**6. Economy**

Poland is strategically located adjacent to Maine’s population and economic centers. Nearly 50% of Maine’s population is located within a 30-mile radius of Poland. While Poland does not in and of itself have a broad-based, diverse economy, it is part of a much larger economically robust regional economy.

From an economic perspective Poland is influenced by a larger regional economy. While Cumberland County certainly has an influence on the Community, it is the tri-county region of Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin that has and will continue to have the major economic influence on the Town of Poland.

There is a need to provide more opportunities for commercial and industrial development to expand the tax base. At the same time, it is important to ensure that commercial and industrial development does not threaten the Town’s water resources.

**Goal: *Promote an economic climate which will increase job opportunities and overall economic well being. Encourage a clean, light industrial base for the community.***

| POLICIES | ACTION STRATEGIES | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Provide opportunities for the development of commercial activities and clean, light industries in Poland.  2. Provide opportunities for the development of commercial businesses in specific areas of the community.  3. Reserve an area adjacent to the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad for rail-dependent development.  4. Allow home occupations that do not detract from residential neighborhoods or the rural character of Poland.  5**. Expand the tax base by retaining existing industry and businesses and encourage new industry and businesses compatible with Poland’s resources and services**.  6. Seek regional options of economic development | Designate areas for primarily industrial and commercial uses in locations that have the physical characteristics suited for such uses, are served or can be served by transportation system, including rail, that have the capacity to serve such uses, and with consideration given to the location of residential areas and sand and gravel aquifers.  Amend the CLUC **as required** ~~t~~o provide for commercial development that is compatible with each of the village locations.  Include provisions in the CLUC that allow rail-dependent uses in the proposed industrial area.  Continue provisions in the CLUC to allow for the establishment of home occupations that do not infringe upon the neighborhood or the environment and, when located in rural districts, are compatible with the rural character of Poland. Include provisions in the Zoning Ordinance for noise, parking, and size of home occupations.  Coordinate with existing and potential businesses to determine actions Poland may take to assist.  **Take advantage of the Auburn Foreign Trade Zone. DELETE?**  Establish an Economic Development Fund.  Coordinate with municipal and regional economic development organizations | Planning Board/  Economic Development Committee/  Conservation Commission  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Economic Development Committee  **Economic Development Committee**  Town Meeting  Economic Development Committee | Ongoing  Ongoing  Complete  Ongoing  Ongoing  **Needs review**  Complete  Ongoing |
|  | COMPLETED PRIOR PLAN STRATEGIES |  |  |
| 3. Reserve an area adjacent to the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad for rail-dependent development | Include provisions in the CLUC that allow rail-dependent uses in the proposed industrial area. | Planning Board  Town Meeting | Complete |
| 5**. Expand the tax base by retaining existing industry and businesses and encourage new industry and businesses compatible with Poland’s resources and services**. | Establish an Economic Development Fund. | Town Meeting | Complete |