



**A GIFT TO SMART GROWTH
IS A GIFT TO VERMONT**



People are at the center of well designed projects. A healthy neighborhood has homes that working Vermonters can afford and allows residents to walk to work, carpool or catch a bus so there is less dependence on cars. When we plan for denser neighborhoods, we keep homes in our villages and downtowns, close to jobs and transportation options. At the same time, we protect our working landscape and ensure land is available to provide food and forest products and for recreational opportunities. Smart land use is at the heart of each of these.

By supporting our work with a year-end gift, you're also helping your fellow Vermonters. Please consider becoming a member today. We've made it even easier by giving you the opportunity to make a sustaining membership pledge. Simply call us or visit our website. You'll also qualify for a free mug!

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Want to make a lasting gift to Vermont's communities?
You can by putting Smart Growth Vermont in your will.
See our website for more details.

**SMART GROWTH AND ARTHUR GIBB AWARDS HONOR
PROJECTS, PLANS AND PEOPLE
AROUND VERMONT**



Even with a slight chill in the early fall air, the evening of September 16 at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes was full of warmth and celebration. Close to 130 community members, town and state officials, and representatives from our Congressional leadership gathered to honor the 2009 Smart Growth and Arthur Gibb Award winners. "Every award winner is a true contributor to the ongoing work of protecting, restoring, and building upon the best of Vermont," said Noelle MacKay, Smart Growth Vermont's Executive Director.

Senator Diane Snelling spoke about her earliest memories of Arthur Gibb and his work putting Vermont at the forefront of environmental and land use law. Gus Seelig of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board reminisced about how award winner Robert E. Woolmington of North Bennington contacted him to lead the then new organization Rob was instrumental in founding and how Rob exemplifies Art Gibb's unique qualities of leadership, vision and the ability to bring together diverse opinions. "Rob's vision that

> *Continued...*

**MAKING WORK
VERMONT**

Ask most transplanted Vermonters why they chose to live here, and you'll often hear the same answer – because of Vermont's beautiful landscape. Our landscape is what attracts visitors and has even been called our "brand." We asked a few business people how being in Vermont enhances their company.

Sabra Field, artist

I chose to surround myself with my subject matter instead of living somewhere else. At one point, I could have moved to New York City, but that's not my idea of truth, beauty or sanity. In addition to our cultural landscape, I hope people see in my work metaphors for universal order. I'm glad Vermont is encouraging development in villages as a means to keeping surrounding land open. As my favorite bumper stickers says "Love the countryside? Live in town."

**Bram Kleppner,
VP Sales and Marketing, Danforth Pewter**

People come to Vermont for our landscape and want something uniquely Vermont to remember their visit. They come to Danforth for our long-standing family tradition of making unique, high-quality Vermont products. Our reputation has also allowed us to expand and add four highly-skilled jobs in Vermont – it is what brought a Virginia pewter company to us. We feel really good about adding local jobs that support this tradition and Vermont's economy.



Photo by Georgia Sheron



Above: Fred Danforth spinning pewter



Paul Ralston, Vermont Coffee Company

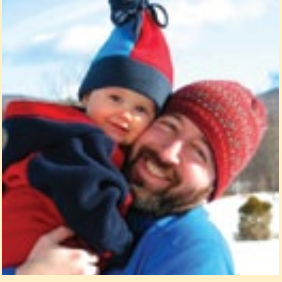
What we all want is to preserve and protect Vermont, not "brand" it. Vermont is a way of life, it's a place, but it's not a fabricated thing that can be bought or sold. It's not the easiest place to live, but that's why it attracts people who really care. Since we want to live here, we start businesses, like the Vermont Coffee Company. I've also made a commitment to reducing my carbon footprint by living within a mile from where I work, so when I moved the company to Middlebury so we could expand, I also bought a house there that we're upgrading with an intensive energy retrofit. Basically, it all starts with where we want to live and work – our lifestyle and quality of life. We're fortunate to have Smart Growth Vermont keeping us aware of what we need to do to preserve what we value.

