

EPA Technical Assistance:

Focus on Smart Growth Implementation Assistance and Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

October 6, 2011

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US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Sustainable Communities



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

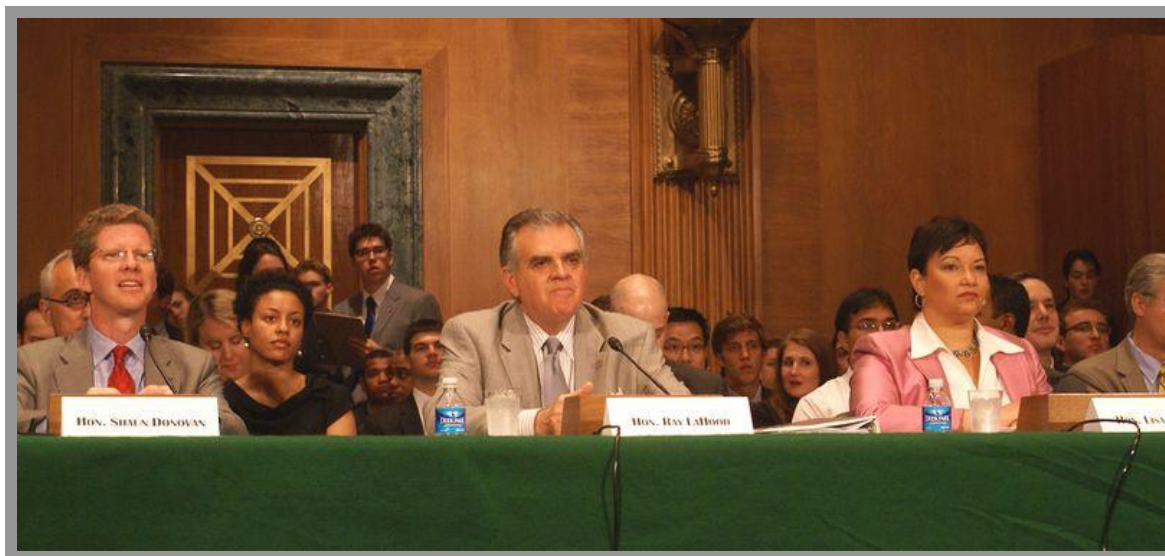
Mission: To meet the President's challenge for our agencies to work together to encourage and fully assist rural, suburban, and urban areas to build sustainable communities, and to make sustainable communities the leading style of development in the United States.

The Partnership is focused on ensuring that federal investments, policies, and actions do not subsidize sprawl and, instead, support development in more efficient and sustainable locations.



Partnership for Sustainable Communities

EPA Smart Growth Program and the DOT-HUD-EPA Partnership



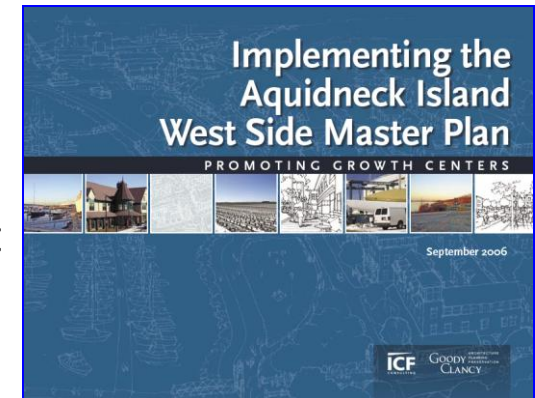
- Support DOT and HUD in all their sustainable communities activities
- Increase our collaboration with EPA program offices
- Create new partnerships with EPA regional offices
- Exponentially increase our assistance to state and local governments

Our program scope will now support far reaching and transformative assistance and implementation.

