

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Training

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
February 2, 2012



Roadmap for Training

- General Introductions
- OSC's Technical Assistance Programs
- National Investment – Local Results
- Nuts and Bolts of Building Blocks Program
- Overview of Tools Being Offered
- Bringing the Most Out of Community Investment
- Identifying Success
- Small Group Discussion Based on Tools
- Wrap-up and Questions

What we hope to achieve

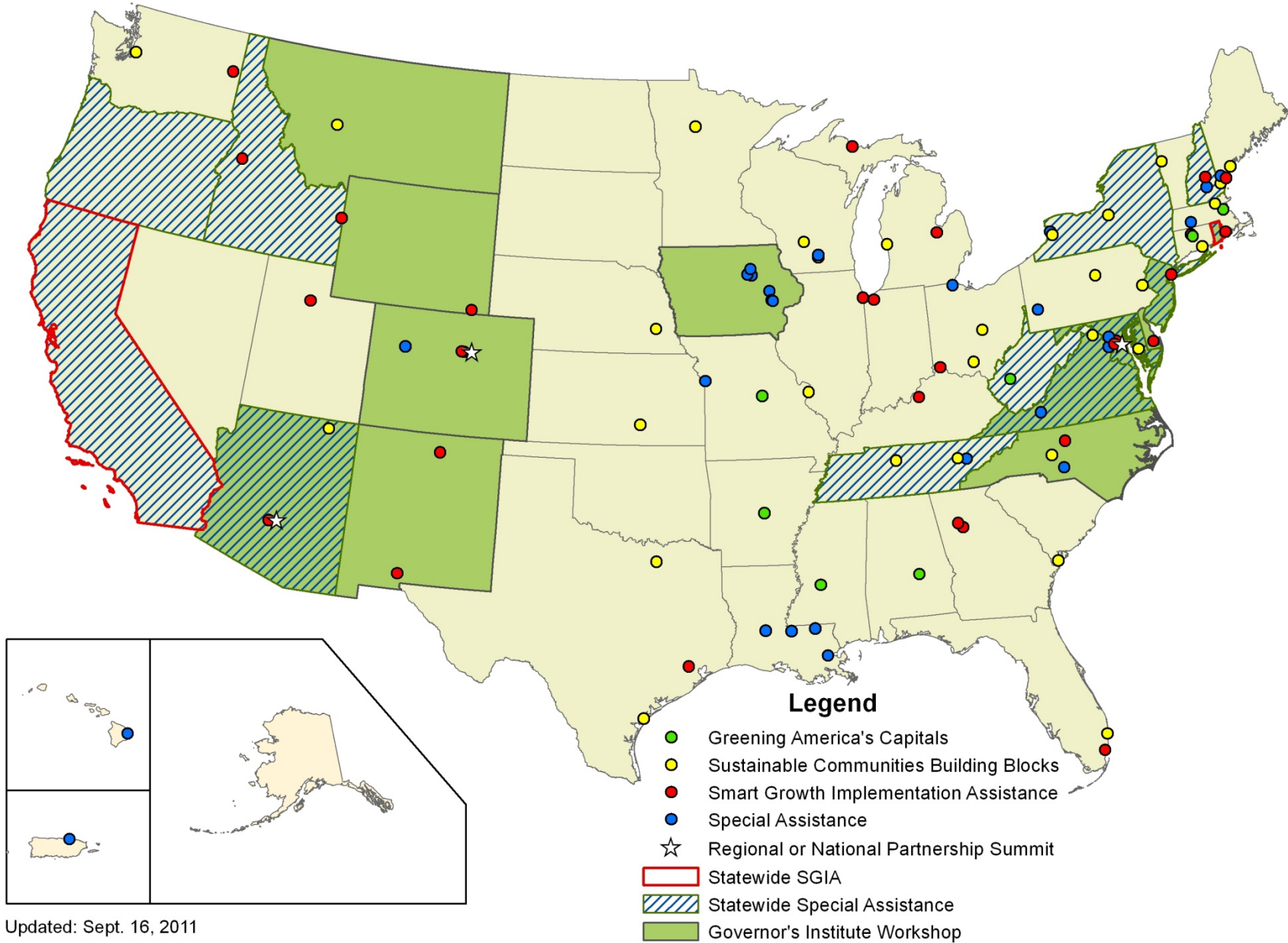
- Big challenges + limited resources + a huge demand for new approaches = a tipping point
- Our program has a different role than our partners at HUD and DOT

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities (EPA-led technical assistance)

- Launched in 2011
 - 30 communities reached with contractor-supported training
- 50 community workshops planned for 2012



