 AM
498	Businesses give incentives to keep and to entice business relocate in catawba county	2/18/2017 3:29 AM
499	Charge a toll to everyone going south on 321 on the weekend! Spend there money in Caldwell County.	2/17/2017 6:15 PM
500	Great location and access to bigger cities	2/17/2017 5:18 PM
501	Alexander County has great natural beauty that I think is untapped. The inability to sell alcohol has limited that development but hopefully now will be possible. Slow but possible.	2/17/2017 5:04 PM
502	Building renovation/reuse	2/17/2017 4:30 PM
503	Businesses Education The best resource in any county is its people and offering better educational services and recruiting more businesses to build or move to the area will boost the economy.	2/17/2017 3:59 PM
504	Industry Develop a strategic plan for redevelopment of vacant industrial properties.	2/17/2017 3:38 PM
505	Industry By offering incentives to new and expanding industry.	2/17/2017 3:28 PM
506	Businesses Let companies know about property that is available and what kind of workforce is ready or can be trained if they want to locate their business here.	2/17/2017 2:58 PM
507	I am not sure	2/17/2017 2:30 PM
508	Stimulate residential development	2/17/2017 1:58 PM
509	Businesses More retail and entertainment must be present before our county can continue to grow and take pride in local businesses.	2/17/2017 1:49 PM
510	Continue keeping down illegal drugs for safety and lower health cost.	2/17/2017 12:36 PM
511	High School Industry The best resources are its people. Industries should work with colleges and high schools to inform students of opportunities and encourage students to stay in the area or return after college.	2/17/2017 11:10 AM
512	Utilization of old buildings, land on main roads	2/17/2017 10:25 AM
513	Education Educate, train and encourage honest labor and reward	2/17/2017 9:22 AM
514	Education Tourism tourism and education	2/17/2017 9:00 AM
515	I don't know.	2/17/2017 8:31 AM
516	Tourism Encourage more tourism	2/17/2017 8:00 AM
517	Education High School Recruit manufacturing to the county. Improve post High School Education in Technical areas.	2/17/2017 7:57 AM
518	Education Industry Education/Training, grow industry	2/17/2017 7:49 AM
519	Businesses Skills training and small business assistance. That in turn will attract big business	2/17/2017 2:05 AM
520	Collaborate with Government Agencies, grants and private partners	2/16/2017 10:03 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

521	Expand knowledge of what is needed in today's world and put this knowledge to practical use.	2/16/2017 9:16 PM
522	Promote what we have better	2/16/2017 9:06 PM
523	Allow nontraditional people to contribute ideas and talents.	2/16/2017 8:00 PM
524	Businesses Develop long term and short term plans between business, government and public agencies.	2/16/2017 6:07 PM
525	expand highway 127	2/16/2017 5:54 PM
526	Proximity to lake Rural Setting	2/16/2017 5:27 PM
527	Advertising and cooperation. Use of CVCC site in county.	2/16/2017 5:21 PM
528	Businesses Network business together to utilize locally produced goods locally.	2/16/2017 5:18 PM
529	Businesses Develop some of the land for business.	2/16/2017 5:06 PM
530	Businesses lower taxes... put money to help the people not use their money (taxes) to help big business	2/16/2017 5:01 PM
531	Join the mainstream economy & stop hiding behind religion	2/16/2017 4:39 PM
532	Empty buildings could house production of solar/electronic/plastics all kinds of production that our people are good at. Best resource: people.	2/16/2017 4:34 PM
533	Industry Tourism Agriculture/Rocky Face Park has become an important tourism draw, build on its success with other non-sport related parks/People are a resource - Offer more training at CVCC Alexander Center for current industries as well as be able to tailor training to potential industries that are willing to locate here. / Leverage rail sites	2/16/2017 4:28 PM
534	Businesses Jobs Lobby the state to allow the 4 county area the opportunity to switch from property taxes to sales taxes. This will change the taxes being applied mostly to what we produce to what we buy. This will immediately make our counties the most competitive in the Country for keeping and attracting manufacturing jobs. At a minimum we need to remove property taxes on manufacturing equipment and buildings and if the revenue must be replaced a local sales tax would tax products not made here and only the products that are made here if they are sold here. Stafford Texas did this over 20 years ago and has boomed ever since THE CITY OF STAFFORD CITY WITH NO CITY PROPERTY TAXES Nationally acclaimed for its unique achievements, visionary leadership and prudent fiscal management, the City of Stafford is a dynamic, friendly community ideally located and encompassing what is described as an "Island of Business Opportunity" and as a family-oriented place to live. STAFFORD'S ACCOLADES Stafford Named Third Best Place to Start a Business in Texas - NerdWallet, July 23, 2015 10 Great Low-Tax Places to Retire - U.S. News and World Report, November 28, 2008 100 Best Places to Live and Launch - CNN Money, July 2, 2008 How Stafford Can Afford To End Property Taxes - The Wall Street Journal, July 12, 1995	2/16/2017 4:27 PM
535	High School Use the school system to prepare the non-college bound students to be work ready when leaving High School. The pool for actual workers in the county is very shallow.	2/16/2017 4:13 PM
536	I believe the recent vote for selling alcohol in Alexander county is going to bring new places to the community.	2/16/2017 4:11 PM
537	Support Agriculture and it's services.	2/16/2017 4:07 PM
538	support networking opportunities and instruct the county government and schools to look for NC made products as a regular part of the buying process	2/16/2017 4:06 PM
539	Businesses Organize a committee of business owners to spur participation and growth in the uptown area of Alexander County. Revitalization must be a joint effort.	2/16/2017 4:02 PM
540	Businesses Leveraging innovative new businesses and being conducive to expansion of currently growing businesses.	2/16/2017 3:59 PM
541	Industry Tourism offer incentives to new industry, invest or attract additional entertainment ventures or other attractions that would promote and encourage tourism	2/16/2017 3:41 PM
542	Industry Growth of new industries in large scale, like automotive or construction equipment	2/16/2017 3:24 PM
543	Make areas for tiny houses community. Then make them affordable and help more people own their own homes. Better for our economy.	2/16/2017 2:58 PM
544	Make known the assets we have available.	2/16/2017 2:47 PM
545	Jobs The County should put an effort into economic development incentives, and working to promote a multi-modal pedestrian system throughout the county. I believe that by bringing in jobs and creating a functional green way system, we will be able to retain and recruit residents.	2/16/2017 1:28 PM
546	Good question.	2/16/2017 1:14 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

547	Businesses Combine the school districts under 1 board for economy of scale. Encourage new business with tax breaks in early years.	2/16/2017 1:13 PM
548	High School Industry We need more internships for our High School students...let them train and work at the industries in our county. If they are given the opportunity and training we may be able to retain them once they graduate!	2/16/2017 12:08 PM
549	Jobs More jobs; train unskilled individuals; fill existing buildings;	2/16/2017 12:08 PM
550	Jobs Help residents reach existing jobs by adding public transportation	2/16/2017 11:42 AM
551	Go toward Energy Alternative Options, computer technology	2/16/2017 11:22 AM
552	Have more services for seniors to help keep and attract more seniors to this area. They are the biggest demographic.	2/16/2017 11:08 AM
553	Businesses Business incentives	2/16/2017 11:06 AM
554	Businesses construction and renovation of roads, buildings, bridges etc The county needs to be more business friendly--many of the regulations (and some of the inspectors) are a hindrance to current small businesses and a red flag for businesses looking to relocate to our area	2/16/2017 11:02 AM
555	Businesses recruit businesses	2/16/2017 10:53 AM
556	Businesses Jobs Provide training so worker's skills match the jobs that are open. Have a have open house weekend where people can visit existing businesses to get to know opportunities available Have businesses give information as to what related businesses could supply materials and people qualified to help both businesses grow.	2/16/2017 10:46 AM
557	Education Through education	2/16/2017 10:39 AM
558	Businesses Lower tax rates/tax incentives to encourage businesses to return to the region	2/16/2017 10:37 AM
559	Jobs continue to create entry level jobs	2/16/2017 10:25 AM
560	Jobs Better paying jobs to the area and diversity.	2/16/2017 10:24 AM
561	Community College Education Industry Jobs Workforce As has been stated, working to solidify a residential base of young professionals that are attracted to the county, bringing in education and perspectives from different areas to richen their new home. Catawba County is experiencing an aging population that needs to be "replaced" by the best candidates possible. Avenues to drive this type of growth include investing in industries that require more intellectual capital than manual capital, with supporting income. The standard labor force of the county that have typically worked in textiles, large-scale manufacturing, or similar jobs need to understand that they have both the capacity and means to achieve rewarding employment without the frightening cost of college. CVCC has excellent training programs, some of which are certificate based, that support the county by ensuring there are trained electricians, mechanics, CNA's, etc. Education can also support the traditional agrarian economy by allowing its managers to understand the macroeconomics of their product, as well as updated production methods and environmental impact. Further, this county needs a trauma center with specialty capability. Every day double digit number of patients are taken out of county, with their insurance and income, for services that could be provided here. With a unique mixture of urban areas and rural areas with long transport times, we are failing the medical needs of our community and forfeiting valuable income.	2/16/2017 10:07 AM
562	Jobs More American made products with American made parts, more jobs for American people	2/16/2017 9:41 AM
563	Jobs There's many empty facilities that are readily available to growing companies for use in this county. That would help them, by having space ready to occupy, and help the community by brining new jobs and economic growth.	2/16/2017 9:22 AM
564	Education Jobs Make a connection between education and practical, available jobs; show people that manufacturing isn't dangerous or hard on your body anymore because of technology; show that manufacturing is a steady income and that it's not going overseas	2/16/2017 9:09 AM
565	Offer openings to citizens within the county.	2/16/2017 9:05 AM
566	Bring back production to Catawba county and stop outsourcing	2/16/2017 8:48 AM
567	More training	2/16/2017 8:36 AM
568	The best resource in my county is the people. So by finding out the strengths of those people, asking them what it is they want in their community, and then utilizing them to their full capacity will naturally boost the economy regardless of the economic opportunity.	2/16/2017 8:31 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

569	Market Honestly I know more about Catawba County because I live so close the line - it's closer for me to do most things in Catawba County. I know Caldwell has alot of agriculture. I know there are some fruit/vegetable stands and a farm that sells organic meat and dairy.... maybe something to connect and promote more of these small farms so the community can access them easier... Alot of things are in Lenoir. Revitalizing Granite Falls and developing a farmer's market?	2/16/2017 8:25 AM
570	Geography; centrally located in the region. Lower cost of living.	2/16/2017 8:20 AM
571	Businesses Education Jobs tax incentives for businesses. We are an over educated society with everyone thinking a college degree equates to jobs and money, it doesn't often work that way. Our people need jobs or the middle class will continue to seep into one large pool of low income depression.	2/16/2017 8:10 AM
572	Education Educate and train	2/16/2017 8:04 AM
573	attract more diverse companies	2/16/2017 7:22 AM
574	Since 80% of employees are county employees they should carter to the county employees and the salaries of all of them from the lowest.	2/15/2017 11:38 PM
575	Services for seniors.	2/15/2017 10:23 PM
576	Promote our quality of life, solid infrastructure, and environment.	2/15/2017 10:11 PM
577	Young People attract and keep young people here	2/15/2017 8:34 PM
578	Jobs More jobs in health care and use of WPCC to prepare for vacancies.	2/15/2017 7:39 PM
579	Focus on natural beauty and experiences that can come from there. Identify large tracks of land that have ability to bring major manufacturer.	2/15/2017 7:15 PM
580	Jobs By creating better paying jobs instead of expecting people to live off Minimum wage yet allow insurance companies, banks, real estate, medical supplies & pharmacies to control the County/State & low income people cannot afford to pay rent/mortgage payments & never own a home or a car. Utilities is too high & if you don't live at what the State considers poverty, you are sometimes left with making choices between medicine, food, going to the MD & etc. Folks in this county are hurting, most folks never get a night out to have fun thus causing havoc at home with family & etc. Way too many regulations, it makes it hard for some folks to be able to enjoy a good life.	2/15/2017 6:17 PM
581	promote cutting edge technologies and innovative companies - Apple and the totally green off the grid server farm	2/15/2017 5:36 PM
582	Jobs Young People Creating more jobs and opportunities for young people.	2/15/2017 5:34 PM
583	Offer more types of resources in different locations.	2/15/2017 5:27 PM
584	Catawba County should focus on the drug problem in the area. Hickory is rated the fifth worst place in America for opiate abuse. That is embarrassing. The county needs to be "cleaned" up if they expect the economic situation to get better. There is a criminal roundup on a weekly basis and shootings occur all the time now. There are whole communities that base their whole existence on drugs. Look at the mobile home parks and low income apartments. The owners of these areas should be held somewhat responsible for what happens on their property. Increase the police force and put more money into cleaning the community.	2/15/2017 5:19 PM
585	I truly don't know but start with closing the gap in information/perception of what this county has and does not have.	2/15/2017 5:13 PM
586	Market Regional marketing, more interaction with CVCC and MSC	2/15/2017 5:00 PM
587	Tourism Boost Tourism Numbers, Athletic complexes	2/15/2017 4:57 PM
588	Businesses Spend more money on attracting business that is not manufacturing.	2/15/2017 4:56 PM
589	Need to subsidize medical doctors in order to provide the best possible medical care to the smaller towns of the area.	2/15/2017 4:55 PM
590	Education offer under skilled employees no cost continuing education while being employed at their location	2/15/2017 4:55 PM
591	Develop downtown areas, make shopping areas and parks more attractive	2/15/2017 4:44 PM
592	Burke County needs to pay attention to the working person, not just the retired person. Build something for the kids to do besides parks. Start up teen hang outs and programs so they have somewhere to go - this is for all counties.	2/15/2017 4:44 PM
593	Market Market the low tax rates and close proximity to several state parks and easy access to I-40	2/15/2017 4:27 PM
594	Education Increase educational opportunities and scholarships for higher education. Provide additional funding for K-12 education. Provide additional support for the arts.	2/15/2017 4:27 PM
595	Businesses The demand for services and products will provide the best resource for economic growth, if the government will stay out of the way and not give benefits to one type of business over another.	2/15/2017 4:19 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

