Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together

Tool: Implementing Smart Growth 101

Provider: Smart Growth America

Summary:

Smart growth strategies help towns and cities across the country grow stronger economically by using land strategically, making the most of existing resources and using public funds to catalyze private development. Yet many communities face barriers or are uncertain how to implement smart growth. As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to realize the benefits of smart growth. The Implementing Smart Growth 101 workshop draws on this expertise to provide actionable steps that the community can use to overcome the barriers to smart growth and build stronger economies now and for generations to come.

Description:

The Implementing Smart Growth 101 workshop provides best practices to local leaders in urban, suburban and rural communities working to create housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools. Our technical assistance will provide the resources to refine and implement local priorities with smart growth strategies that make sense for your community. The one-day workshop will help the community become familiar with the ten principles of smart growth:

- Mixed land uses
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

Local leaders and the technical assistance team then work on how to apply these principles in a way that makes sense for the community through a hands-on session. Topics to be explored include:

- How to set smart growth goals
- How to develop an action plan for implementation using a foundational community planning document such as the transportation capital budget, comprehensive plan or zoning code
- A shift in funding allocations and economic development plans
- Crafting new policy
- Amending core planning documents

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