

Smart Growth America

www.smartgrowthamerica.org

Smart Growth America (SGA) is a national coalition that is working to achieve a vision of sustainable regions and communities, in which development outcomes are equitable, environmentally beneficial, economically robust, and strengthened by vigorous citizen engagement. We believe that today's sprawling and inefficient growth patterns undermine this vision. To achieve reform, we pursue a mission to help people and their communities achieve a better way to grow: one that protects natural areas and environmental health, revitalizes communities, increases housing and transportation choices, and offers all Americans fair access to opportunities.

Since our inception in 2000, we have achieved:

- **An active coalition** of over 100 regional and national organizations from the housing, community development, environmental, transportation, and other fields,
- **Groundbreaking communications efforts, research, and publications** that have launched or changed some of the nation's most visible debates about the impacts of growth on local economies, quality of life, and civic involvement,
- **Policy leadership, analysis, and reforms** at the federal, state, and local levels,
- **Direct assistance to communities and public officials** through nearly 40 technical assistance projects that focus on planning for smart growth, policy implementation, and adoption of best practices, and
- **The cultivation of prominent champions for smart growth**, including former and sitting governors, mayors, federal and state cabinet officials, CEOs, news editors and publishers, and other leaders.

SGA is also home to several major initiatives, including:

- **The National Smart Growth Council**, which is an advisory council that is chaired by former governors Christie Whitman and Parris Glendening, and includes well-known leaders like former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, current and former mayors, and several CEOs,
- **The Smart Growth Leadership Institute**, which provides technical assistance to cities and public officials all over the country (www.sgli.org),
- **The Governor's Institute on Community Design**, which educates governors and their cabinet members about smart growth issues, and is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and U.S. EPA, and co-chaired by Glendening and Whitman, as well as former Maine governor Angus King (www.govinstitute.org),
- **The National Vacant Properties Campaign**, which helps cities reclaim their abandoned buildings and vacant lots, and is a collaboration between SGA, Virginia Tech, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (www.vacantproperties.org),
- **The Smart Schools Initiative**, which seeks to boost the vitality of small neighborhood schools (www.smart-schools.org),
- **The Complete Streets Campaign**, which is an effort to include walking, bicycling, and public transit modes in all major transportation corridors in new construction and reconstruction planning (www.completestreets.org),
- **The Transportation Equity Network**, which is a national coalition of social justice groups promoting equity in transportation policies and investments, and is a partnership between SGA, the Gamaliel Foundation, and the Center for Community Change (www.transportationequity.org).