596	Community College Industry Strengthen partnerships between industry and our community colleges for applicable training. Give Economic Development staff the resources they need to retain existing industry and recruit new ones.	2/15/2017 4:16 PM
597	Industry Bring in industries for all skill levels that will invest in the community and stay here long-term.	2/15/2017 4:15 PM
598	Have a cost of living raise	2/15/2017 4:14 PM
599	Industry Jobs Catawba county has an opportunity to really focus on the organic lifestyle with the rich farms we have. That is a growing trend among families right now. Also, more and more people are wanting job opportunities with flex schedules that accommodate families and lifestyles. Industry that can accommodate that would be an asset.	2/15/2017 4:12 PM
600	Businesses Spend more money to bring in new businesses.	2/15/2017 4:04 PM
601	Jobs To bring people to out community to fill jobs.	2/15/2017 3:39 PM
602	Education We need to advertise more about the resources that exist in my county. Secondly, we need to focus our limited resources on areas to help our economy grow, such as giving more options for secondary education. We need a four year college option other than Lenoir-Rhyne, because currently the cost is too high at that university. Otherwise, I seed my friends leaving for lower cost colleges in other parts of North Carolina and not returning home.	2/15/2017 3:33 PM
603	Industry Tax incentives for new industry that can serve a workforce that is aging. But also invest in companies that will attract a new younger demographic.	2/15/2017 2:49 PM
604	Education Provide adults with affordable education to learn a new skill. Sponsor more public events and things to do to draw people to our area or keep families from wanting to leave due to lack of things to do. Develop programs for kids so that they want to stay in our area once educated.	2/15/2017 2:12 PM
605	Encourage manufacturing to our county. This brings dollars into our area and can put our local folks to work.	2/15/2017 1:51 PM
606	Attracting talent - both from a people and company standpoint. To do that, you need incentives to go each way.	2/15/2017 1:50 PM
607	Businesses More positions for experienced business professionals. More internship opportunities for teens	2/15/2017 1:36 PM
608	funding for public schools	2/15/2017 1:20 PM
609	Industry The best resource that Catawba County is its geographic position with the County being located near Charlotte, Asheville and Winston-Salem. This should be the main selling point to bring industry to the county. The County also has low water/sewer and electricity rates compared to other regions.	2/15/2017 12:33 PM
610	Support friends of hickory for a comprehensive unified regional website	2/15/2017 11:53 AM
611	Continue to work to attract new companies or organizations to the county	2/15/2017 11:41 AM
612	Encourage the development of attractions for younger generations. For example, the parks projects offer promise. I would like to see more resources go to developing alternative energy projects. This has proved to be feasible in Catawba County.	2/15/2017 11:40 AM
613	Market we have great resources and assets - we need to market our cities and county better to the outside world - we need to put Hickory and surrounding region on the ma.	2/15/2017 11:13 AM
614	I'm not sure	2/15/2017 11:02 AM
615	1) Provide resources for public schools (specific to technology advancement for teachers and students) 2) Entertainment opportunities that are attractive to multiple generations. e.g., Asheville is thriving in breweries and retail - we need a niche for Hickory.	2/15/2017 11:00 AM
616	Young People Create or encourage activities. Example: A place on Lake Hickory where canoes/kayaks could be rented. When people have activities available, they'll be less likely to turn to drugs, etc. These things would also be attractive to young people.	2/15/2017 10:46 AM
617	Try to attract young professionals. Understand what millennials want. Promote trails, breweries, and music.	2/15/2017 10:42 AM
618	Jobs Job opportunities are improving. Make Catawba County a more desirable place to live to draw more young adults. More entertainment opportunities; expand and improve bike/pedestrian infrastructure (particularly throughout Hickory).Better affordable rentals properties.	2/15/2017 10:21 AM
619	Burke County can use the natural resources to bring people to the area. The county has a great lake as well as great opportunities to hike. There are a lot of outdoor options for the economy.	2/15/2017 9:57 AM
620	The natural environment is under utilized in this area.	2/15/2017 9:24 AM
621	Jobs Prepare skilled workers at comm college, machinists, etc., keep kids in school Play up real estate affordability, climate, cost of living, etc./ bedroom comm to WNC, Asheville Create jobs	2/14/2017 9:22 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

622	??	2/14/2017 7:37 PM
623	Create affordable housing and public transportation	2/14/2017 5:45 PM
624	Agriculture and furniture resources could be better developed	2/14/2017 4:11 PM
625	Jobs cut over paid unneeded jobs in county government ex: engineer	2/14/2017 3:48 PM
626	Education High School By using empty spaces next to roads, stores, or where bushes already grow to plant vegetables and garden goods for local burger shops. The towns service men and the high school agriculture group could maintain it while benefiting in education as well. Also, Apple trees and other fruit trees thrive in this location while providing food with a beautiful scenery.	2/14/2017 1:46 PM
627	Jobs Stop reducing property values and stop increasing property taxes. Hire only within the county for county government jobs.	2/14/2017 1:22 PM
628	Significant benefit packages to attract new manufacturing companies.	2/14/2017 12:11 PM
629	Have a better cooperative attitude between the town and the county government. We could "be" so much more than we are right now.	2/14/2017 11:57 AM
630	Businesses Workforce Encourage, recruit, provide incentives for entrepreneurship, small manufacturing and other support businesses that pay an honest wage. In addition there has to be a recognition that the current available work force is not trained for higher technology and addiction to drugs and alcohol prohibits them from pursuing/qualifying for work...this issue has to be addressed and is in the top three health concerns for this community in the latest Health department's report.	2/14/2017 11:51 AM
631	Community College Jobs Investment into infrastructure, such as high speed internet access throughout the county - not just the city limits, and working with the community college to offer more training programs in the evening to allow people to improve their skills while continuing to work their day job.	2/14/2017 11:26 AM
632	Technical Training at college level	2/14/2017 11:09 AM
633	The old Alexander county hospital could be turned into some kind of great training center. Also the old walmart building in Taylorsville beside tractor supply could be turned into a great opportunity for the community. Skating, movie anything!	2/14/2017 10:59 AM
634	Support public transportation.	2/14/2017 10:57 AM
635	Its time to study the zoning ordinances and make adjustments as needed(many sections are outdated) Encourage mixed use development.	2/14/2017 10:41 AM
636	Workforce Be more respectful of the work force needs.	2/14/2017 10:21 AM
637	Cut salaries of anyone making over \$100,000 and give the others a raise.	2/14/2017 10:08 AM
638	Tourism cultural heritage tourism	2/14/2017 9:59 AM
639	Jobs Bring in better/ higher paying jobs & retailers	2/14/2017 9:33 AM
640	Find more local locations for selling/distributing their locally manufactured wares.	2/14/2017 9:08 AM
641	Education Market Additional marketing, outreach, education, use of Social Media and technology to promote things we have.	2/14/2017 8:50 AM
642	Education Focus attention on various housing needs and education. Both are important issues for the 20-30 somethings that Caldwell County needs to keep and attract to the area.	2/13/2017 5:20 PM
643	Young People As a 28 year old myself, I lived in Catawba County for 26 years and grew up there. I have lived in Burke County now for 2 years and I think they both relate. I think there are a lot of young adults who really enjoy the area and would raise a family here but a lot of times they feel like if they stay, they will not have the economic opportunity that larger cities have. In a nutshell if the area can retain young people I think that is the basis to fixing most of the other issues in itself. I think Catawba county and the City of Hickory are leading the way for the area to do just that.	2/13/2017 5:13 PM
644	Jobs Market We need to diversify our offerings. Many of the of the assets from above are our historical job creators but have not weathered as well, in reaction we take huge hits in jobs and the local economy when two or three sectors falter. We need to market the high end assets, with good paying jobs to attract more people into the area and keep the ones we have.	2/13/2017 4:10 PM
645	Get internet options into every home in the county.	2/13/2017 4:09 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

646	By making Alexander County a more desirable place to live and work. We're losing people ages 18-40 to other communities. Some come back to raise families, but most don't. We have some good opportunities here, but it's a rural way of life.	2/13/2017 4:06 PM
647	Jobs Attract working-age population (talent) to help fill jobs, recruit new employers, and increase tax base.	2/13/2017 4:02 PM
648	Jobs Economic Development Commission is doing a good job.	2/13/2017 3:51 PM

Q5 What adaptive capabilities do you see for the county's economy? Adaptive capabilities might be specific skills in the county's workforce or in the built environment (such as vacant manufacturing plants or box stores) in your county that can guide a strategic renewal process.

Answered: 600 Skipped: 383

#	Responses	Date
1	See above.	3/13/2017 8:58 AM
2	So important to expand opportunities for job training for people immediately after high school or even before	3/12/2017 9:49 PM
3	Training offered by Western Piedmont CC can be customized to address specific training.	3/12/2017 8:32 PM
4	Utilizing all the County's Resources to build better opportunities for employment for low income families	3/12/2017 4:26 PM
5	Vacant Buildings There are lots of vacant plants that need to be sold and reopened.	3/11/2017 9:41 PM
6	Furniture Vacant Buildings lots of empty furniture company buildings. empty store buildings.	3/11/2017 9:05 PM
7	Furniture Vacant Buildings There are a number of vacant buildings both retail and industrial. Skilled workforce includes construction, agricultural, furniture/industrial	3/11/2017 8:00 PM
8	Furniture Manufacturing Vacant Buildings We have vacant furniture manufacturing buildings and empty big box stores and mall area.	3/11/2017 6:34 PM
9	Manufacturing See Number 4 above. We have multiple empty manufacturing plants available for utilization.	3/11/2017 11:56 AM
10	See question 4. answer. increased employment building trades	3/11/2017 9:53 AM
11	The vacant warehouses could be converted for different uses	3/11/2017 8:24 AM
12	Furniture Vacant Buildings empty furniture buildings becoming stores and apartments	3/11/2017 7:51 AM
13	Furniture Manufacturing Vacant Buildings We have several vacant manufacturing plants and people skilled in furniture construction.	3/11/2017 7:09 AM
14	Furniture Manufacturing Manufacturing opportunities in former textile and furniture plants	3/11/2017 6:15 AM
15	Vacant Buildings Empty buildings Large youth workforce	3/11/2017 3:56 AM
16	Manufacturing Many old manufacturing buildings that are abandoned	3/10/2017 9:59 PM
17	The entire Big Lots shopping center at exit 104 could be put to use for public works: example - move the public library there (use the existing library building exclusively for genealogy and local history, bring in more resources for Appalachian history, Joara, etc). Improve the recreation facilities, too. I'd also like to see better public transportation in the area. As far as I can tell, the majority of the workforce in this area is unskilled labor.	3/10/2017 9:22 PM
18	Vacant Buildings use the vacant buildings in some manner	3/10/2017 8:35 PM
19	Many empty warehouses and plants that need to be upgraded or leveled and new ones for opportunities to come in.	3/10/2017 8:34 PM
20	Retraining	3/10/2017 6:41 PM
21	Furniture Need a way to put the furniture/ textile workers back to work. Lots of unemployment because industry has moved overseas	3/10/2017 6:27 PM
22	Existing Spaces Vacant commercial spaces	3/10/2017 5:29 PM
23	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants	3/10/2017 5:08 PM
24	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant Manufacturing plants, Almost vacant shopping complexes.	3/10/2017 5:01 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

