

# Sustainable Communities in Appalachia

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## 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.



Partnership for Sustainable Communities



# 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

**Before**



**After**



**Future Scenario**



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