OSC Technical Assistance and Workshops 2005 - 2011

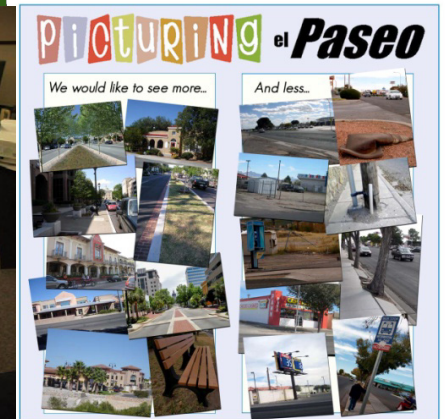
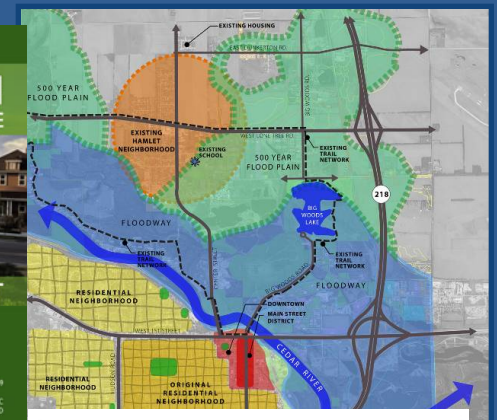
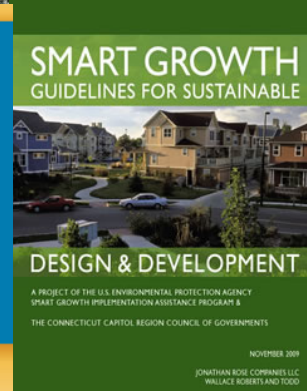
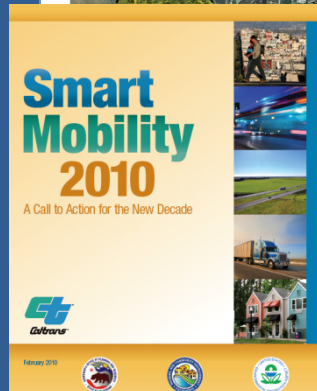
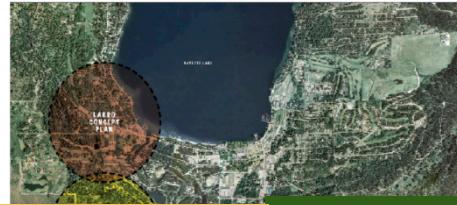


Updated: Sept. 16, 2011

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

- Launched in 2005
- Worked with 44 communities to date
 - Designed to address difficult challenges...
 - and find transferable solutions

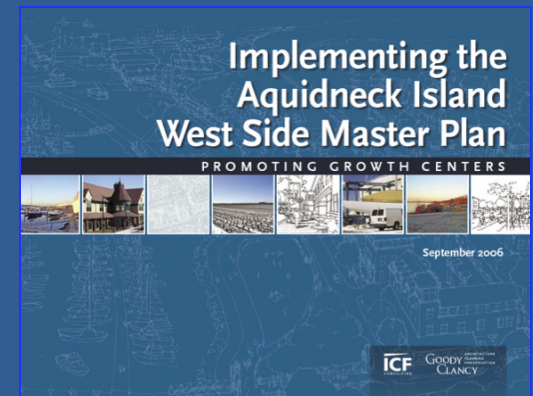
Connecting McCall:
Concept Plans for Lardo and
West Valley



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:

- 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.
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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**

Governors Institute on Community Design

- Launched in 2005
 - Joint venture with NEA
 - 16 workshops to date
- Work directly with the governor and key state agency leadership
- Bring in agency leaders from multiple states to address one topic



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It makes sense to try to encourage action at the state level, because states can do so much to enable better design, better planning, better development, and ultimately better communities.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman

States can and do often set the rules of the game that make a difference in communities grow.

ending





- Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project
- Five state capitals in 2011