25	Existing Spaces Manufacturing It's difficult to re-tool an existing manufacturing building to meet specifications necessary for new manufacturing or IT needs. Often cheaper to tear them down and rebuild. Local governments should encourage repurpose such facilities/land to improve quality of life, such as museums/open space/restaurants/parks/mass transit centers, etc. to help the area become more attractive for existing and prospective large employers.	3/10/2017 4:46 PM
26	I think we should adapt by replacing the dinosaurs in public office with new, energetic leaders with fresh ideas.	3/10/2017 3:49 PM
27	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings rail road for passenger use, regional airport for passenger use, vacant manufacturing buildings to be used in creating prestigious warehouse districts	3/10/2017 3:47 PM
28	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing buildings	3/10/2017 3:43 PM
29	Skilled trades to support business and industry! Prepare high school students for vocational trades. Build apprentice programs!	3/10/2017 3:20 PM
30	Skill development in the trades either through the high schools or community colleges.	3/10/2017 3:12 PM
31	Manufacturing Continue to remodel and repurpose abandoned mills or manufacturing plants for other uses.	3/10/2017 2:53 PM
32	Workforce Factory work force Empty factories Empty storefronts Good high tech IT, Google Transportation hub, trucking and train	3/10/2017 2:49 PM
33	New Businesses I believe the LR and CVCC can be huge assets in helping create a workforce that can support existing businesses and help bring in new ones.	3/10/2017 2:34 PM
34	New Businesses Many vacant locales could be utilized for new businesses.	3/10/2017 2:30 PM
35	Education It has to start with the public schools and community college. Both entities are working hard already to prepare the workforce but more needs to be done to guide high school students toward furthering their education. We especially need to nurture girls to set their hopes and expectations higher, to believe they can achieve, that there is something besides getting pregnant in their future. The social problems are CAUSING the workforce problems!!!! We have to stop the cycle to improve our economy. It's all tied together.	3/10/2017 2:28 PM
36	Vacant Buildings The vacant plants are outdated. We need new construction.	3/10/2017 2:09 PM
37	Vacant Buildings Lots of vacant buildings in Lenoir.	3/10/2017 2:02 PM
38	Existing Spaces Furniture Vacant Buildings There are certainly some vacant buildings in the area! There is a lot of vacant retail space. People from surrounding areas used to travel to the Unifour to purchase furniture. We need to rekindle that or find a new tourism opportunity.	3/10/2017 1:37 PM
39	Hollar Mill, Moretz Mill, Transportation Insights... keep re-purposing mill-type buildings to enhance the area's character and functionality.	3/10/2017 1:28 PM
40	Manufacturing More baseline no skills needed manufacturing, because there is a glut of unskilled workers. That is what it seems everyone wants. We have a great area to develop for tourism, but no one seems to believe in this. And it will be hard to develop high tech industry here and attract those workers with the fundamentalist attitudes that are so prevalent in this county. The difference between Caldwell and Catawba county is striking.	3/10/2017 1:21 PM
41	not much that I am aware of.	3/10/2017 1:13 PM
42	Education Education	3/10/2017 1:06 PM
43	Using the area as R&D, capitalizing on land and plant availability, low cost of living	3/10/2017 1:00 PM
44	There needs to be a comprehensive development plan so that our community looks good and is organized with infrastructure to support growth. If our strategy is to offer "cheap" land, then we end up with lots of empty boxes.	3/10/2017 12:58 PM
45	Plenty of abandoned factories, excited residents	3/10/2017 12:37 PM
46	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant buildings and transition from rural strong work ethics into a manufacturing supported utilization of available realestate.	3/10/2017 12:31 PM
47	Existing Spaces Furniture Vacant Buildings Multiple empty furniture plants. Empty retail buildings. Access to green spaces and rivers.	3/10/2017 12:20 PM
48	Leverage our assets - abundant power and water, excellent community college willing and able to customize training programs, proximity to Charlotte	3/10/2017 12:15 PM
49	Use vacant facilities for apartments, retail, cultural venues.	3/10/2017 12:06 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

50	THIS DOES NOT FIT SPECIFICALLY IN ADAPTIVE CAPABILITIES, BUT IS A REAL NEED I SEE EVERY DAY. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE REAL TIME OR AS CLOSE AS CAN BE FOR BOTH THE EMPLOYERS AND CLIENTS AN WELL MARKETED I WORK WITH EMPLOYERS EVERY DAY, AND THEY, AND QUITE OFTEN THEIR HOME OFFICE DOES NOT KNOW THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AND HOW IT AFFECTS THEIR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.	3/10/2017 11:53 AM
51	Manufacturing New Businesses Vacant Buildings New business in vacant manufacturing plants and box stores	3/10/2017 11:52 AM
52	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Development of a plan/use for vacant commercial buildings. Promote the sq.ft that is available to other non-manufacturing industries.	3/10/2017 11:48 AM
53	Education To keep our college educated young people in the area we have to have excellent job opportunities.	3/10/2017 11:47 AM
54	Use of older buildinga for new purposes would be great	3/10/2017 11:46 AM
55	Vacant Buildings Continue grants for vacant building regeneration and upgrading existing facilities	3/10/2017 11:43 AM
56	not qualified to answer	3/10/2017 11:40 AM
57	Education Existing Spaces Vacant Buildings Vacant industrial buildings, beautiful business park space at exit 96. Educational training through community college system.	3/10/2017 11:17 AM
58	New Businesses Vacant Buildings Multiple empty buildings should be made available for use and at reasonable prices to encourage new businesses as well as expansion for current businesses.	3/10/2017 11:15 AM
59	Vacant buidings	3/10/2017 10:57 AM
60	Workforce Continued re training of our work force	3/10/2017 10:46 AM
61	Existing Spaces Manufacturing Vacant Buildings We have many vacant manufacturing plants. Many of these jobs were moved overseas (thanks Clinton). At this point many have become safety hazards and should be torn down to make space available for modern buildings, housing, or community renewal likes parks and recreation.	3/10/2017 10:26 AM
62	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Many people with manufacturing experience Many vacant plants Infrastructure still in place to support manufacturing	3/10/2017 9:56 AM
63	Manufacturing Corporate companies are moving out because of the talent attraction to the area. Need more manufacturing companies companies to move here a utilize the vacated buildings.	3/10/2017 9:10 AM
64	Furniture Furniture.	3/10/2017 9:07 AM
65	improve access to transportation	3/10/2017 8:39 AM
66	none	3/10/2017 8:30 AM
67	Basic classes at our local community college for carpenters, electricians and maintenance Our economy in this area does not afford high tech jobs	3/10/2017 7:42 AM
68	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are lots of empty manufacturing buildings & fewer family owned businesses, because larger stores are making competitive pricing difficult.	3/9/2017 8:57 PM
69	Na	3/9/2017 8:30 PM
70	Manufacturing Several vacant manufacturing, retail outlets available, ready for re-purposing.	3/9/2017 8:16 PM
71	Unknown	3/9/2017 6:42 PM
72	New Businesses Vacant Buildings Continue to encourage the repurpose of vacant buildings to lure new business and create new jobs	3/9/2017 6:12 PM
73	The stores on Enola Road need to be filled with something that will be successful and stay.	3/9/2017 5:38 PM
74	Education Vacant Buildings Increased re-purposing of empty buildings, like the Education Center at I-40 Exit 105 and the new stores in the Magnolia Plaza	3/9/2017 3:08 PM
75	Morganton has many skilled labors.	3/9/2017 2:19 PM
76	?	3/9/2017 2:19 PM
77	New Businesses Bring in new businesses.	3/9/2017 12:41 PM
78	Vacant land along the Highway 321 corridor is available and ready for both commercial and industrial development. Skilled workforce is available, but community college can target training for recruitment of specific industry.	3/9/2017 11:58 AM
79	Aid local companies with expansion.	3/9/2017 11:52 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

80	Many empty lots that could be used for factories or box companies.	3/9/2017 11:39 AM
81	Workforce technological skills and "soft" skills	3/9/2017 11:36 AM
82	Vacant Buildings The use of a vacant building to create somewhere positive and productive for our teenagers in this county would be awesome. Examples would be a place where kids who have an interest in arts could go and learn or advance in the field of arts. Additional, indoor recreation facilities could be a possibility as well. Basically, after school and weekend social opportunities.	3/9/2017 9:28 AM
83	Manufacturing Has many manufacturing plants that have been shut down , or not put to use. Many of the plants have probably been shut down due to the fact that these jobs are now being sent over seas.	3/9/2017 8:30 AM
84	Education We need a strong vocational program that allows students to differentiate their educational preferences and we need to promote problem based learning and other strategies such as integrated curriculum that allow students autonomy and practice with critical thinking and research. Within the community, there has been a recent push in community revitalization but we still have way too many vacant commercial properties.	3/9/2017 7:23 AM
85	Furniture I don't see any. All the closed furniture factories are closed down and demolished.	3/9/2017 7:22 AM
86	Downtown Giant, wide streets (built for transfer truck). Hire local construction companies to carry out streetscape plans, which is the first step to improving our downtowns. Let's reimagine and build something beautiful!	3/8/2017 11:31 PM
87	Provide the training needed too fulfill goals of job	3/8/2017 11:03 PM
88	Vacant Buildings Use vacant buildings; build on what's working; market to all ages	3/8/2017 9:45 PM
89	Vacant Buildings There are some vacant buildings where plants previously closed down.	3/8/2017 8:08 PM
90	Workforce Make available to unemployed or new people to the work force access to job specific training outside of CVCC, uncomplicated through new employers.	3/8/2017 6:22 PM
91	Furniture empty textile and furniture plants	3/8/2017 5:16 PM
92	Existing Spaces We have a number of vacant stores and shopping centers, some of which have been vacant for over a decade. We also have several empty spaces where factories have been torn down.	3/8/2017 5:00 PM
93	lots of old factories sitting empty, lots of stores sitting empty, restaurants sitting empty, gas stations sitting empty	3/8/2017 4:11 PM
94	Furniture New Businesses Vacant Buildings We still have several vacant furniture plants and tracts of land that could be used. We have all of the old "Walmart Shopping Center" that can be used better. Rural King has just moved in and seems to be having a great beginning. What businesses do they know that would also like to locate here to fill up those store? The Fiddler's Run Shopping Center is mostly empty since the "new Walmart" center opened. What can the county do to help businesses move back in there? What is/ are the deterrents for that area? It has been mostly empty for over 4 years. There is a large chunk of the population that lives in that part of the county. They would love to have a closer place to shop. Clothing stores? Bakery? Salon/Spa?	3/8/2017 4:09 PM
95	Bring in companies to fill these vacancies with job opportunity	3/8/2017 3:36 PM
96	see response in #4	3/8/2017 3:20 PM
97	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Many vacant manufacturing plants.	3/8/2017 3:10 PM
98	Furniture Manufacturing We need more industry, whether it be textile or furniture. Any sort of manufacturing should be aided by providing opportunities for students to take courses that will enable to transition straight to the job force. (Many students will never be college or university track.)	3/8/2017 3:08 PM
99	not sure	3/8/2017 3:06 PM
100	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants, empty lots- from manufacturing plants	3/8/2017 2:51 PM
101	Vacant Buildings we have a lot of empty buildings and a large unskilled workforce with factory experience	3/8/2017 2:49 PM
102	Vacant Buildings There are many nice shop buildings that are vacant.	3/8/2017 2:24 PM
103	Vacant Buildings vacant plants	3/8/2017 2:16 PM
104	New Businesses Continue to use/renovate old buildings to open new businesses.	3/8/2017 2:12 PM
105	Furniture Vacant Buildings Vacant furniture plants	3/8/2017 2:11 PM
106	Manufacturing There are several empty box stores and manufacturing plants.	3/8/2017 1:59 PM
107	unused buildings/facilities can be changed and developed into training centers for larger/updated businesses and factories.	3/8/2017 1:56 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

108	Convert the old Town of Drexel water plant into a warm water fish hatchery to cultivate fish for LKJ and Rhodhiss. The number of catch able fish increases the number of trips involving the items spelled out in question #4.	3/8/2017 1:49 PM
109	Vacant Buildings take the vacant plants and return the companies that were once there or bring in other companies to advance in the community jobs and resources	3/8/2017 1:48 PM
110	New Businesses Vacant Buildings I feel that we have many vacant building from old plants and as a result of business moving to the new Walmart shopping center. I would like to see these buildings filled with new businesses. I know many people who go to other cities for shopping. It would be nice to bring businesses in so we don't have to go else where to shop.	3/8/2017 1:37 PM
111	Vacant Buildings Use the stores that we already have sitting vacant instead of building new ones!!!!	3/8/2017 1:36 PM
112	Education Education with emphasis on technology would be helpful.	3/8/2017 1:34 PM
113	It would be interesting to see what the levels of performance our high school students achieve (work keys test)	3/8/2017 1:31 PM
114	We need to offer incentives to companies to come to our county. We have a vacant industrial park that needs to be used.	3/8/2017 1:19 PM
115	Vacant Buildings We have several vacant buildings that need to have other types of businesses take them over and make them into some type of either training facilities or places of employment	3/8/2017 1:19 PM
116	Furniture vacant furniture factories are going to waste. these could be put back to use in furniture or turned into other oportunities	3/8/2017 1:13 PM
117	I don't know.	3/8/2017 1:07 PM
118	Existing Spaces Renovate empty work spaces.	3/8/2017 1:01 PM
119	Bring competitive sports to Lake James (water skiing, boat racing, bass tournaments, etc.)	3/8/2017 12:33 PM
120	Education With the help of the local board of education, provide training for jobs of the future such as wind and solar power. The NC School of Science and Math coming to the area will revive the community with added hotels and restaurants.	3/8/2017 12:29 PM
121	Vacant Buildings There are several empty buildings that could be re-purposed or demolished making way for an updated building.	3/8/2017 12:26 PM
122	Empty stores and factories	3/8/2017 12:16 PM
123	Vacant Buildings We have several vacant buildings that can be used.	3/8/2017 12:09 PM
124	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Manufacturing workers and vacant store buildings	3/8/2017 11:44 AM
125	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings many vacant manufacturing plants	3/8/2017 11:44 AM
126	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants	3/8/2017 11:37 AM
127	Furniture In years past, furniture was big in our county and there are a lot of skills present here for production-type work.	3/8/2017 11:29 AM
128	Bigger retail stores that people travel to other counties to shop	3/8/2017 11:28 AM
129	Existing Spaces Create free art spaces/studios for the multicultural artists that live and work in the region.	3/8/2017 11:16 AM
130	Manufacturing Vacant Manufacturing Facilities and Retail Stores	3/8/2017 11:15 AM
131	Vacant Buildings We have a lot of vacant buildings and stores. Bring in stores and restaurants. Supporting small businesses.	3/8/2017 11:11 AM
132	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants	3/8/2017 10:52 AM
133	Furniture vacant furniture land	3/8/2017 10:51 AM
134	n/a	3/8/2017 10:35 AM
135	Vacant Buildings using our empty buildings for recycling	3/8/2017 10:32 AM
136	Vacant Buildings Fill the empty stores/buildings with stores like Target.	3/8/2017 10:30 AM
137	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Breathe life into the vacant manufacturing plants and closed businesses!	3/8/2017 10:30 AM
138	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants, empty buildings	3/8/2017 10:29 AM
139	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are many vacant manufacturing buildings in the area and also land.	3/8/2017 10:27 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

