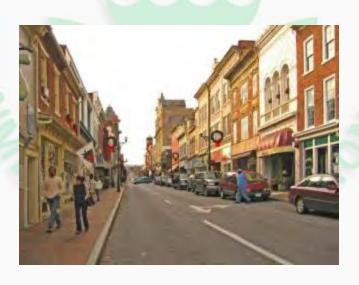
# Sustainable Communities in Appalachia

Presentation at the Livable Regions and Communities Workshop, Kingsport TN by Ed Fendley, U.S. EPA Office of Sustainable Communities fendley.ed@epa.gov 202.566.9555; July 12, 2012





# About EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities

 EPA's mission is to protect human health and to safeguard air, water and land.





 Our office focuses on the built environment – how and where communities develop.





 We provide tools and technical assistance to communities that ask for our help.



#### A new emphasis on Appalachia

 An increasing number of rural communities have requested our assistance.





 We are expanding our work in Appalachia and other rural areas.



We are working with ARC and USDA RD.





# What do sustainable communities approaches mean for small towns and rural communities?

Investing in Main Streets and traditional town centers

Giving people transportation choices—including walking,

biking, and transit

Affordable home opportunities near jobs

Preservation of working & natural lands

Smart growth approaches can enhance economic competitiveness!



#### Why do this?

Save public \$

Boost economic growth

 Help people, especially older people and younger people

Preserve or re-establish a sense of place



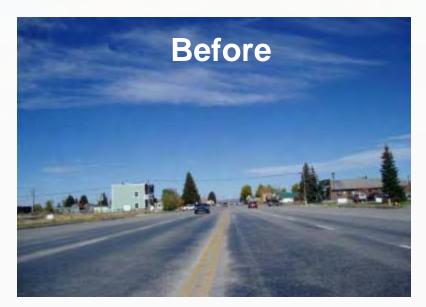
# Investing in Main Streets and Traditional Town Centers



Photo: Worcester County



#### Transportation: small investments can go a long way







Photos: Charlier Associates, Inc.; City of Victor; Envision Victor



#### Housing choices







#### By developing in the right places, communities can preserve rural lands





# EPA Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

- http://www.epa.gov/dced/buildingblocks.htm
- Quick, targeted technical assistance for implementing development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, improve quality of life.
- Recurring application periods (funding permitting).



## EPA Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance (Building Blocks: continued)

- Complete Streets
- Creating a Green Streets Strategy
- Green Building Toolkit.
- Linking Land Use to Water Quality
- Parking Audit
- Preferred Growth Areas
- Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development
- Smart Growth Zoning Codes for Small Cities and Rural Areas
- Using Smart Growth to Produce Fiscal and Economic Health
- Walking Audit



#### EPA Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

- http://www.epa.gov/dced/sgia.htm
- More intensive and tailored assistance in comparison with Building Blocks.
- Annual, competitive solicitation open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments (funding permitting).



### Additional EPA Programs of Note Brownfields

- http://www.epa.gov/brownfields
- Brownfields are properties whose expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.
- EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization has many programs to help prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfields properties.



#### Sustainable Communities in Appalachia

#### EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/

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Photo: U.S. EPA