Boston, MA



Jefferson City, MO



Little Rock, AR



Charleston, WV

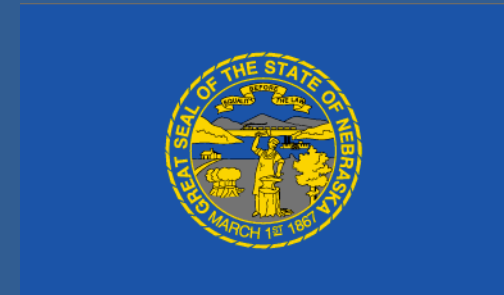


Hartford, CT

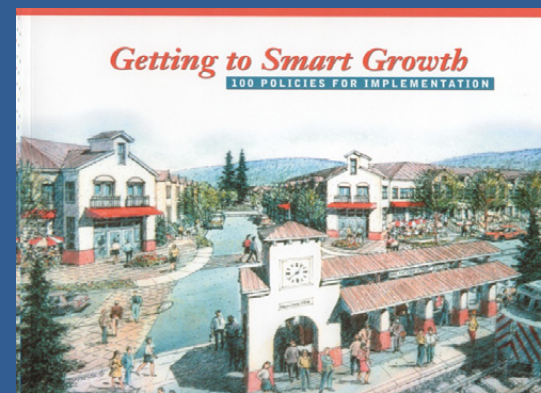
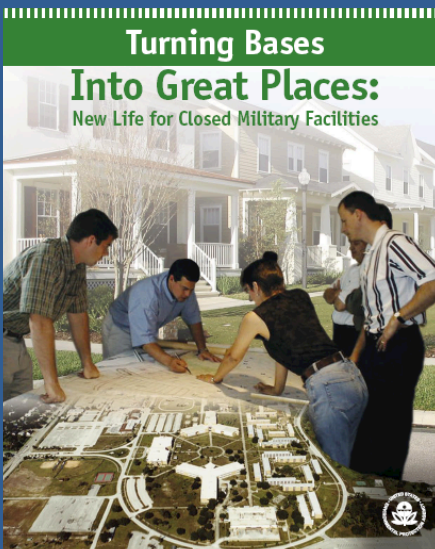
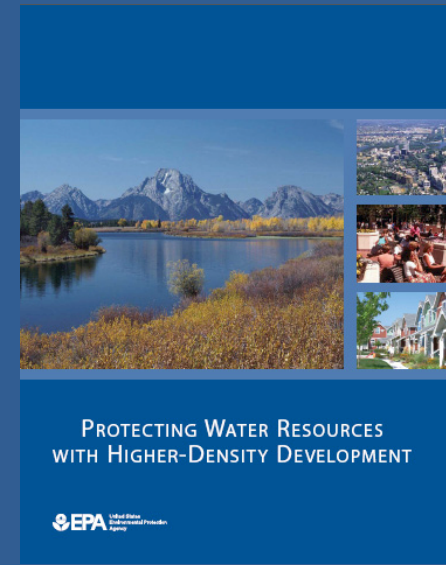
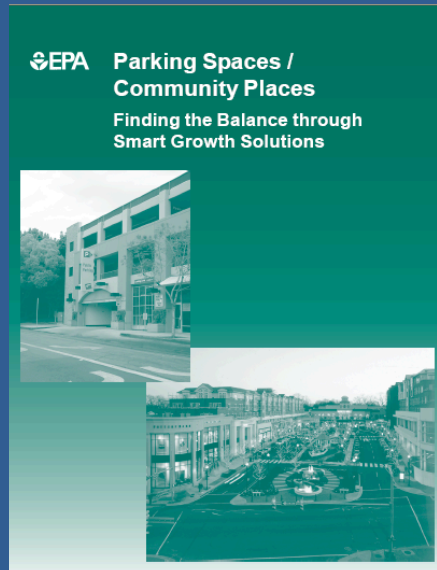
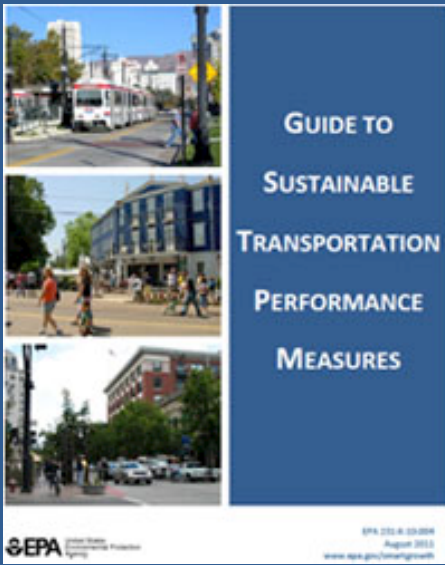


- 5 more state capitals in 2012:

- Montgomery, AL
- Phoenix, AZ
- Washington, DC
- Jackson, MS
- Lincoln, NE



Publications



... and many more @ <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/publications.htm>



Smart Growth

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- Publications
- Grants and Funding
- Making Smart Growth Happen
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- Where You Live
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Sustainable Communities Building Blocks

- [Background](#)
- [Direct Assistance from EPA](#)
 - [Tools](#)
 - [Communities selected in 2011](#)
 - [Responding to the Request for Letters of Interest](#)
- [Assistance from EPA Grant Recipients](#)
- [Other tools and technical assistance programs](#)

EPA hosted a webinar on October 6, 2011, to answer questions about applying to the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth Implementation Assistance programs. [Click here for presentation slides from the webinar \(PDF\)](#). (24 pp, 2MB, [About PDF](#)) Answers to questions asked during the webinar are found on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) pages for [Smart Growth Implementation Assistance](#) and [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities](#).

Background

Many communities around the country are asking for tools and resources to help them achieve their desired development goals, improve the quality of life for their residents, and make their communities more economically and environmentally sustainable. In response to this demand, EPA developed the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities seeks to provide 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 purpose of delivering these tools is to stimulate a discussion about growth and development, strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable communities approaches, and provide ideas on how to change local policies and procedures to make communities more economically and environmentally sustainable.

The assistance will be offered in two ways in 2011:

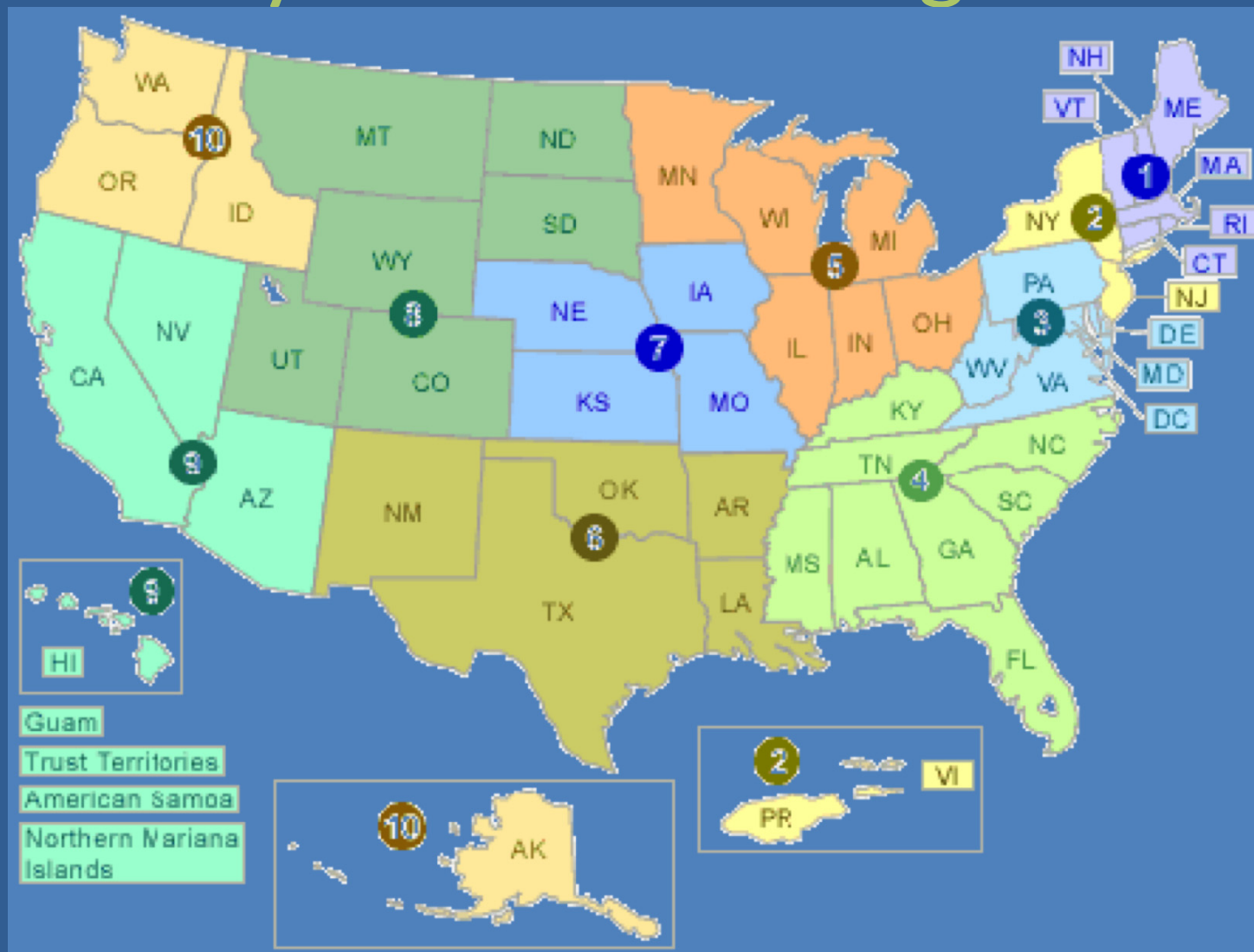
- EPA will select communities and provide direct assistance by EPA staff and private-sector experts based on tools that EPA has identified. Under this part of the program, each technical assistance project in a community will include:
 - Public engagement—for example, a one-day workshop that is open to the public.
 - Direct consultation with relevant decision-makers.
 - A memo outlining specific steps the community could take if it wants to implement the ideas generated during the site visit.
- EPA has awarded grants to four nonprofit organizations with extensive sustainable communities expertise. These organizations—Cascade Land Conservancy, Global Green USA, Project for Public Spaces, and Smart Growth America—will offer technical assistance to communities based on tools they have chosen that support their organization’s primary mission while also supporting the goals of the Building Blocks program. Contact each organization directly to learn details about the assistance available and the application process (see ["Assistance from Grantees"](#) below).

[Frequent questions about the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program are answered here.](#)

Keep up to date through our webpage...

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

Key Role of EPA Regions



Scenario Planning Tools

Blueprint Planning Land Use Alternatives



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING TYPES							
1	Rural Residential			2	1	—	Rural residential includes very large lot residential (1 acre per lot).
2	Large Lot Single Family Residential			1	4	—	Arden Park has many large lots in the to 1/2 acre size. Gardenland (South National) has grid-streets with 1 acre
3	Medium Lot Single Family Residential			2	6		
4	Small Lot Single Family Residential			2	12		
5(O)	Townhouse (Owner)			3	15		
5(R)	Townhouse (Rental)			3	15		
6(O)	Low-Rise Condos (Owner)			2	24		
6(R)	Low-Rise Apartments (Rental)			2	24		
7(O)	Mid-Rise Condos (Owner)			3	35		
7(R)	Mid-Rise Apartments (Rental)			3	35		
8(O)	High-Rise Condos (Owner)			6	66		
8(R)	High-Rise Apartments (Rental)			6	66		
9(O)	Urban Condos (Owner)			10	105		
9(R)	Urban Apartments (Rental)			10	105		

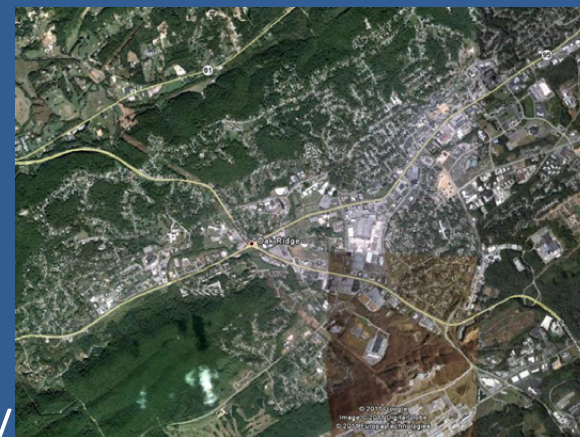
LAND USE CHIP SET												
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
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Specific EPA Funding and Investments:

- **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.

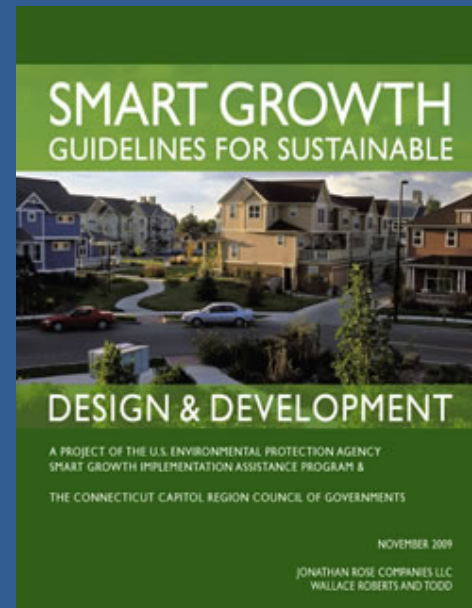
For the Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program,

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.