140	engineering or technical	3/8/2017 10:25 AM
141	Furniture Workforce There are many vacant furniture factories that we could maybe bring in new work force.	3/8/2017 10:25 AM
142	Vacant Buildings We have lots of empty building throughout Burke county.	3/8/2017 10:17 AM
143	Existing Spaces Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are many vacant business/retail spaces in the Magnolia Plaza and Fiddlers Run shopping complex. There are several vacant manufacturing plants as well.	3/8/2017 10:16 AM
144	Vacant Buildings The old Wal-Mart store stood vacant for a number of years which hurt the businesses in that area. When the Walmart super center opened, all businesses from Fiddler's Run area vacated except for a few. Many buildings that are not very old still stand vacant in this strip mall area. We need anchor stores spread out over town so the smaller businesses don't go belly up. Target store at Fiddler's Run would be great.	3/8/2017 10:16 AM
145	Vacant Buildings We need to find and PROMOTE additional restaurant businesses to come to Burke. It's a shame that McDowell County has a greater variety of restaurants than we do. There have been several restaurants go into the Mull Building, but there hasn't been much promotion to help get the businesses started. We also have a lot of vacant buildings and land that could be utilized for Big Box Companies to renovate.	3/8/2017 10:14 AM
146	Downtown Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings and a vibrant downtown scene in Morganton could significantly boost the economy of Burke County.	3/8/2017 10:10 AM
147	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings need to be utilized for growth by allowing existing local businesses to occupy and renew our existing infrastructure	3/8/2017 10:06 AM
148	n/a	3/8/2017 10:05 AM
149	Vacant Buildings We have a number of empty buildings and storefronts. Can some be used for new markets, such as somewhere for kids to shop? Can empty buildings become facilities for activities (art, athletics, bowling, dance, entertainment...)?	3/8/2017 10:03 AM
150	Vacant Buildings vacant buildings on Enola Road where Bath and Body Works and Food Lion are located. This could be used for many things.	3/8/2017 9:56 AM
151	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants	3/8/2017 9:42 AM
152	New Businesses The sky is the limit in Burke County as far as reclaiming structures for use. This could used as a PR tool to get new industry into the area. Grants could be used to help new businesses become established.	3/8/2017 9:36 AM
153	Vacant Buildings Alexander County has a lot of vacant buildings. More businesses need to be sought and brought into the county. Therefore more jobs and if people are working here, they will spend their money here. Why, because they are to tired to go anywhere else.	3/8/2017 9:36 AM
154	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Mixed use for vacant manufacturing plants - See Hollar Mill and others in Hickory...	3/8/2017 9:30 AM
155	Vacant Buildings We have so many empty existing buildings and retail places that need to be filled that it would be great to see "life" brought into those places before building new buildings.	3/8/2017 9:25 AM
156	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are many vacant buildings in Caldwell and Burke County. These buildings could be remodeled for schools and manufacturing.	3/8/2017 9:22 AM
157	There are may buildings that can be repurposed.	3/8/2017 9:22 AM
158	Many available buildings and properties that could be transformed into viable businesses.	3/8/2017 9:17 AM
159	Vacant Buildings We have a lot of empty buildings	3/8/2017 9:17 AM
160	Vacant Buildings We have many vacant buildings that could be utilized for industry, retail, or shelters for those in need.	3/8/2017 9:14 AM
161	Manufacturing Transformation of existing manufacturing facilities.	3/8/2017 9:03 AM
162	New Businesses Vacant Buildings There are lots of buildings for lease/sale. If we could utilize them to attract businesses to move there and bring in more jobs. Also there is lot of vacant houses and land. We can build new affordable houses and update those abandoned ones for renting out.	3/8/2017 9:03 AM
163	Vacant Buildings vacant buildings	3/8/2017 8:58 AM
164	New Businesses Vacant Buildings There are many businesses that have moved out of the area leaving many vacant buildings and people without jobs. We could lure new industry into the area offering reduced tax rates. This would insure more people put back to work and less drain on the resources.	3/8/2017 8:56 AM
165	Vacant Buildings Renovate and use old abandoned buildings instead of letting them sit empty and useless. What a waste!!	3/8/2017 8:56 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

166	Furniture Manufacturing A lot of skilled furniture manufactures and millers looking for good paying jobs.	3/8/2017 8:54 AM
167	Existing Spaces Lots of empty "space," but little incentive to come to Morganton?	3/8/2017 8:51 AM
168	There should be a plan developed for the adaptive reuse of big box stores. What can these places become once the "Walmart" or "Lowe's" moves to bigger/better	3/8/2017 8:50 AM
169	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Have many many vacant manufacturing plants and retail stores	3/8/2017 8:50 AM
170	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Strong community college and public school system to provide specific training - empty manufacturing buildings across the county - industrial park land off of I-40.	3/8/2017 8:42 AM
171	Bring back jobs to our area	3/8/2017 8:38 AM
172	Furniture We have several furniture factories that are unused at this time	3/8/2017 8:38 AM
173	Vacant Buildings Take old, empty buildings and put businesses/restaurants in them	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
174	There are so many places sitting empty. We need stores like Target, or Old Navy. That way, we don't have to go spend our money in a different county. We moved everything to Morganton Heights killing off other areas of the city.	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
175	New Businesses New eaterys LARGE franchises instead of small business entrepreneurial attempts	3/8/2017 8:37 AM
176	Not sure	3/8/2017 8:34 AM
177	New Businesses Vacant Buildings using vacant plants, buildings, etc. to support new and existing businesses with tax breaks to bring jobs and economic development	3/8/2017 8:30 AM
178	Vacant Buildings vacant plants	3/8/2017 8:26 AM
179	Vacant Buildings several empty buildings could be used for more retail opportunities	3/8/2017 8:24 AM
180	Furniture Vacant Buildings Furniture skilled laborers,agriculture...empty buildings ready for business	3/8/2017 8:23 AM
181	Education We need more businesses to come that employ college educated workers. Engineers, technology, etc.	3/8/2017 8:22 AM
182	Furniture Vacant Buildings Yes, many vacant buildings because all of the businesses that built Burke County (furniture and textiles) mved to Mexica and China.	3/8/2017 8:20 AM
183	Manufacturing Not sure but we do have a lot of empty manufacturing plants that could be restored and reused.	3/8/2017 8:20 AM
184	Existing Spaces The Old Walmart Plaza on Burkemont Road has empty spaces. Fiddler's Run has empty spaces.	3/8/2017 8:19 AM
185	We have many open stores in several areas of the county. We need businesses to come here and fill these stores.	3/8/2017 8:19 AM
186	Several empty warehouses	3/8/2017 8:17 AM
187	New Businesses Use existing structures/buildings as easy to relocate to facilities for enticing new business	3/8/2017 8:15 AM
188	Manufacturing We need more manufacturing plants to come back to burke co.	3/8/2017 8:13 AM
189	Create a vocational high school. Provide training to high school students who can graduate with marketable skills.	3/8/2017 8:10 AM
190	New Businesses we have several locations that could house new businesses.	3/8/2017 8:09 AM
191	Many vacant warehouses on the outskirts of Morganton. Skills being taught at the middle-high school areas are aiming largely at skills needed in technical jobs such as engineering and critical thinking skills.	3/8/2017 8:01 AM
192	Empty plants	3/8/2017 7:57 AM
193	See above response	3/8/2017 7:57 AM
194	There are many vacant area to work with.	3/8/2017 7:55 AM
195	Furniture lots of vacant furniture factories	3/8/2017 7:51 AM
196	No comment	3/8/2017 7:49 AM
197	Manufacturing Available buildings for manufacturing Specific job training	3/8/2017 7:42 AM
198	revamp building and bring in new companies	3/8/2017 7:32 AM
199	Vacant Buildings There are vacant plants/factories, as well as open land available for new growth.	3/8/2017 7:28 AM
200	Vacant Buildings There are lots of empty buildings that could hold future businesses	3/8/2017 7:23 AM
201	Vacant Buildings Have more textile businesses and use buildings for business instead of being empty	3/8/2017 7:21 AM
202	Furniture Vacant strip malls/shopping areas; vacant furniture/textiles.	3/8/2017 7:15 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

203	New Businesses Vacant Buildings We have so many empty stores that should be utilized by incoming businesses instead of new builds creating future empty stores if their businesses fail.	3/8/2017 7:15 AM
204	Poll WPCC to determine what graduation programs have been the most utilized in the past 6-7 yrs	3/8/2017 7:03 AM
205	Vacant Buildings There are many vacant company buildings across the county that could be utilized!	3/8/2017 6:56 AM
206	Furniture Vacant Buildings Vacant furniture plants	3/8/2017 6:55 AM
207	It wold be nice to have a Home Depot & some other companies that would build on the eastern end of the county. Not everything needs to be on the western end of the county.	3/8/2017 6:53 AM
208	Many open store fronts that could be used if prices were reasonable.	3/8/2017 6:19 AM
209	Vacant Buildings Vacant factory buildings abound, but most would not meet current building codes or are of inefficient design. Plenty of available land which is zoned commercial.	3/8/2017 6:14 AM
210	natural resources of rivers for kayaking, mountains for hiking; large state campuses for potential development;	3/7/2017 11:21 PM
211	Vacant Buildings See my commentary above. Reuse the empty buildings for those schools.	3/7/2017 11:06 PM
212	Vacant Buildings We have MANY vacant buildings and factories.	3/7/2017 10:58 PM
213	Manufacturing Renovations of large empty manufacturing plants	3/7/2017 10:47 PM
214	There are vacant stores, vacant factories, vacant, properties, and vacant houses. Introducing passenger train here could greatly boost tourism. Putting in a hike/bike trail from the Gorge to the South Mountains would increase outdoor recreation draw.	3/7/2017 10:21 PM
215	more growth in the Eastern part of the county	3/7/2017 10:03 PM
216	Unsure	3/7/2017 9:58 PM
217	I think that we could see a rise in technology jobs in our county. We have had an increase in technology plants in surrounding counties.	3/7/2017 9:42 PM
218	There are several older or unused structures that could be repurposed.	3/7/2017 9:32 PM
219	I don't know.	3/7/2017 9:25 PM
220	This county has no real growth. There are several empty industrial sites that could be repurposed.	3/7/2017 9:19 PM
221	Existing Spaces Furniture Vacant Buildings Vacant spaces where furniture plants used to be.	3/7/2017 9:08 PM
222	Furniture Vacant Buildings Our furniture industry's departure left many vacant buildings. Some have been repurposed, and some have been raised. However, I would like to see the vacant buildings used to attract other industries with the help of economic incentives.	3/7/2017 9:08 PM
223	Vacant shopping centers	3/7/2017 8:58 PM
224	"	3/7/2017 8:57 PM
225	We have an empty Fiddler's run and old Walmart. We have empty factories too. We need to fill these up and keep people from going to Hickory to spend money.	3/7/2017 8:55 PM
226	Mechatronics and empty storefronts in older shopping centers	3/7/2017 8:53 PM
227	Take advantage if existing structures at bcsd, broughton, etc	3/7/2017 8:46 PM
228	Manufacturing We are a manufacturing community.	3/7/2017 8:43 PM
229	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants, empty box stores	3/7/2017 8:35 PM
230	there are many empty places that could become places for learning and training- we have lots of talented craft people in the area and I am sure there are others who never had a chance	3/7/2017 8:31 PM
231	Vacant Buildings We have many vacant buildings that used to house "big box" stores.	3/7/2017 8:30 PM
232	See above	3/7/2017 8:27 PM
233	reviving old factories that have been closed and putting people back to work.	3/7/2017 8:26 PM
234	Furniture Vacant Buildings There are many empty furniture and textile buildings that could be used for businesses.	3/7/2017 8:20 PM
235	Existing Spaces Since the establishment of the new mall there are many empty spaces in existing strip malls.	3/7/2017 8:20 PM
236	Access to the interstate.	3/7/2017 8:12 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