Specific EPA Funding and Investments:

• Smart Growth Implementation Assistance:

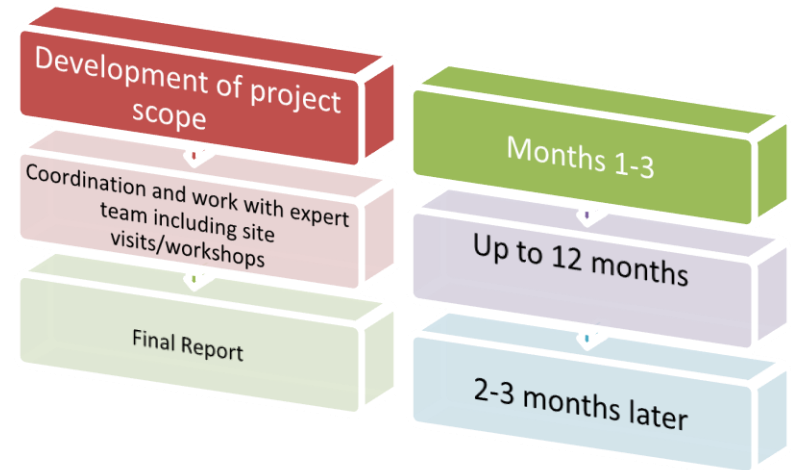
- Annual, competitive solicitation open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments (and non-profits that have partnered with a governmental entity) that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their future development.
- Through a multiple-day site visit and a detailed final report, the multi-disciplinary teams provide information to help the community achieve its goal of encouraging growth that fosters economic progress and environmental protection.



Aquidneck Island received SGIA assistance to incorporate mixed-use standards and design guidelines and review processes for three communities.

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance:

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Topics of Interest in 2011 Round of Assistance

- 1. Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change**
- 2. Community Energy Planning**
- 3. Smart Growth in Tribal Communities**
- 4. Land Use Strategies for Economic Development Agencies**
- 5. Economic Viability of Small Towns and Rural Communities**

Note: Reviewers will consider compelling cases of smart growth challenges that do not fall into one of these categories.

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance: TIMELINE

Sept. 28

- Request for letters of interest: Open

Oct. 28

- Request for letters of interest: Closes

Nov.

- Expert review process

Dec. 23

- Communities selected and notified

Jan.

- Develop scopes of work and hire contractors

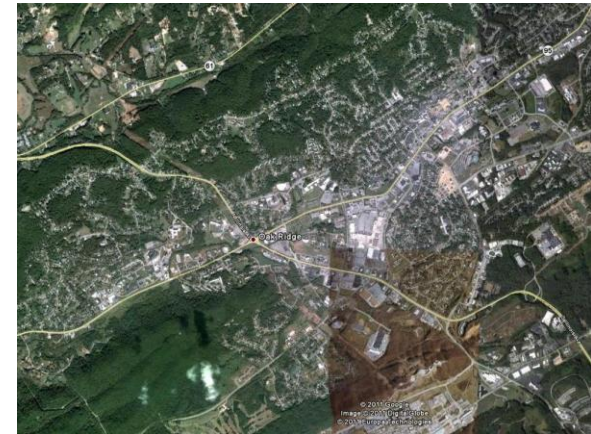
Feb. 2-4

- Press release/public announcement at New Partners Conference

Specific EPA Funding and Investments:

- **Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program:**

- Provides quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application.
- This technical assistance will help selected local and/or tribal governments to implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life.



The Sustainable Design and Development tool helps communities evaluate location efficiency of sites.