Program Background

- Launched in Spring 2011
- Worked with 30 communities to date
- Provides quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application



Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities:

Short-term, targeted technical assistance with specific next steps for implementation

EPA-led Assistance:

50+ communities assisted per year

Spring 2011

- 354 applications received
- 30 communities assisted
- 8 tools provided

Fall 2011

- 103 additional applications received
- up to 50 communities assisted
(using both pools of applicants)
- 10 tools offered

Grantee-led Assistance:

40-70 communities assisted per year

Fall 2011

- Forterra (formally Cascade Land Conservancy)
 - applications due: pending
 - serving 12-15 communities
- Global Green USA
 - applications: November 18
 - serving 10-15 communities
- Project for Public Spaces
 - applications: November 22
 - serving 6 to 12 communities
- Smart Growth America
 - applications received: 89
 - serving 8 to 12 communities



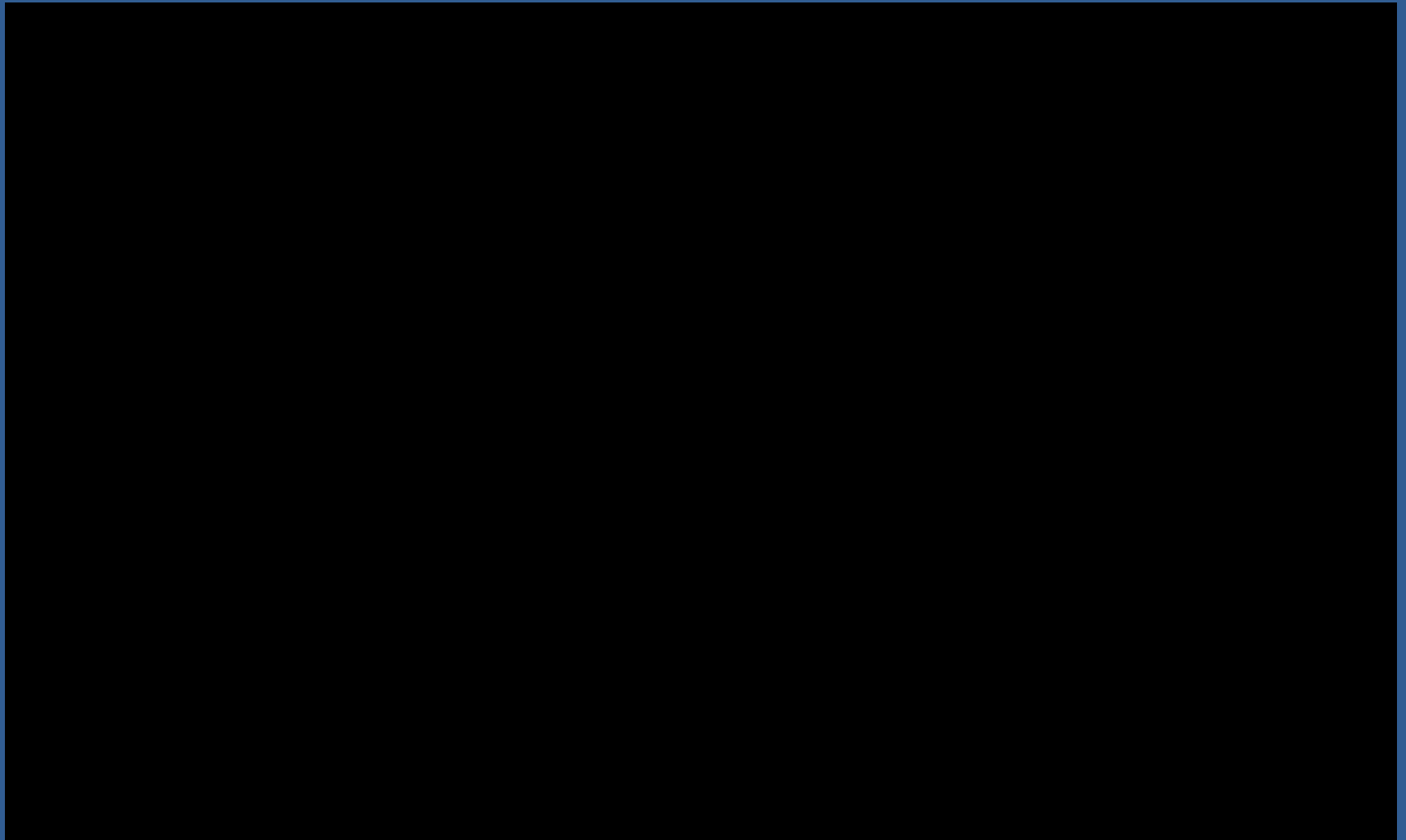
Support for the Building Blocks Program

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.