237	Vacant stores and land with economic potential	3/7/2017 8:10 PM
238	?	3/7/2017 8:10 PM
239	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	3/7/2017 8:03 PM
240	Drexel plt. 1 propey developed	3/7/2017 8:01 PM
241	I see that as a great opportunity for economic growth and more jobs if the right businesses are attracted to and have incentives to open up in our area.	3/7/2017 7:51 PM
242	Vacant Buildings Job training, encourage redesign and use of vacant buildings, incentives to remodel existing structures	3/7/2017 7:50 PM
243	Vacant Buildings Fill the vacant buildings	3/7/2017 7:45 PM
244	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings empty manufacturing buildings	3/7/2017 7:40 PM
245	Vacant Buildings We have empty buildings that could be used to start new jobs	3/7/2017 7:39 PM
246	Make better use of existing campus facilities at NCSD. Place a regional law enforcement training center there. Math and science for middle school, etc. Renovate the athletic facilities to have a swimming pool that the high schools could use for competition. Bleachers for football field that Forest Hill Elementary could have used for their games.	3/7/2017 7:39 PM
247	More vocational studies in school.	3/7/2017 7:36 PM
248	Furniture Reuse of box stores and empty furniture industry businesses	3/7/2017 7:31 PM
249	Vacant Buildings Burke County has plenty of empty buildings that could be utilized if businesses were willing to come to this county.	3/7/2017 7:29 PM
250	Not sure	3/7/2017 7:25 PM
251	Vacant Buildings Vacant Walmart building on Burkemont Rd.	3/7/2017 7:24 PM
252	Vacant Buildings There are vacant buildings and big box stores (Fiddlers Run and Magnolia Plaza/Old WalMart location). Business should look at these opportunities. They are close to I-40 and on the fringe of the Morganton city limit so they are still close to town.	3/7/2017 7:22 PM
253	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings, land	3/7/2017 7:19 PM
254	get rid of republicans	3/7/2017 7:17 PM
255	Vacant Buildings Many vacant industrial buildings are present.	3/7/2017 7:12 PM
256	Create vocational opportunities for our youth to provide for the community.....greenhouses, training for vocational positions., etc.	3/7/2017 7:04 PM
257	New Businesses We have several older school buildings that could be used to house new businesses or even nice homes.	3/7/2017 7:03 PM
258	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	3/7/2017 6:57 PM
259	Hands on applications as well as problems solving and design.	3/7/2017 6:48 PM
260	Use old factory buildings for climbing gym to attract adventures tourism	3/7/2017 6:44 PM
261	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants, vacant stores and businesses	3/7/2017 6:43 PM
262	Develop the business park on Kathy. Road.	3/7/2017 6:43 PM
263	Workforce Large teacher/ state work force	3/7/2017 6:37 PM
264	Vacant Buildings Yes we have vacant plants. I think the strengths we offer are the mechanical skills, musical skills and the desire to serve the needs of others in our community.	3/7/2017 6:36 PM
265	Manufacturing Filling of box stored and empty manufacturing facilities would benefit tourism and consumers.	3/7/2017 6:34 PM
266	Furniture We have an empty business park that is available off Kathy road. Many of our furniture facilities are empty.	3/7/2017 6:22 PM
267	Existing Spaces Green space for recreational opportunities	3/7/2017 6:19 PM
268	Springs Roads has some opportunities for development, down through St. Peters Road. There is a nice boat access, which is a best kept secret. This area has the potential to develop into some type of recreational facility for families. It is a really beautiful unused area back there.	3/7/2017 6:15 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

269	Downtown Vacant Buildings Use those vacant buildings to develop lofts and apartments like downtown Winston-Salem is doing	3/7/2017 6:12 PM
270	Furniture Textile and furniture resources need to be utilized	3/7/2017 6:10 PM
271	When our children become juniors I school they need to learn a trade of some sort. All children are not college material. They need to get rid of common core out of schools.	3/7/2017 6:01 PM
272	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are a lot of vacant manufacturing plants to utilize.	3/7/2017 5:57 PM
273	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	3/7/2017 5:52 PM
274	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants	3/7/2017 5:50 PM
275	Vacant Buildings Bring a Target,Kohls to vacant buildings	3/7/2017 5:47 PM
276	Vacant Buildings Broughton Hospital just recently build a new building and the old hospital is vacant.	3/7/2017 5:41 PM
277	The county needs a PR person in advertising that promotes the areas historical and natural areas...such as Joara, Revolutionary War, Native American, Appalachian Culture. The natural hikes, the little known areas are not readily known.	3/7/2017 5:40 PM
278	Furniture Too many furniture factories sitting empty	3/7/2017 5:39 PM
279	Continue to convert empty structures into apartments, community centers, and small businesses.	3/7/2017 5:39 PM
280	Furniture Vacant factories exists in Burke. Skilled textile and furniture laborers are being lost to other counties/states due to related industry loss in the last couple decades.	3/7/2017 5:35 PM
281	Furniture Furniture used to be good	3/7/2017 5:33 PM
282	Manufacturing Too many empty manufacturing plants.	3/7/2017 5:32 PM
283	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Utilizing vacant manufacturing plants is a great idea. Building quality housing. Bring quality restaurants to the area. Creating additional outside places for families.	3/7/2017 5:32 PM
284	Manufacturing Provide manufacturing plants for the work environment. Box stores help the economy too.	3/7/2017 5:31 PM
285	Vacant Buildings Turn any vacant buildings into something useful, like a brewery.	3/7/2017 5:31 PM
286	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants	3/7/2017 5:29 PM
287	Furniture Abandoned textile and furniture plants	3/7/2017 5:28 PM
288	New Businesses Write more grants for replacing old buildings for new businesses	3/7/2017 5:23 PM
289	Vacant Buildings We have a lot of vacant buildings that could be used for businesses or other things.	3/7/2017 5:22 PM
290	Turn vacant stores into something with a purpose.	3/7/2017 5:19 PM
291	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	3/7/2017 5:18 PM
292	Answered in question 4	3/7/2017 5:17 PM
293	Existing Spaces Vacant Buildings There are many vacant textile buildings in Burke county that would offer other businesses ready made space.	3/7/2017 5:17 PM
294	We have prime industrial sites on railheads with ancillary industries.	3/7/2017 5:16 PM
295	Manufacturing Invest in engineering and manufacturing resource solutions	3/7/2017 5:13 PM
296	Encourage more industry to come into Burke though tax Breaks, compensation and incentive program packages to workers and use or renovations of so many of our vacant stores and factories.	3/7/2017 5:13 PM
297	Depressed people hungry for work.	3/7/2017 5:12 PM
298	Existing Spaces Furniture Vacant furniture factories and empty down town space.	3/7/2017 5:07 PM
299	Burke County has excellent public schools that prepares our students for the workforce and college.	3/7/2017 5:05 PM
300	Restore vacated buildings and invest in bringing back industry	3/7/2017 5:04 PM
301	Many old factory buildings could be used for new enterprises.	3/7/2017 5:04 PM
302	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants.	3/7/2017 5:03 PM
303	Downtown Craft breweries. Wine bars. Downtown restaurants. Housing downtown.	3/7/2017 4:49 PM
304	Vacant Buildings Vacant lots, buildings	3/7/2017 4:33 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

305	Unsure	3/7/2017 4:12 PM
306	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings A lot of vacant manufacturing buildings	3/7/2017 4:07 PM
307	Furniture re-purposing old furniture plants much like was done in Catawba County	3/7/2017 12:34 PM
308	none	3/7/2017 12:11 PM
309	Fiddler's Run Shopping Center - mostly empty	3/7/2017 12:06 PM
310	Vacant Buildings Multiple empty buildings. Work on tax breaks and other fringe benefits to entice businesses to fill those buildings. Other industry will follow the activity.	3/7/2017 11:55 AM
311	Downtown Vacant Buildings Encourage small business ownership. Tax incentives to fill vacant buildings. Grants to improve the look of downtown buildings. Marketing for county awareness.	3/7/2017 11:42 AM
312	Downtown Vacant Buildings Use vacant buildings in downtown Morganton to get vendors in - offer incentives to do business downtown	3/7/2017 11:37 AM
313	Existing Spaces There are multiple empty plant sites in Burke County and an abundance of space at Broughton Hospital. How could those resources be utilized versus just watching the deterioration.	3/7/2017 11:28 AM
314	Large tracts of state property that could be opportunities for public/private partnerships	3/7/2017 11:26 AM
315	Vacant Buildings more company's use the vacant buildings	3/7/2017 11:22 AM
316	Plenty of empty factories and stores.	3/7/2017 11:19 AM
317	Manufacturing We do have some empty manufacturing plants that could be revived.	3/7/2017 10:05 AM
318	Downtown Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings, continued downtown Morganton development	3/7/2017 9:38 AM
319	Furniture Vacant Buildings Vacant furniture plants and psychiatric hospital as well as acres of land that could be used for sustainable agriculture	3/7/2017 9:07 AM
320	Furniture Manufacturing Bring furniture manufacturing back. There are many experienced upholsterers that are unemployed.	3/7/2017 8:55 AM
321	Downtown Building a nice hotel close to downtown to draw more tourist. We have a beautiful town, breweries, TGIF's, a lot of tourist would come more and enjoy the downtown area if they had a close place to stay.	3/7/2017 8:44 AM
322	Education Burke County has natural beauty and an ideal location. The county's support for diversity, the arts, and education is paying off. Asheville's success has come because it has embraced liberal arts. Burke county seems to have finally recognized the benefits of this strategy.	3/7/2017 8:40 AM
323	People are willing to work and want good paying jobs in BC. Training can be offered at WPCC.	3/6/2017 10:42 PM
324	Vacant Buildings Utilize the Industrial Park beside I-40. This has been built for years, but never occupied. Try to use existing empty buildings to lure industry, rather than rushing to build new facilities.	3/6/2017 5:51 PM
325	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant business building to attract a corporate business. Manufacturing and accounting professions seem to be able to thrive.	3/6/2017 3:42 PM
326	New Businesses Vacant Buildings Renovation can be realized and economically unlike the expense for the Doblin building which has left a less than desirable building. Vacant structures are not necessary. Tax incentives may bring in new business.	3/6/2017 3:19 PM
327	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are several options of vacant manufacturing plants and box stores available.	3/6/2017 3:00 PM
328	Vacant Buildings Many stores and plants are still vacant, there is potential there. There is an entire, wonderful shopping center off of I-40 that is almost totally vacant.	3/6/2017 1:47 PM
329	Vacant Buildings Recent and ongoing road improvement of major intersections in high traffic areas, continuing to use vacant facilities - stores, plants, etc...	3/6/2017 1:35 PM
330	Robotics - building and using	3/6/2017 1:13 PM
331	* We do seem to have vacant areas. * We have strong trade programs at CVCC (mechatronics, welding, etc); however, I do not know if we have the jobs for those programs.	3/6/2017 1:06 PM
332	Vacant Buildings numerous vacant buildings	3/6/2017 12:55 PM
333	Education High speed, reliable internet infrastructure and affordable, widespread access for business, the community and education.	3/6/2017 12:25 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