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I SUPPORT SMART GROWTH VERMONT BECAUSE



Darren Higgins,
Waterbury Center

... your work matters. Smart Growth Vermont's clear-eyed, holistic approach to the land-use challenges that face our state—not to mention its innovative, community-based solutions—gives me hope that the Vermont I love will still be around for my son to enjoy.



Stewart McDermet,
Dummerston

... you don't take a biased closed minded view, "All growth is bad!" Smart Growth Vermont looks at Vermont cities and towns, accepts growth as a part of our culture, and then participates with those towns by helping to create the growth that is agreed on by all, that is best for their individual communities.



Cathy Frank,
Burlington

... the principles you endorse help us put into practice a way, in our daily living, to lessen our footprint on the environment, at the same time fostering social connectedness and a sense of community.



★ JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT GIFT FOR THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL? Why not make a gift on their behalf to Smart Growth Vermont. Simply purchase a membership in the name of the people you want to honor or remember and we will send a card to them to acknowledge your gift. This holiday season, we have a special card that was created by Vermont Artist, Katherine Monstream. You can reserve your gift through our online giving site, or by calling us or dropping us a note. This is a safe, secure and thoughtful way for you to show that special person how much you appreciate their interest in preserving Vermont's unique character.

> *Continued from front...*

housing and conservation were complementary public functions enabled the Board to support conservation that revitalizes our rural economy, while reinvesting in Vermont's downtowns and village centers," said Seelig.



Rob also helped form the Fund for North Bennington to conserve the unique character of the town and is chair of the Vermont Community Foundation board of directors, and a renowned environmental lawyer. In his acceptance speech, Rob spoke of his memories of Art Gibb and how Gibb influenced him and his career.

The three projects and one plan that received awards are star examples of how cities and villages can incorporate affordable homes, commercial space, build and renovate for high energy efficiency while also bringing historic Vermont structures back to life. "Any day we can create more affordable housing is a good day; to create 20 new apartments and office space for our staff in a LEED certified, energy efficient building constructed in the middle of a downtown is a great day," said Brenda Torpy, CEO of Champlain Housing Trust.

Finney Crossing, *Williston*

A plan for a mix of home types, commercial and retail space in a walkable neighborhood.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE TOOLBOX:

In each issue, we feature a land use issue, tool, or case study from our online Community Planning Toolbox. To learn more, visit www.smartgrowthvermont.org/toolbox.

Issue: Public Engagement

People sometimes talk about public participation as if it's a one-shot deal: meeting, PowerPoint, questions, done. But community consensus around a plan or a project isn't built using a bare bones approach. Smart Growth Vermont promotes putting people at the center of local land use decision-making and giving them a voice. Engaging the public is the best way to ensure the successful implementation of a Town plan, the passing of a new bylaw or the completion of a new project.

Tool: Design Charrettes

One person says density and envisions a traditional Vermont village, while to others it suggests cold, towering buildings. The missing piece? Pictures. One of the best ways help people see where they agree is to hold a design

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Banknorth Block, *Burlington*

Historic restoration and infill that adds affordable homes and commercial space in downtown Burlington.



Proctorsville Green Revitalization, *Cavendish*

Restores a village green and brings a range of home options to a village center.

ReSOURCE North Social Enterprise Expansion, *Barre*

Brings a renovated granite shed back to life in downtown Barre as a training center and ReSOURCE for recycled goods and materials.



For more information about this year's and past award recipients, visit our website, www.smartgrowthvermont.org.



charrette. Through this process, people come together to describe their vision of a proposed project. A leader draws what they say, and asks if the drawings are on the right track. The result is a series of sketches that illustrate the project so that it can be built with broad community support.

Case Study:

The Vermont Neighborhoods Project

One of the most effective uses of a design charrette is to help a community see that the impossible can be doable. Through the Vermont Neighborhoods Project, Smart Growth Vermont worked with community members, planners and landscape architects in Shoreham, Middlebury, and Vergennes to create conceptual designs for a new neighborhood in each town. Shoreham has started to implement a version of the proposal, and all three communities are looking for ways to encourage the construction of new neighborhoods built on a traditional model.

WWW.SMARTGROWTHVERMONT.ORG



Forging growth and conservation solutions for Vermont communities and rural countryside.