For the Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program,

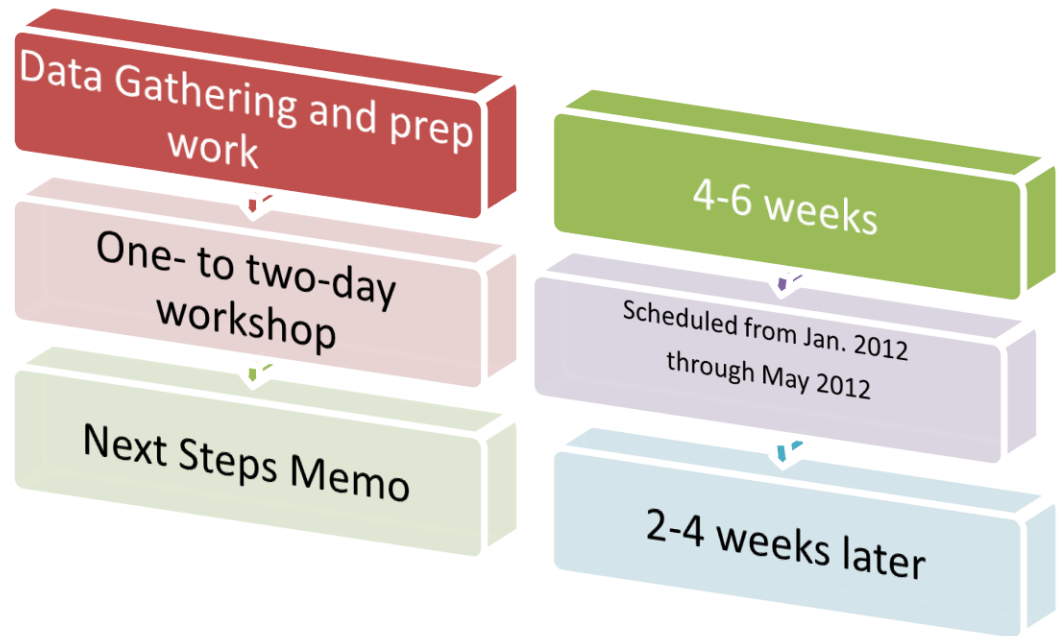
a tool

is defined as tool is body of materials, that could include, but not limited to an agenda, presentations, exercises, formatted in a manner so that a group can have a facilitated discussion around a series of inputs and outputs. Ideally, a tool shall have some process or mechanism by which data or information is analyzed resulting in an output of potential next steps for policy change. A tool is not just a series of presentations, but rather an action oriented process.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities:

Direct Assistance from EPA

- 10 tools offered
- contractor-lead assistance
- new and previously tested tools
- EPA looking to finalize tools



Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities: EPA-lead Assistance TIMELINE

Sept. 28

- Request for letters of interest: Open

Oct. 28

- Request for letters of interest: Closes

Nov.

- Expert review process, including EPA regional staff input

Dec. 14

- Communities selected and notified

Jan.

- Technical Assistance Workshops begin

Jan.

- Press release/public announcement at one of first site visits

Ten Tools Offered to 50 communities (second round)

1. Walkability Audits
2. Parking Audits
3. Sustainable Design and Development (Green Building)
4. Smart Growth Zoning Codes for Small Cities and Rural Areas
5. Green Building Toolkit
6. Using Smart Growth to Produce Economic and Fiscal Health
7. Complete Streets
8. Preferred Growth Areas
9. Creating a Green Streets Strategy
10. Linking Land Use to Water Quality



