



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

Christopher Forinash

U.S. EPA - Office of Sustainable Communities

Jeri Mintzer

Governors' Institute on Community Design





CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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

Office of Sustainable Communities



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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

Leveraging and changing practices

Governors Institute on Community Design

State policy change





CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

Smart Growth Advocacy Organizations

- Activities almost all routinely do
 - Grassroots organizing
 - Grasstops organizing (organizing other orgs)
 - Stakeholder convening
 - Advocating/lobbying to governments
- Less frequent
 - TA, research, negotiation, litigation



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

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



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



GOVERNORS'
INSTITUTE
on community design

Interested In Learning More?

- Hope to have resource document and survey results this Spring
- Fill out and leave the info sheet
- Contact us
 - Chris Forinash, forinash.christopher@epa.gov
 - Jeri Mintzer, jmintzer@smartgrowthamerica.org