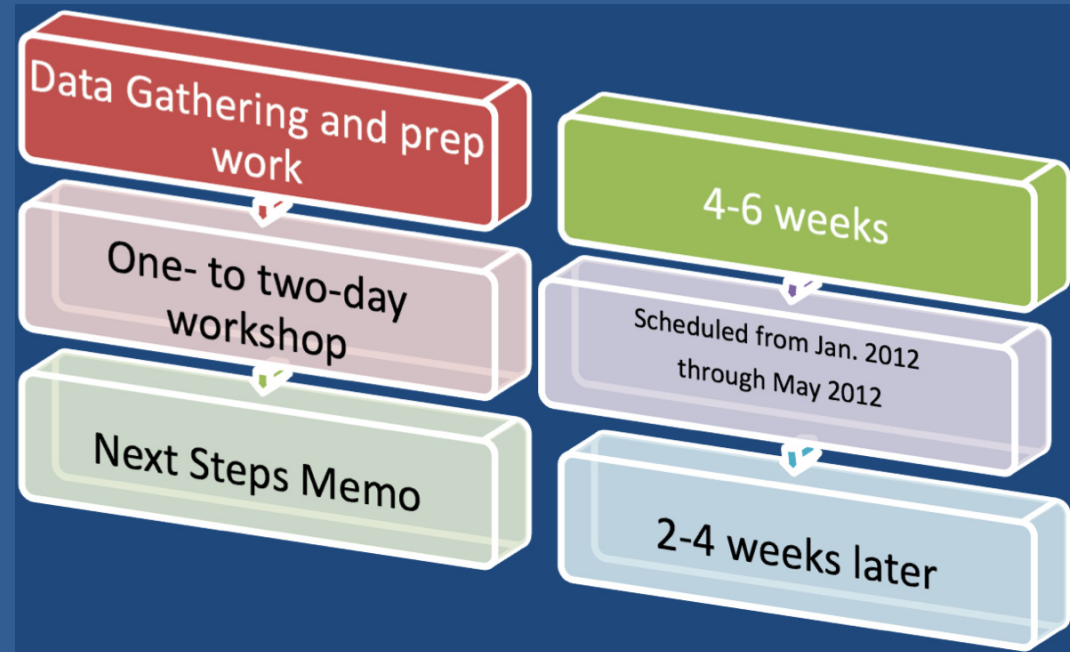
Support for the Building Blocks Program: Ranson, West Virginia



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



Selection Criteria

- Nature of the smart growth-related problem facing the community (1 point)
- Relevance of the described problem related to the selected tool (2 points)
- Short description of the expected results of the assistance (2 points)

Other Selection Criteria Considerations

- Did the applicant identify stakeholders and staff that are able to implement change?
- How the project address environmental justice issues?
- Will the assistance have a potential to produce change in 2-3 years, or less?
- Does the assistance lead some other community to change their practices based on this community as an example?
- Was the community (or associated with) a HUD Regional Planning Grantee (leveraging Partnership for Sustainable Communities investments)

Announcement & Review Process

- Request for Letters of Interest:
February and October 2011
- Received 450 proposals from all 10 regions
- EPA Regions selected 20 communities
(2 per Region)
- OSC selected 30 communities, with input from
Regions, HUD, DOT, USDA
- Selected communities announced tonight

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

Lead Organization	Tool Example*	Application Deadline	Website
EPA	Sustainable Design and Development	Closed	EPA Building Blocks Webpage
Smart Growth America	Cool Planning	Closed	SGA webpage with description of their tools
Project for Public Spaces	Mini-Charrette	Closed	PPS application and description of their tools
Global Green	LEED-ND Assessment Tool	Closed	Application and Description of LEED-ND based tool
Forterra	Open Space Planning and Acquisition	Feb. 2012 (est.)	Link to press release describing assistance (application in early 2012)

* For a complete list and details on each tool refer to the background materials for the webinar

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



Tool 1: Walkability Audit

Sustainable Communities Building Blocks: Walkability Workshop



Tool 2: Parking Audits

Tool could address all five elements of parking—demand, supply, economics, enforcement, and administration—an audit helps local leaders and stakeholders see the issue in the context of overall growth management and economic strategies.