**Tools,
Communities,
and
Dates....**

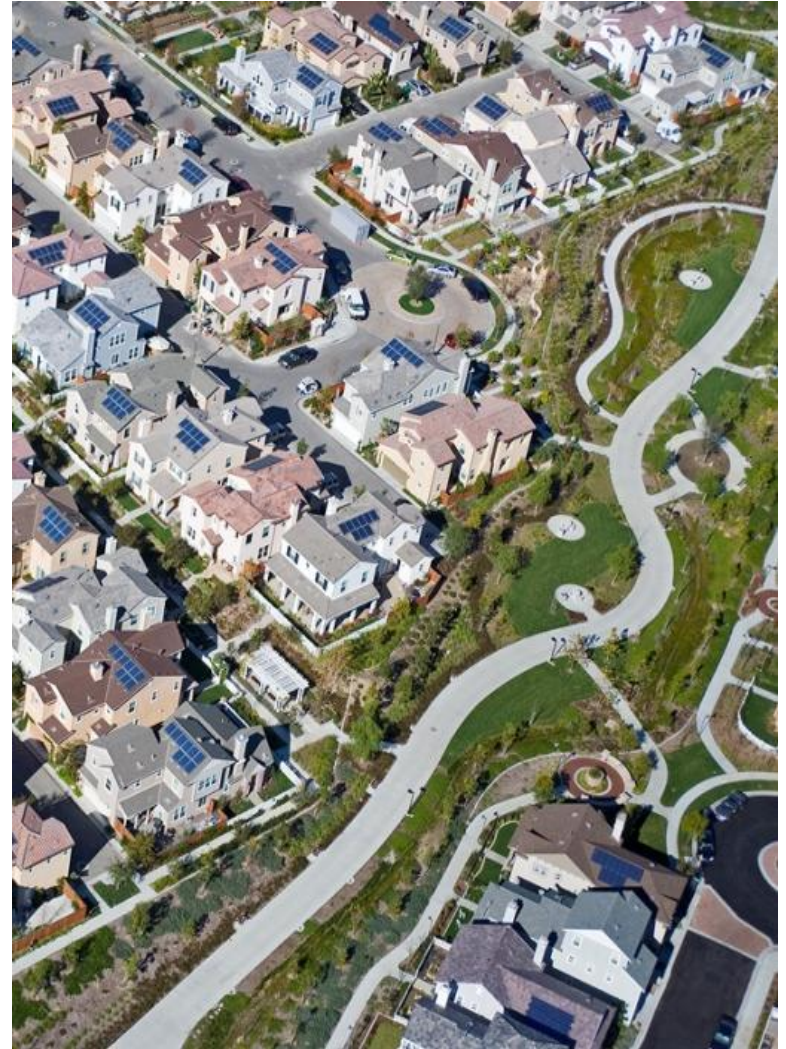
**Many site
visits in a 2
month period**

Tool	Jurisdiction	Chosen Date
Walkability Audits	St. Louis, MO	May 24
	Helena, MT	May 26
	Renton, WA	June 7-8
Sustainable Land Use Codes	Lincoln, NE	May 25-26
	Shelburne, VT	June 6-7
	Granville, OH	June 8-9
	Dover, NH	June 6-7
Rural/Small Town Zoning Codes	Cambridge, MD	June 6-7
	Essex, CT	June 1-2
	Spencer, NC	July 6-7
	Reedsburg, WI	June 8-9
Economic and Fiscal Health	Bemidji, MN	May 24-25
	Chelmsford, MA	June 16-17
	Deerfield Beach, FL	June 23-24
	Pike's Peak COG, CO	June 29-30
	Buffalo, NY	June 14-15
	Muskegon, MI	June 3
Complete Streets	Nashville, TN	June/July
	Portland, ME	June/July
	McKinney, TX	June/July
	Wichita, KS	June/July
Sustainable Design and Development	Oak Ridge, TN	May 11 -12
	Syracuse, NY	May 25-26
	Kayenta Township	June 13-14
	Hellertown, PA	July
Preferred Growth Areas	Ranson, WV	May 17
	Rockport, TX	June 1-2
	Bluffton, SC	May 11-12
Linking Land Use and Water Quality	Fitchburg, WI	June 8-9
	Northampton, MA	
	Jersey Shore, PA	May 16-17

Preferred Growth Areas:

What Objectives Can Targeted Smart Growth Achieve?

- Compact community design
- Strengthen + direct development towards existing communities



Preferred Growth Areas:

What Objectives Can Targeted Smart Growth Achieve?

- Create a **range** of housing opportunities + choices
- Safe, convenient neighborhoods with homes that people can **afford**



Preferred Growth Areas:

Making Smart Growth Work – Exercise 1

Please Identify on the Provided Cards Three Smart Growth Values, Constraints, Opportunities and Tools. Provide Specific Examples for your Community

VALUE: High Quality Work Force Housing

Develop High Quality Options



CONSTRAINT: Sensitive Resource Areas

For the May River



OPPORTUNITY: Housing Density 5.3 Du/Ac

Near Downtown



TOOL: Unified Development Ordinance / Code Updates

Add Smart Growth Incentives in Our Update



Preferred Growth Areas:



Sample Agenda

Day 1

Fly in late afternoon. Meet with local staff

OPTIONAL—TO BE DISCUSSED: Evening open house: 15 min presentation on “what is a sustainable development code.” What does sustainable development mean in your community?

