Getting States On Board: Reaching Climate and Other Goals with Smart Growth

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What’s our goal?

- Consider the types of state policies and programs that impact local growth
- Learn which state policies support local and regional smart growth
- Find out if your state has a smart growth advocacy organization
- Identify opportunities for your state to do better
Range of technical assistance to state and local governments, research, policy

Multiple approaches:

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance**
  Cutting edge issues

- **Greening Americas Capitals**
  High visibility demonstration projects

- **Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities**
  Tools to address common barriers

- Several programs with other agencies (FEMA, USDA, ARC, SC2, GSA) – Local Foods, Local Places; Cool & Connected; Health Places for Healthy People

- **Governors Institute on Community Design**
  State policy change

Leveraging and changing practices
Our project

• California SGC, EPA Sustainable Communities, and Smart Growth America
• Many state leaders think they don’t affect local and regional development patterns
• They may also not know about regional or statewide advocacy organizations
• Make it easy for them via short guidebook
Typology of Policies and Programs

Emerged from research
1. Vision and organization
2. Horizontal integration: Aligning state actions across departments/sectors with the vision
3. Vertical integration: Aligning regional and local plans with the vision
Typology of Policies and Programs

1. Vision and organization
   • Vision – executive or legislative
   • State development plans
     – New Jersey, Oregon
   • Growth cabinets
     – Maryland, Massachusetts, California
   • State planning commissions/offices
Typology of Policies and Programs

2. Horizontal integration: Aligning state actions across departments/sectors with the vision

- Directing agency alignment
  - Pennsylvania, New York
- Agency strategies: transp, housing, etc.
  - Oregon, Virginia, Washington, Tennessee
- State facility location - California
- State funding/financing - many
Typology of Policies and Programs

3. Vertical integration: Aligning regional and local plans with the vision
   • Mandates for local/regional plans
     – California, Oregon, Maryland, Washington
   • Voluntary guidelines for local/regional plans
     – Georgia, Oregon, Colorado
   • Incentives for local/regional plans
     – Massachusetts, Illinois
Smart Growth Advocacy Organizations

- Want to generally characterize – mission, size, scope, funding
- New survey
  - From SGA coalition base of 50+ organizations
  - 15 state or multistate
  - 8 city/metro or regional
  - 1 national
- Just starting to analyze results
Smart Growth Advocacy Organizations

• Activities almost all routinely do
  – Grassroots organizing
  – Grasstips organizing (organizing other orgs)
  – Stakeholder convening
  – Advocating/lobbying to governments

• Less frequent
  – TA, research, negotiation, litigation
Smart Growth Advocacy Organizations

• Recent/ongoing successes in areas of transportation, land use, housing policy
• Typically in role of coalition builder, thought leader

• Less (or less recent) success in climate, environment, preservation
Successful Issues and Roles
Interested In Learning More?

• Hope to have resource document and survey results this Spring

• Fill out and leave the info sheet

• Contact us
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