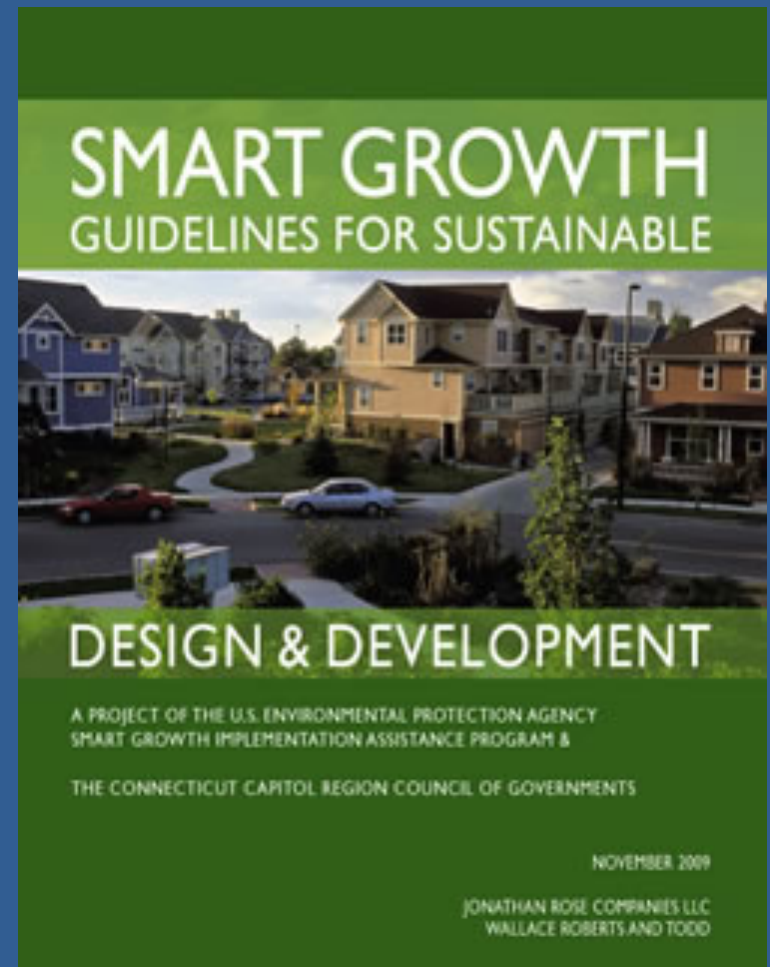


 **EPA Parking Spaces / Community Places**
Finding the Balance through Smart Growth Solutions



Tool 3: Sustainable Design and Development

Site-specific Exercise
**Developing a Design
Concept**



Tool 4: Small Town and Rural Planning

The cover of a report titled "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities" from the Smart Growth Network. The cover features a green background with a white grid pattern in the bottom right corner. It includes three photographs: a rural landscape with a red barn, a town street with a church steeple, and a modern house. The text on the cover includes the Smart Growth Network logo, the title "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities", and the ICMA logo with the tagline "Leaders of the Core of Better Communities".

SMART GROWTH NETWORK

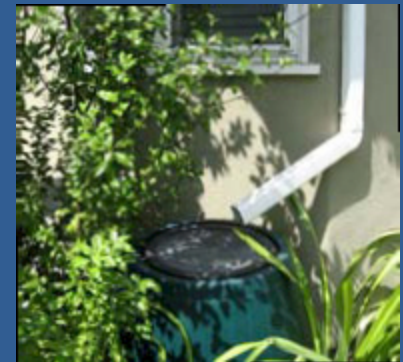
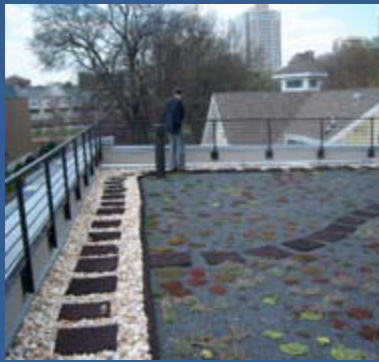
Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities

ICMA Leaders of the Core of Better Communities

Tool 5: Green Building Toolkit

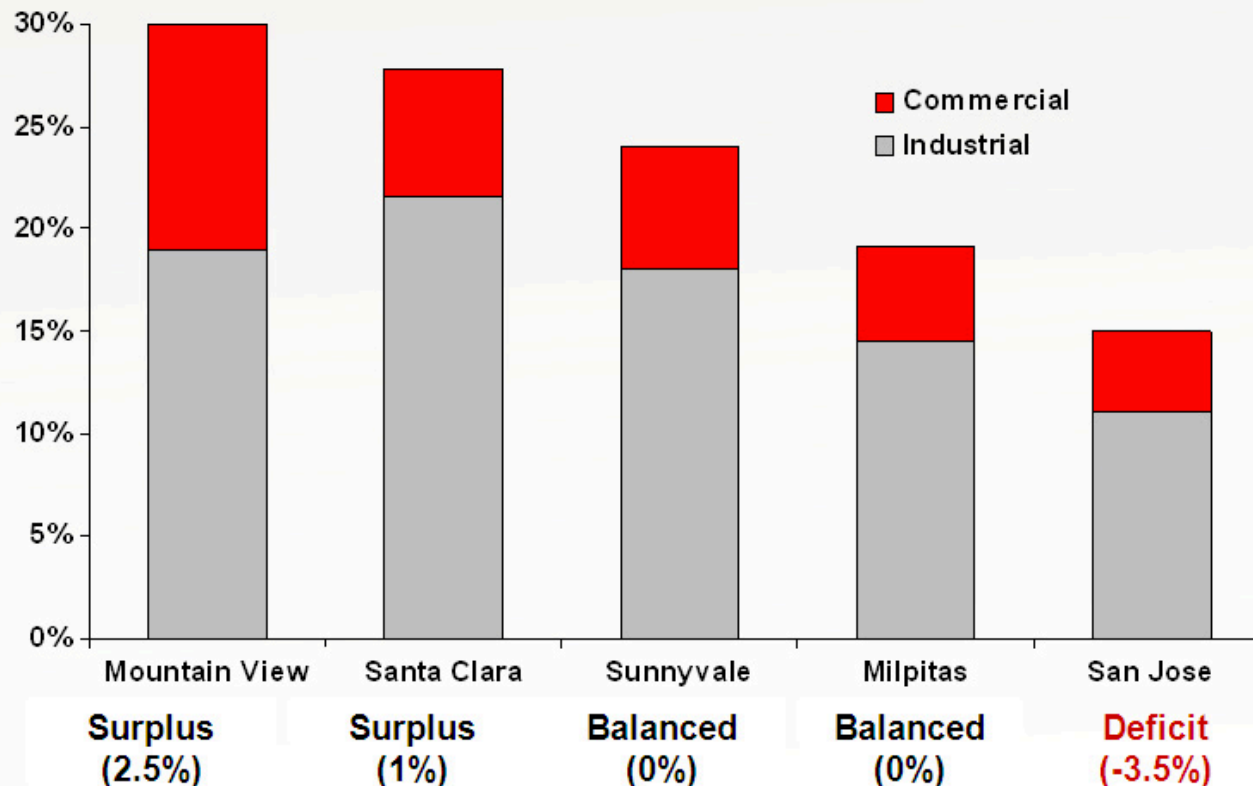
Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