Brief opening PowerPoint presentation about sustainable development codes

Discussion: Ask residents what is your vision for sustainable development in your community.

Day 2

9:00 to 9:15AM: Introductions

9:15 to 10:15AM: Framing the issues--brief 15-20 min presentation on “what is a sustainable development code.”

Discussion with the community (45 minutes):

What are key sustainability topics in our community?

What are some of our community’s sustainability goals in areas like renewable energy, greenhouse gas reduction, recycling, urban agriculture?

What have we accomplished to date?

What shape are our plans, codes, and ordinances in to address and promote sustainable development?

10:15 to 11:15AM: Establishing a defensible legal and policy foundation for sustainable code revisions through sustainable community planning policies and goals.

11:15 to 12:00PM: Further discussion to narrow the list of sustainable code topics to 2-3 for detailed discussion in the afternoon. Possible discussion of addressing costs and benefits of new sustainability code amendments.

12:00 to 1:30PM: Lunch with mayor and community leaders not in morning sessions. What are your priorities for sustainable community development? What’s your reaction the list of shortcomings with current development codes from a sustainability perspective? What topics should the code revision discussion in the afternoon focus on? “Selling” sustainability—discussion of costs and benefits of new sustainable code amendments.

1:45 to 2:30pm: How to conduct a thorough sustainable development code audit—a step-by-step guide for local planners and local government officials on assessing their local development codes to identify barriers to sustainability in those codes, potential amendments to create incentives to adopt sustainable development practices, and gaps in current regulations that need to be filled to achieve local sustainability objectives.

2:30-4:30: Hands-on implementation workshop with local officials. Identify and discuss 8-10 specific changes in local development codes to promote sustainable development. Think B~I~G—barriers, incentives, gaps.

4:30 to 5:00PM: Wrap up and next steps

5:00PM: Adjourn—leave for airport.

Support for the Building Blocks Program

Quote from Mayor Chris Beutler, City of Lincoln, NE:

The EPA Sustainable Development Code Audit Workshop pulled together a diverse group of development-related professionals who heard, considered, debated and assimilated many leading sustainable resource ideas, a number of which will be discussed for implementation in the City of Lincoln. We're going to continue to meet with members of this workshop group to set the agenda and to identify the issues that will make Lincoln an even more sustainable community. Lincoln is committed to sustainability in its land use and building policies, and the EPA's workshop highlighted for the community the long-term value of this approach.



Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities: Grantee-led Assistance



- variety of tools offered
- grantee and team-lead assistance
- new and previously tested tools
- use of mostly polished tools

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities: Grantee-lead Assistance TIMELINE Year 1

Sept. 28

- Smart Growth America Request for application: Open

Oct. 26

- Smart Growth America Request for applications: Closes

Fall 2011-
Winter 2012

- Other 3 grantee calls for applications

Winter 2012

- Communities selected and notified

Spring 2012 –
Summer 2012

- Technical Assistance Workshops

Fall 2012

- Year two activities (call for applications/assistance begin)

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities: Grantee-led Assistance

- For more information:
 - Cascade Land Conservancy
Jeff Aken (206-905-6928, jeffa@cascadeland.org)
 - Global Green USA
Walker Wells (310-581-2700 ext. 103, wwells@globalgreen.org)
 - Project for Public Spaces
Pippa Brashear (212-620-5660 ext. 323, pbrashear@pps.org)
 - Smart Growth America
Roger Millar (assistance@smartgrowthamerica.org)

Thank you. Project contacts:

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

<http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>

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EPA-led Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

<http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>

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