334	Again, local businesses - brewery, crafts, restaurants, etc.	3/6/2017 12:20 PM
335	Fiddler's Run Shopping Center needs to be put to better use. I also feel like the K-Mart shopping complex is on its last leg.	3/6/2017 12:18 PM
336	Existing Spaces Vacant Buildings A lot of vacant buildings and spaces above businesses that can be renovated into living spaces.	3/6/2017 12:17 PM
337	Vacant Buildings Plenty of vacant buildings that can certainly be converted.	3/6/2017 11:46 AM
338	Vacant Buildings vacant plants School of Science and Math in 2020 Broughton campus redesign	3/6/2017 10:23 AM
339	Healthcare (i.e. CNA) and technology training for workforce	3/6/2017 10:10 AM
340	Downtown Furniture Manufacturing just about any technical field, manufacturing, agriculture. There are many old furniture factories sitting empty and downtown Taylorsville is just sad. I would love to see a brewery or something go there to give people a place to hang out.	3/6/2017 10:04 AM
341	Vacant Buildings Convert Magnolia Plaza vacant buildings into a homeless shelter with wrap around mental health and substance use services, supportive housing, creating tiny houses, etc.	3/6/2017 10:00 AM
342	entrepreneurship	3/5/2017 1:47 PM
343	Medical and pharmaceuticals. Sports and recreation. Progressive farming.	3/5/2017 8:46 AM
344	Furniture Furniture skills,	3/4/2017 5:56 PM
345	Should remove unsightly, vacant businesses. Looks very depressing when driving past and doesn't facilitate a healthy, robust economy.	3/4/2017 4:49 PM
346	Vacant Buildings Most of the vacant buildings have been bulldozed down. When will the Corning building be bulldozed down?	3/4/2017 4:36 PM
347	Manufacturing Burke County has a lot of manufacturing plants and empty lots/box stores that could attract businesses and growth.	3/4/2017 12:30 PM
348	NCSSM 2012 and Broughton Re-purpose is a 100 year impact event for city and county. Need better highway corridor for north /south through Burke. Outer years Caldwell and McDowell will have improved 4 lanes to the lesser advantage of Burke. 4 lane planning speed-up of Hwy 18 Morganton to Lenoir 10 miles would greatly help.	3/3/2017 6:08 PM
349	We don't have much to offer. Our workforce is limited. Most of our mfg assets are old school. We'll have to build to get anyone to come here.	3/3/2017 5:01 PM
350	Vacant Buildings I think Hickory has done a great job of repurposing vacant plants and perhaps more modeling can be done in other areas of Catawba and Burke counties. In Burke Co., there are adaptive capabilities in Fiddlers Crossing since so many stores left to move to the new Wal-Mart.	3/3/2017 4:19 PM
351	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Several vacant manufacturing plants and stores	3/3/2017 3:41 PM
352	We have a good bone structure as far as buildings and land.	3/3/2017 3:33 PM
353	Furniture There are dead or dying furniture plant buildings and strip malls all over this county. Aren't there are a lot of former Drexel and Henredon employees with furniture and upholstery skills?	3/3/2017 3:09 PM
354	None. Unskilled workforce and unusable built environment.	3/3/2017 3:09 PM
355	Manufacturing "New" manufacturing is looking for a smaller footprint with a taller ceiling height to maximize the ROI. The svschools MUST take the initiative to bring back vocational skills. Computers are great, but they cannot come to your home and repair plumbing or electrical issues.	3/3/2017 3:02 PM
356	Workforce development	3/3/2017 2:45 PM
357	Furniture The furniture academy is an excellent example. The vacant hospital would be awesome to entice health care services back to the county.	3/3/2017 9:18 AM
358	Vacant Buildings Vacant Buildings	3/2/2017 8:23 PM
359	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants and grocery stores	3/2/2017 10:40 AM
360	Downtown Vacant Buildings Many vacant buildings in downtown taylorsville.	3/2/2017 7:47 AM
361	There are various large parcels of land for sale in the hildibrand and long view areas for business development and as an added bonus they have access to a major railroad Norfolk Southern for transporting or importing finished goods.	3/1/2017 8:55 PM
362	Re entry advantages	3/1/2017 6:00 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

363	Use all the old plant buildings in Burke Co that have closed down for economic opportunities	3/1/2017 4:01 PM
364	Education Partner with community resources such as after school program, YMCA, and libraries to leverage educational programming to reach ALL youth in skill development	3/1/2017 3:21 PM
365	Local Amazon distributor is the only thing I can think of, honestly I have no idea	3/1/2017 3:07 PM
366	Furniture Manufacturing Different types of manufacturing would be good at this time it is mostly Furniture factors.	3/1/2017 2:58 PM
367	Furniture Vacant Buildings vacant stores and furniture plants	3/1/2017 2:57 PM
368	Vacant Buildings We have many empty buildings that need to be used. We have many needs for our people in this county that are not being met,	3/1/2017 2:52 PM
369	Vacant business turn into as work place	3/1/2017 2:03 PM
370	Existing Spaces Use current space instead of building new space.	3/1/2017 11:57 AM
371	Infrastructure changes that create more drought resilient communities.	3/1/2017 8:15 AM
372	Build more spect building in hopes of drawing more business	3/1/2017 5:55 AM
373	New Businesses Vacant Buildings We have a lot of existing empty structures that could be re-purposed by companies instead of allowing new construction. I would like to see more use of what we already have instead of building new structures that may become vacant in another few years because the businesses go under or move out of the area.	2/28/2017 3:43 PM
374	The strategic reuse of the Historic Broughton Campus can be a major driver for our economy. This can lead to the re-development of other under-used or blighted properties	2/28/2017 3:26 PM
375	i'm not sure at this point	2/28/2017 8:49 AM
376	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	2/28/2017 12:31 AM
377	"Older" knowledge and skills base of Woodworking, metal-working, upholstery, could be trained and apprenticed into more CNC-based machine skills for high-school-only . "Newer" technology, coding, machine-printing, health services skills also need strong college support and tie-ins with local industries.	2/27/2017 10:54 AM
378	Trade schools	2/27/2017 10:06 AM
379	Training Worker	2/27/2017 9:53 AM
380	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant shopping centers and manufacturing buildings that should be repurposed	2/27/2017 8:52 AM
381	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings We have lots of empty building for manufacturing.	2/27/2017 8:08 AM
382	Downtown Alternative Energy Sources, Tourism, Revitalize the downtown area.	2/26/2017 6:03 PM
383	Renovation of existing facilities to accommodate businesses	2/26/2017 4:13 PM
384	There are several unoccupied buildings or units that could be utilized to provide work places or gathering places in the community. Bowling alleys have been repeatedly mentioned, but something of that nature would provide jobs to the community as well as attractions that keep people in the county spending money. Simple appropriate entertainment opportunities would do a lot to keep our small town thriving.	2/26/2017 7:16 AM
385	Education Vacant Buildings There are a number of vacant buildings due to the loss of industry in the county. Most of the skilled labor in our county (skilled in industrial labor) has reached retirement age. Those who aren't of retirement age have trouble finding work. I don't know what adaptive capabilities our county has unless it's in the medical field, educational field, or low wage labor.	2/25/2017 7:42 PM
386	N/A	2/25/2017 1:02 PM
387	I think there are many places that Burke County can improve the workforce. They need to be more adaptive to the growing industries and help secure more jobs.	2/25/2017 1:14 AM
388	None	2/24/2017 7:34 PM
389	Manufacturing Manufacturing, small business	2/24/2017 6:47 PM
390	Vacant Buildings Utilize the vacant buildings to attract businesses or use the buildings for beneficial purposes such as an emergency shelter, etc.	2/24/2017 6:38 PM
391	I have noticed the growing shrub and agricultural business in Burke County. Many people in Burke County are geared towards jobs in this field, which can benefit the overall economy.	2/24/2017 6:27 PM
392	Existing Spaces We have lots of vacant industrial space and a lack of non-income based apartments.	2/24/2017 6:07 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

393	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants in Morganton and Valdese Vacant storefronts in Morganton (Burkemont Avenue and Enola Road)	2/24/2017 5:35 PM
394	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants, empty shopping centers	2/24/2017 5:33 PM
395	Existing Spaces We need to keep more of the workforce from leaving the county. Develop additional space for businesses to expand or locate here.	2/24/2017 4:54 PM
396	Downtown Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Several former manufacturing facilities are vacant and some downtown business buildings are also vacant. Tenants can be attracted to these facilities due to their proximity to a thoroughfare (US 64) and nearby interstate highways, as well as the utilities infrastructure already in place.	2/24/2017 4:45 PM
397	land for retirees to build on	2/24/2017 4:42 PM
398	Redesign of vacant areas. Be a destination for the next generation by providing housing and recreational opportunities	2/24/2017 4:35 PM
399	Addition of outdoor parks/assets that could attract younger citizens to area...mountain biking, kayaking, other.	2/24/2017 3:26 PM
400	Building business parks - public and private, then sell	2/24/2017 3:16 PM
401	Existing Spaces Provide support to demolish & environmentally clean abandoned factories. This will more easily provide space to build new factories since generally water, sewer, high capacity electricity is already in place.	2/24/2017 3:12 PM
402	No sewer availability is stunting growth in area. We need to work diligently on a solution to this problem.	2/24/2017 2:53 PM
403	Manufacturing Individuals suited for manufacturing & local community colleges (WPCC/CVCC) who can train individuals in technical skills. In my opinion, Morganton also has a better nightlight for young adults than Hickory has. The greenway and ALLLL the parks are a plus!	2/24/2017 2:44 PM
404	Skating rink , bowling ally in abandoned wal mart.	2/24/2017 2:42 PM
405	New Businesses The local government is very easy to work with and welcome new business owners with limited experience. Very supportive and helpful with start-ups	2/24/2017 2:42 PM
406	Education Furniture With woodworking and craftsmanship, furniture is still king here. Friendly people, but education is a bit of a barrier.	2/24/2017 2:40 PM
407	High schools and community colleges offering courses to provide skills that employers are looking for.	2/24/2017 12:53 PM
408	Alexander County's adaptive capabilities are the community of Bethlehem. Currently the Bethlehem Community pays 30% of the county property taxes. If Bethlehem had sewer available it could attract business and development that could bring in more revenue in from Catawba County and more residential development to increase the property tax income for the county. Sewer is imperative for the development of Bethlehem.	2/23/2017 10:54 PM
409	Education The major employers are in healthcare, but we have CaseFarms and Continetal that hire those with a High School Education/GED or bellow. We need more jobs like that.	2/23/2017 10:28 PM
410	Vacant Buildings Use of vacant buildings for attracting new retail.	2/23/2017 7:41 PM
411	I don't know.	2/23/2017 6:52 PM
412	New Businesses Vacant Buildings I would like to see vacant buildings torn down and something new in it's place or remodel them for new business.	2/23/2017 1:00 PM
413	Reuse of existing buildings and facilities	2/23/2017 12:50 PM
414	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants,	2/23/2017 12:48 PM
415	Workforce Start with working ethics from an early age. Our work force needs to know that YOU will have to work and YOU should understand why, working responsibilities and that there is a chain of command with respect to supervision (Everyone can't be the Boss).	2/23/2017 11:56 AM
416	I see a highly trainable workforce available that was laid off as factories left town. Partner CVCC with factories to get the workforce job skills they need.	2/23/2017 11:53 AM
417	Manufacturing The lake can and is being adapted to be an indirect economic driver. The buildings need to be completely redone for the most part for manufacturing use to current specifications and the demand (or spec buildings). I believe that programs to productive adapt the actual workforce are there but came about a few years too late as many capable workers have completely left the workforce, through one way or another.	2/23/2017 10:39 AM
418	Businesses need water and sewer.	2/23/2017 9:06 AM
419	Vacant Buildings There are big boxes, warehouses and smaller buildings that are vacant that should be recycled or remodeled to bring in newly inspired businesses.	2/22/2017 1:11 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

420	Vacant Buildings Several empty buildings can be used for aquaponics, or mushroom farms.	2/22/2017 10:44 AM
421	Promote the local community colleges and make them affordable to new students to develop skills.	2/22/2017 7:58 AM
422	Encourage pro union companies (not just companies that are anti union).	2/22/2017 3:35 AM
423	Unsure.	2/21/2017 9:27 PM
424	Great landscape for promoting healthy living, working and playing. This should be focus given the current health condition of many of the residents.	2/21/2017 8:30 PM
425	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There is an abundance of vacant box stores (some brand new) and manufacturing plants that can guide a strategic renewal process.	2/21/2017 6:39 PM
426	There is amazing opportunity for small businesses of they had the capital to start up.	2/21/2017 4:46 PM
427	No idea what this question is about...	2/21/2017 4:20 PM
428	Perhaps tax incentives to fill empty business locations in town	2/21/2017 2:40 PM
429	not certain	2/21/2017 1:57 PM
430	Vacant Buildings Look just about anywhere in the county and you will find empty buildings.	2/21/2017 12:45 PM
431	Furniture Manufacturing We have people who know production, from furniture to fiber optic cables. Bring in more manufacturing to leverage those skills.	2/21/2017 12:37 PM
432	Manufacturing New Businesses Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants and buildings, a strong chamber and a great initiative to support business locally and entice new and young talent to come to our area.	2/21/2017 12:18 PM
433	Downtown Existing Spaces Manufacturing New Businesses Investing in existing spaces by potentially lowering tax rates, giving tax credits for small businesses that want to use existing downtown manufacturing or retail spaces, and encouraging outside chains and larger businesses to renovate existing spaces and occupy them rather than clearing land and building new spaces.	2/21/2017 11:51 AM
434	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Continued transformation and re-purposing of vacant manufacturing facilities and removal of dilapidated buildings will create a fresh slate for new industry.	2/21/2017 10:21 AM
435	Revitalization of brownfield sites. Business and industrial park(s). Sound and scalable infrastructure.	2/21/2017 8:24 AM
436	I do not see any that are vital and are not fulfilled.	2/20/2017 10:06 PM
437	Clean up the county of old buildings that are no longer in use. The more run down they look the more it looks like business does not work in our county.	2/20/2017 8:16 PM
438	Nothing for google, they took the money and ran. What a joke for our county.	2/20/2017 3:43 PM
439	Furniture New Businesses Vacant Buildings We have several vacant buildings that were former furniture plants, that could be utilized for new businesses.	2/20/2017 2:30 PM
440	We have several large plants that are either empty or partially empty.	2/20/2017 12:57 PM
441	This county needs a comprehensive revitalization project to modernize existing structures, offer incentives for tourist and out of county and state businesses to invest in Alexander County.	2/20/2017 12:10 PM
442	Vacant Buildings vacant buildings, factories, etc	2/20/2017 10:32 AM
443	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Plenty of vacant manufacturing plants and empty buildings in county and town of Taylorsville.	2/20/2017 10:32 AM
444	capacity in water treatment facilities	2/20/2017 9:50 AM
445	New Businesses Vacant Buildings the majority of our workforce has no special skills, no new jobs coming in to require/train for special skills. the majority of our workforce has stopped looking for work and are living off our dime. there are too many vacant unsightly buildings, but too costly to renovate or remove. with no new businesses, no money comes into the county to help fund these efforts.	2/20/2017 9:39 AM
446	Furniture Manufacturing New Businesses This county has several furniture and manufacturing facilities that could be utilized for new businesses or bought by the county for parks, recreation, schools, daycare centers, etc.	2/20/2017 9:24 AM
447	Furniture We have several furniture plants that could be converted to new industry or used as shipping warehouses for whole sale companies.	2/20/2017 9:22 AM
448	I SEE HICKORY AND CONOVER USING OLD VACANT BUSINESSES BY CLEANING THEM UP AND PUUTING SMALL BUSINESSES IN THEM. "WORKS WELL"	2/20/2017 9:13 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