EPA 904B10001 | June
2010



Tool 6: Economic and Fiscal Health

Comparing Land Use Mix to Fiscal Stability



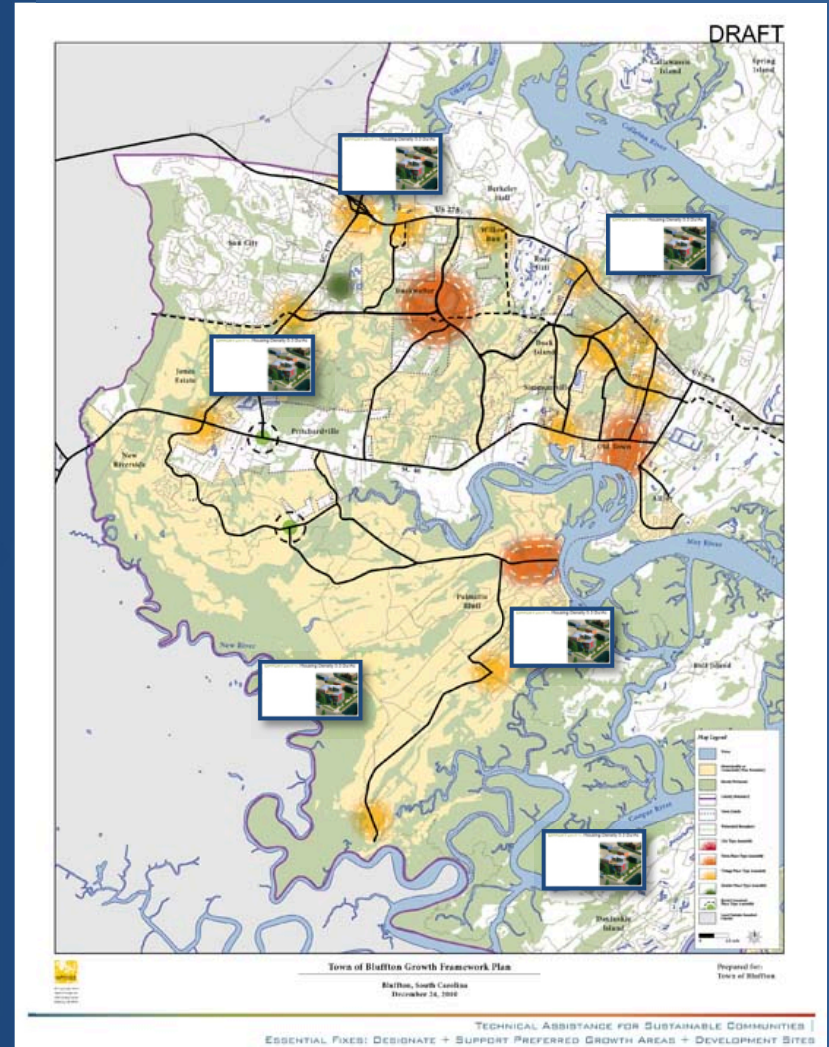
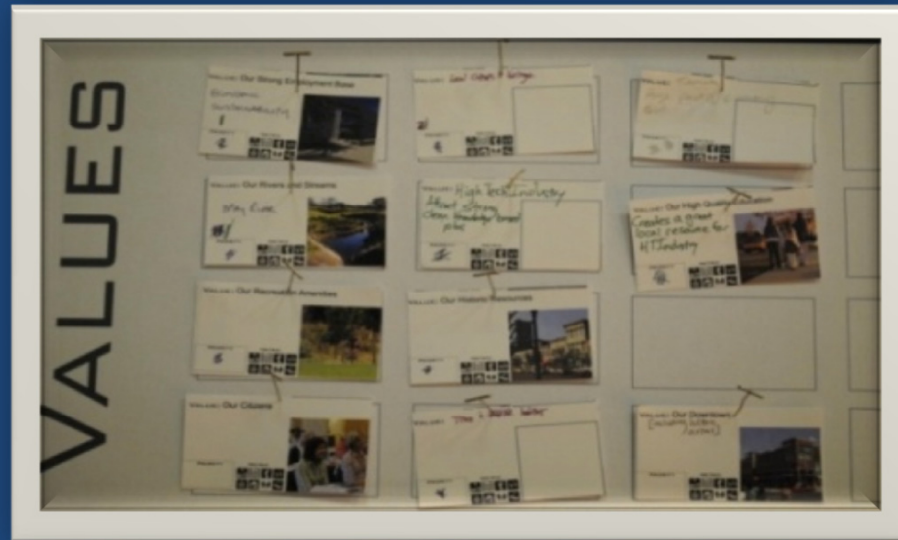
San Jose CA Projected General Fund Budget Surplus/Deficit 2006-2007

Tool 7: Complete Streets

Complete Streets are safe, comfortable, and convenient for travel for everyone, regardless of age or ability – motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders.



Tool 8: Preferred Growth Areas



Tool 9: Green Streets Strategy



BEFORE: Madison Avenue and Convention Center



AFTER: Madison Avenue with Stormwater Swale

Drawn by: Kevin Perry

Tool 10: Linking Land Use to Water Quality



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ey9-F6GPMA4>

Current Steps

- Notify communities (January)
- Public announcement (during conference)
- Community workshops (March-June)
- All 56 communities served by June 2012

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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