449	Downtown More spec buildings. Convert older buildings in our downtown urban core to residential over retail.	2/20/2017 9:08 AM
450	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings There are plenty of empty buildings, however they are not to code for many of the larger manufacturing businesses that may look to come to the community.	2/20/2017 8:59 AM
451	Existing Spaces Manufacturing Turning vacant manufacturing space in retail/office/residential.	2/20/2017 8:39 AM
452	New Businesses Utilize vacancies like the Market Basket which is vacant to draw new business and offer county tax incentives to new initiatives, as well.	2/20/2017 1:03 AM
453	Vacant Buildings several vacant buildings/box stores good location	2/19/2017 6:15 PM
454	Hickory and Catawba county do not adapt this why we are behind our neighboring counties who have like Lincoln Gaston Buncombe Iredell	2/18/2017 9:32 PM
455	Convert old buildings into a purpose to care for the less populations or tear down them to take the lack of safety away.	2/18/2017 6:06 PM
456	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	2/18/2017 3:51 PM
457	Furniture There are many people from the furniture industry or textile industry here that are knowledgeable but there is no opportunity for them.	2/18/2017 9:07 AM
458	Put more money in the music scene , everyone and there brother have talent and with some events and grant money would help a lot. More exposure!	2/17/2017 6:15 PM
459	Vacant Buildings A good number of vacant buildings are located here.	2/17/2017 5:18 PM
460	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants for sure.	2/17/2017 5:04 PM
461	Vacant Buildings We have many factory type buildings and empty storefronts that could contribute to renewing the economy if emphasis is taken off immediate profit and put on future economic stability.	2/17/2017 4:32 PM
462	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	2/17/2017 4:30 PM
463	Existing Spaces Vacant Buildings The people in the county need more soft skills and there are plenty of vacant plants & office spaces available that could be utilized to accomplish this as well as encouraging businesses to move to the area	2/17/2017 3:59 PM
464	There needs to be an emphasis on careers in the local schools and there is a need for middle class housing.	2/17/2017 3:28 PM
465	Expanding the County's water system and developing a sewer system would help bring more businesses.	2/17/2017 2:58 PM
466	Vacant Buildings many empty buildings that could be utilized or refurbished to house other businesses, or housing options for homeless, lower income, as well as others	2/17/2017 2:30 PM
467	A plan for reuse of existing land and facilities.	2/17/2017 2:24 PM
468	Vacant retail	2/17/2017 1:58 PM
469	Vacant Buildings There are still many vacant buildings that could serve as sites for future business and industrial growth.	2/17/2017 1:49 PM
470	Vacant Buildings Remodel more vacant plants for local art sales, food, and clothing.	2/17/2017 12:36 PM
471	Furniture Furniture and textile industries have shut down plants in the area and people have to retrain or move away. The opportunity here is for county leaders to encourage new industries to move here, take advantage of the plants that have been abandoned, take advantage of the skilled workforce available and work with colleges and high schools in training workers.	2/17/2017 11:10 AM
472	Vacant Buildings Vacant buildings	2/17/2017 10:25 AM
473	Need more toolmaker/machinist training programs and focus in the high schools and community college systems. Need enhanced hands-on skilled labor training.	2/17/2017 9:17 AM
474	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings there are vacant manufacturing plants and box stores available.	2/17/2017 9:00 AM
475	I don't know.	2/17/2017 8:31 AM
476	Vacant Buildings Lots of vacant buildings - old galaxy could become an ALdi which would do great in Alexander county.	2/17/2017 8:12 AM
477	None	2/17/2017 8:00 AM
478	Improved skill set such as computer skills and technical skills in labor force	2/17/2017 7:57 AM
479	Utilizing old vacant factories would be a big plus. Hickory seems to be doing well at that	2/17/2017 2:05 AM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

480	Vacant Buildings Vacant plants, progressive community college	2/16/2017 11:28 PM
481	Education Developing the Broughton Property, Partnering with both private individual, companies and state and federal governments to enhance the opportunities. Faster training and education to produce the skilled workers needed for new hi-tech industries.	2/16/2017 10:03 PM
482	Manufacturing This is not a manufacturing resource, but adaptation of the community to become even more receptive to our country's retiring population.	2/16/2017 9:16 PM
483	Lots of opportunity for business	2/16/2017 9:06 PM
484	The workforce is undereducated and superstitious. There needs to be widespread support for life long learning as there is for the high school football teams. Leaders should examine how their personal lives reflect the past and CLOSE OUT CHANGE,	2/16/2017 8:00 PM
485	Vacant Buildings There are some vacant plants but not as many as a year ago. We have a trainable workforce. Technical and skilled programs should return to the high school in addition to internship opportunities for high school students.	2/16/2017 6:07 PM
486	don't restrict	2/16/2017 5:54 PM
487	Manufacturing Empty stores in Taylorsville Former Walmart bldg. Several empty manufacturing locations	2/16/2017 5:27 PM
488	Available sites with rail connection.	2/16/2017 5:21 PM
489	The old hospital. It would be great to redevelop into a community center. It could house the Health Department, DSS, and even a drug rehab/counseling center.	2/16/2017 5:18 PM
490	Downtown Vacant Buildings Downtown Taylorsville and Bethlehem need to developed....empty buildings need businesses.	2/16/2017 5:06 PM
491	Locate Jobs for the Older 50plus people who have lived here their entire life and paid taxes.	2/16/2017 5:01 PM
492	Furniture Manufacturing Expanding the CVCC furniture manufacturing training facility to train more specific electronics, etc.	2/16/2017 4:34 PM
493	Furniture Manufacturing Furniture manufacturing skills, industrial park land availability	2/16/2017 4:28 PM
494	rail, freeways, skilled and motivated workforce, open land and brownfields, Sunshine, climate	2/16/2017 4:27 PM
495	Focus on what makes Alexander County appealing to begin with and grow that. Spend less time trying to force Alexander County into the 21 Century. By doing that we are contributing to an average world that in comparison of what we are capable of being is well below average currently.	2/16/2017 4:13 PM
496	Vacant Buildings vacant walmart building empty grocery store	2/16/2017 4:11 PM
497	Alexander County should have some of its focus on markets outside of Alexander County	2/16/2017 4:06 PM
498	Vacant Buildings We need uptown restaurants and shops. There is plenty of room and vacant buildings. Need an entertainment venue and schedule. After work social opportunities could also be hosted. All in an effort to keep local citizens in the county rather than taking this business to other counties.	2/16/2017 4:02 PM
499	Vacant Buildings Some adaptive use has been made thus far, but there are other opportunities as there are plenty of empty storefronts and larger production buildings. The hospital building is a sorely missed opportunity for creative adaptation.	2/16/2017 3:59 PM
500	Vacant Buildings many vacant plants and box stores that could be converted to other indoor recreation use such as an ice skating rink or other recreational or entertainment venue	2/16/2017 3:41 PM
501	Caldwell Community College	2/16/2017 3:24 PM
502	Existing Spaces Use more spaces to provide housing for homeless	2/16/2017 2:58 PM
503	Existing Spaces Plenty of large building space which might require a lot of capital to make usable.	2/16/2017 2:47 PM
504	The localized access to highway and interstates systems.	2/16/2017 1:28 PM
505	Perhaps work with surrounding counties to make things happen for both counties? Every county seems to have their own set of strengths and weaknesses...perhaps one can help support the other and both can benefit from working together.	2/16/2017 1:14 PM
506	Business centers like recent Springs Road growth - away from just hwy 70 growth.	2/16/2017 1:13 PM
507	There is a wealth of resources (students) in our schools-collaborate and work with the school systems to advance our kids and provide them with opportunities.	2/16/2017 12:08 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

508	create an environment where young adults return here after college	2/16/2017 12:08 PM
509	Large areas of land for building distribution centers	2/16/2017 11:22 AM
510	Manufacturing Should turn an old manufacturing plant into a new senior center in the Newton area.	2/16/2017 11:08 AM
511	The good old "Tech" schools should be brought back that teach specific trades without requiring the extra classes like art appreciation that don't apply to the actual job.	2/16/2017 11:06 AM
512	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings vacant manufacturing plants; stores	2/16/2017 10:53 AM
513	I like the fact that some of the older buildings have been remodeled and repurposed in the area, it would be nice to see more of that happening instead of new buildings being built.	2/16/2017 10:46 AM
514	New Businesses Purchase an area of run-down houses, raze them, build new affordable houses (available to even high income people) sell the houses at a slight profit. The area will be revitalized, making it more attractive to future businesses and workers, and the tax revenue will be higher than it is from run-down properties.	2/16/2017 10:46 AM
515	Education Educational opportunities are available through numerous college satellite programs. ASU, WCU, Lees McRae, CVCC, WPCC, CCC&TI etc. once skills/degrees are achieved, individuals move to areas where pay rates are higher, Charlotte/Asheville.	2/16/2017 10:37 AM
516	there are a lot of people who only have a high school degree	2/16/2017 10:25 AM
517	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants, limited advancement opportunities in the area. Limited progression in innovation and diversity.	2/16/2017 10:24 AM
518	Education Furniture Vacant Buildings Catawba County has a large number of vacant plants and mills. Some great work has already happened with the renovation of Moretz Mills and the Transportation Insight buildings, but I'd love to see that extend to the underutilized areas of Longview and the remainder of the county (Conover, Maiden, etc). Without knowing the number of existing mattress stores in the county, I know there is a documented phenomenon of mattress stores occupying empty big box buildings, especially after 2008. (http://freakonomics.com/podcast/mattress-store-bubble/). This is a successful model because of low barrier to entry and low overhead, and would work nicely with the existing furniture industry and sales. For the outlying areas of the county, many practices that are standard have come into vogue in the popularity of organic production and a "more simplified life" (for example, canning, cooking from scratch, gardening, raising livestock). We have a wealth of knowledge that have lived their entire lives based on that experience, and would probably appreciate being able to share it. A great educational and developmental opportunity exists if we can connect our native experts with people from other areas that want to learn these skills. Much value could be added by transforming our existing farmland into specialty production or energy production (solar panels, etc).	2/16/2017 10:07 AM
519	Instead of building new resource the old and preserve the great history of our county	2/16/2017 9:41 AM
520	see #4	2/16/2017 9:22 AM
521	Vacant Buildings plenty of vacant old plants and stores that could be repurposed	2/16/2017 9:09 AM
522	Vacant Buildings I see that there are several projects in process and that have been completed utilizing these empty buildings and with great success. It is a great idea to continue the renovation of more buildings.	2/16/2017 9:05 AM
523	There are a lot of old buildings that could be revamped.	2/16/2017 8:48 AM
524	Yes, many company's are adapting to these existing dwellings	2/16/2017 8:36 AM
525	Vacant Buildings I'm sure there are vacant plants. Just don't know alot about that	2/16/2017 8:25 AM
526	We have plentiful old factories and buildings that could be repurposed.	2/16/2017 8:10 AM
527	Manufacturing Redevelopment of former manufacturing sites/buildings and land-use planning for future growth	2/16/2017 8:04 AM
528	Manufacturing There needs to be different places that the young people can go- drug free. More manufacture plants for those that have the skills and lost their jobs	2/15/2017 11:38 PM
529	Vacant Buildings Multiple empty buildings	2/15/2017 10:23 PM
530	Capitalize on natural environment, there is plenty of unused buildings.	2/15/2017 10:11 PM
531	One level housing is needed for the aging adults or one level condos.	2/15/2017 7:39 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

532	Vacant Buildings Workforce Adaptive capabilities?? If you have to define what you are asking you can assume it is not understood. There are numerous vacant buildings, that is not an asset. Rather just the opposite. Strategic renewal should start with natural positive assets that can bridge and connect to other industries and assets. Our workforce is not very good but we have done it to ourselves. We have pushed out those willing to work, being left with those not capable or willing. The only way to fix is to bring in/attract a skilled or semi skilled workforce from elsewhere as well as put things in place where those less fortunate (criminal past, addiction, etc..) can build skills and remain employed. We also have to stop catering to box box stores without forcing them to create and build attractive buildings. They want to be here, especially walmart. To let them continue to build extremely unattractive buildings does nothing but continue to devalue the entire area.	2/15/2017 7:15 PM
533	Furniture Manufacturing catawba county needs to think outside the box and keep moving away from furniture manufacturing and move towards more hi-tech	2/15/2017 6:26 PM
534	Workforce Give some of these buildings a face lift & start up some kind of work force where folks can make a decent living, own a home & try to teach their children the rewards of working instead of having everything given to them & they never understand what it is like to own a home. Restore some of the older homes in the count & allow folks to help with the restoration & be able to own a home. Most buildings & houses should be restored & put to use.	2/15/2017 6:17 PM
535	Maybe encourage more technical schools here to create a workforce of advanced technicians - Maybe a Western Region School of Science and Math or maybe a Western Region : Research Triangle Park	2/15/2017 5:36 PM
536	Many vacant warehouses / mills.	2/15/2017 5:34 PM
537	Catawba County needs more scientific research, environmental, and healthcare opportunities.	2/15/2017 5:27 PM
538	Education Vacant Buildings Get rid of all the vacant buildings that have sat here for years falling into disrepair. It makes our county look like a war zone. How can you expect houses to sell at a premium when there may be 2 or 3 derelict commercial buildings on the same road. Stop building parks all over the place. Parks are nice, but there are so many other areas the county could focus on. Support education and the arts. Fix up the streets and stop lights to allow the better movement of goods. It would be nice to have an expressway from northern Catawba County to the new Hwy 16. If you want money to come into the county people need to be able to move around the county quickly.	2/15/2017 5:19 PM
539	Downtown Downtown infill, building reuse	2/15/2017 5:00 PM
540	Turn old ware houses / plants into affordable living areas, develop self sufficient mini communities	2/15/2017 4:57 PM
541	Manufacturing Strong manufacturing workforce or low skill labor. Workforce can be trained to do higher skill jobs, and should train workforce for higher skill jobs. Update some of the old homes in the area.	2/15/2017 4:56 PM
542	Existing Spaces There seems to be a lot of empty retail space that could be re-purposed for needed ventures (e.g., senior care).	2/15/2017 4:55 PM
543	Vacant Buildings still a number of vacant factories and other business buildings	2/15/2017 4:55 PM
544	open source learning centers in vacant locations computer literacy programs offer positive psychology structure to improve generational poverty	2/15/2017 4:55 PM
545	Downtown More mixed use (Walkable) communities. Improve downtown areas which already has the structure in place.	2/15/2017 4:47 PM
546	Vacant Buildings There are numerous vacant buildings that could house buisnesses	2/15/2017 4:44 PM
547	Burke County needs to encourage more growth in inviting bigger and more corporations to offer more of a variety of jobs.	2/15/2017 4:44 PM
548	Vacant Buildings Partner with local entrepreneurs to renovate vacant buildings for discounted use in their business	2/15/2017 4:27 PM
549	Existing Spaces Furniture Manufacturing There are a lot of people who know the furniture trades, but most of them are retired. Maybe some could be retrained for more modern furniture manufacturing. There are a lot of empty manufacturing facilities. Maybe some of these spaces could be renovated and repurposed. A lot of county residents make pottery, either as a hobby or as an occupation. More could be done to market and support these persons.	2/15/2017 4:27 PM
550	Vacant Buildings there are many vacant factories and box stores available in the County. The old KMart building area has been renovated and has sat unfilled for several years now.	2/15/2017 4:19 PM
551	Give the small business man a break. There are so many county codes and ordinances compared to neighboring county's like Lincoln that it is ridiculous.	2/15/2017 4:19 PM
552	Existing Spaces I like that the County has used a lot of the old mills and created new spaces instead of tearing them down. they are a part of our history and now can be a part of our future as well.	2/15/2017 4:15 PM
553	Vacant Buildings There are plenty of run down vacant building where the lots can be turned into open gardens and such	2/15/2017 4:14 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

554	Existing Spaces Vacant Buildings We have a lot of vacant structures in the county that could be used for various businesses. The hard part is updating the buildings and having a usable space. Possibly some type of grant to help businesses update buildings.	2/15/2017 4:12 PM
555	Furniture Vacant Buildings there are a lot of vacant furniture plants and the old Kmart building are vacant. I'd like to see some good anchor stores come in that appeal to the middle class.	2/15/2017 4:10 PM
556	Vacant Buildings Renovating vacant buildings.	2/15/2017 3:39 PM
557	Education Vacant Buildings Currently, I do see some vacant buildings that could be renewed into a multi use building or what I would like to see is a stronger small business or entrepreneurship incubation building. We do have an abundance of workforce with labor skills but lacking in skill trades, or secondary education skills.	2/15/2017 3:33 PM
558	Existing Spaces New Businesses There are still lots of vacant mills. I don't know if they are the best spaces to unfit for new businesses.	2/15/2017 2:49 PM
559	Manufacturing Need to development of greater skills in the robotics field and machining side of manufacturing.	2/15/2017 2:12 PM
560	Existing Spaces Manufacturing We do have vacant spaces in the county that are suitable for new manufacturing facilities.	2/15/2017 1:51 PM
561	R&D, technology	2/15/2017 1:50 PM
562	Old Kmart Bldg. in Conover.	2/15/2017 1:25 PM
563	the old kmart store in conover	2/15/2017 1:20 PM
564	Education Catawba County must ready to move-in shell buildings ready for industries to move into. The lack of shell buildings has cost the County thousands of jobs in the last 10 years. Also, the focus should be on bringing jobs that pay above a living wage and preferably starting salaries of at least \$40,000 per year. People will not move or stay in a county/region were all of the available jobs pay between \$8.00 and \$10.00 per hour. County residents must also strive to improve their educational attainment level and job training skills.	2/15/2017 12:33 PM
565	Attract young people	2/15/2017 11:53 AM
566	Vacant Buildings I think there are plenty of vacant plants in the county that could be repurposed.	2/15/2017 11:41 AM
567	Vacant Buildings There are a number of vacant buildings/properties in the Hickory, Lenoir, Morganton area that could be renovated. This has been successfully completed in Hickory in a number of locations.	2/15/2017 11:40 AM
568	Downtown we need to invest in our downtowns - people are drawn to lively downtowns - creating incentives for retail and food and downtown living could be game-changing.	2/15/2017 11:13 AM
569	Existing Spaces New Businesses Vacant Buildings We have lots of vacant buildings that could provide the space for new or expanding businesses and industries. We have a strong community college that can train the needed workforce.	2/15/2017 11:02 AM
570	Education In this area we have Google and Apple. Let's utilize the momentum of these companies to further expand technological and web development opportunities. App technologies are among the fastest growing technologies in the world- let's teach our kids to write the code to develop these apps through the public school systems, community college and LRU. Bringing faster internet access to education agencies and to the home. e.g., Google Fiber, etc. could open significant opportunities for our area. There are examples of companies developing or relocating to areas where the highest internet access is available (note: this is NOT what is currently provided through Charter Spectrum, etc.). Look at an example in Salisbury, NC - the first US city to provide 10 GB internet. In areas where funding is provided to teach through public schools - the economic development always follows. Look to Mooresville for a premier example. Within the last 7-10 years they implemented a one-to-one initiative in their public schools - student achievement increased along with the housing market and local economic development. The formula for successful economic development is clear - invest in a comprehensive effort through local public schools. We can make this happen in Hickory and thrive once again. Investing in public schools is the key factor.	2/15/2017 11:00 AM
571	Need to find industry that takes of advantage of existing labor force rather than changing labor force.	2/15/2017 10:42 AM
572	Manufacturing There is a lot of old manufacturing infrastructure to repurpose. There may be unused railroad tracks to convert using Rails to Trails.	2/15/2017 10:21 AM
573	The county needs to review their ordinances. There are many people that come and visit Burke County, but chose no the live in the area due to the high number of ordinances.	2/15/2017 9:57 AM
574	Furniture More "trade" blue collar skill training in schools and community colleges Repurpose old furniture factories, town of Drexel? Arts and crafts	2/14/2017 9:22 PM
575	Existing Spaces Shared use space that motivates social cohesion and shared work collaboration while promoting tourism/social assets of the community too.	2/14/2017 8:31 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

576	Furniture Used to be really big in furniture.	2/14/2017 7:37 PM
577	We have lots of vacant factories and stores.	2/14/2017 5:45 PM
578	Downtown There are many closed down stores downtown, they could be turned into something more productive.	2/14/2017 4:11 PM
579	Vacant Buildings too many empty buildings	2/14/2017 3:48 PM
580	The old Wal-Mart would be a great indoor greenhouse to help grow some fruit trees and vegetables that could be sold cheaply or donated to local produce stands or burger shops to help lower the price of food. Once again the high school agriculture and volunteers could help maintain the building.	2/14/2017 1:46 PM
581	Manufacturing Vacant and cleared lots for manufacturing that has remained vacant since land was prepped 10years ago. Vacant factories.	2/14/2017 1:22 PM
582	Manufacturing Manufacturing workforce with several vacant storefronts and warehouses.	2/14/2017 1:13 PM
583	Manufacturing Older manufacturing plants can be repurposed. Rivers, mountains, agriculture sector tourism. Emphasis of existing equestrian facilities. Apple cider brewery.	2/14/2017 12:11 PM
584	I want to see the leadership (civic, businesses, elected officials) in Alexander County/Taylorsville come together to create a specific long range strategic plan that addresses our economy future that would give us a guide to follow. Right now we are treading water, going no where--or if some know where we are going they are not sharing that goal.	2/14/2017 11:57 AM
585	New Businesses Vacant Buildings Retraining the workforce that currently resides in Burke with technology skills is in process, jobs are available, however, the partners that have addressed this are finding that there is not a desire with the current workforce to receive the training. Public/private investment in vacant buildings has gone well in Burke and it needs to continue aggressively. In the next 10 years we are looking at a potential influx of new residents, businesses and companies. Housing, retail, services are not currently in place to provide for this type of change but the partners involves are pursuing/recruiting and creating the broad range of support for this influx so that we will be ready at the optimum time.	2/14/2017 11:51 AM
586	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing buildings and governmental buildings	2/14/2017 11:09 AM
587	Manufacturing Vacant Buildings Vacant manufacturing plants and vacant box stores are certainly available in Burke County. Perhaps Western Piedmont Community College has the capability to help with training/re-training a workforce.	2/14/2017 11:08 AM
588	The old Alexander county hospital so many options, the old walmart. Something for the youth in the county.	2/14/2017 10:59 AM
589	Make working in the county a feasible lifestyle choice with affordable housing and training and transportation	2/14/2017 10:21 AM
590	ldk	2/14/2017 10:08 AM
591	development of toursim, hospitality	2/14/2017 9:59 AM
592	Vacant Buildings I see some vacant or previously under used plants coming back to life rather than more out of county, which is good. I also see a lack of adapting capabilities towards modernization.	2/14/2017 9:08 AM
593	Manufacturing There are a multitude of vacant properties from manufacturing in Caldwell. I could see them working into a Murray's Mill type environment, since there is no mall or other eatery/ shopping arena in that area.	2/14/2017 8:50 AM
594	It would be nice to have more entertainment and retail opportunities in Caldwell County. I drive to Burke or Catawba to see a movie or to shop (if I can't order it on Amazon). Additionally, improve the image of healthcare in the county. No one in my household of 4 has a healthcare provider (medical or dental) in the county. Even if it is not true, the perception is that Catawba County has better healthcare providers. A few large, clean and well maintained parks would be lovely. Again, both Burke and Caldwell are superior in this area.	2/13/2017 5:20 PM
595	Manufacturing I think the country is starting to go back to buying things made in America. It's actually starting to turn in to a trend which is great. With the manufacturing history of this area if that trend continues we can utilize that to our advantage. We have the infrastructure in place that a lot of other areas do not have from when there were a lot of factories operating in years past that new companies can tap in to.	2/13/2017 5:13 PM
596	New Businesses Providing access to modern facilities and a flexible workforce to fill jobs to attract new and innovative businesses. Since the private sector is no longer making the investments in their workforce like they once did, it may be time for the public sector to fill that niche.	2/13/2017 4:10 PM
597	Existing Spaces Furniture Turn vacant furniture factories into something for the younger generation to do. Skating rink, mini golf, movie theater. There is space - use it.	2/13/2017 4:09 PM
598	Furniture Vacant Buildings CVCC Alexander Furniture Academy, Alexander Industrial Park, vacant buildings (industrial and commercial), recent passing of ABC referenda, affordable land	2/13/2017 4:06 PM

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey

599	Downtown Manufacturing Built environment - renewal of vacant factories, box stores, neighborhoods specifically around downtowns Workforce - upfitting traditional manufacturing skills to adapt to new technologies through workforce development	2/13/2017 4:02 PM
600	Vacant Buildings We certainly have vacant plants and box stores.	2/13/2017 3:51 PM