NEW ONLINE TOOLBOX PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON LAND USE CHALLENGES

On December 11th, Smart Growth Vermont launched our new online Community Planning Toolbox. This new resource features tools to help our communities encourage neighborhood development in downtowns and villages, promote more efficient structures and public transit, define walkable and bikeable networks. The Toolbox also offers examples of city planning, community development programs and educational materials to guide local decision makers through the new growth policies process. Check out the Toolbox at our new website, www.smartgrowthvermont.org.

SMART GROWTH AWARDS HONOR PEOPLE AND PROJECTS AROUND THE STATE

When Bob Lloyd, the state’s recipient of our Arthur Glue Award for Individual Leadership, stepped up to accept his award at the annual 2007 Smart Growth Awards, he left attendees with this thought: “All land in Vermont is to some extent a common interest community. Living in Vermont is a common interest enterprise.”

To his humble and eloquent words echoed the sentiments of all award recipients, that we can work together to ensure Vermont grows in a way that respects our history, culture and unique landscape.

This prestigious award honors an individual whose leadership has brought about a positive and lasting change to the way their community integrates growth and conservation. Widely considered the father of Act 250 and the principal force behind the senate sponsored law, Arthur Glue was Chair of the Environmental Board and a state senator from Addison County. He passed away in 2005 at the age of 87.

> Story continued inside...
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
CORNWALL

Cornwall, a town of approximately 1,200 year-round residents, is facing the same development pressures as many small Addison County communities. Its proximity to neighboring Middlebury, which is experiencing a period of intense growth, has contributed to a substantial demand for new housing in town.

In recent years, the Cornwall Planning Commission has been busy with reviewing several large residential subdivisions, while at the same time updating its planning policies. A new town plan was prepared with the help of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. After the plan was adopted in 2005, the Commission turned to the complicated task of meshing its zoning system and subdivision regulations.

"Smart Growth Vermont helped us focus on different options for the Village and innovative ways to manage future development," explained Planning Commissioner Chair Bruce Byers. "With the help from both the regional planning commission and Smart Growth Vermont, I'm comfortable that we have developed a sound set of regulations." 

AWARDS

2007 Arthur Glib Award for Individual Leadership: Robert Lloyd, Timsbury, VT

Smart Growth Awards:
- Stockbridge Town Center
- One More Home Program, Montpelier, VT
- Main Street Mill, Richmond, VT

Smart Growth Merit Awards:
- Midlks Works Residences, Middlebury, VT
- Middlebury South Village, Middlebury, VT
- Southern Vermont Recreation Center, Springfield, VT

To learn more about our award winners, visit our new website at www.smартgrowthvermont.org.

2008 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Smart Growth Vermont is working with our legislative partner, Preservation Trust of Vermont, on a number of key land use issues during the legislative session. As the session progresses, we will issue Legislative Alerts on these and other important initiatives.

Increasing the Downtown Tax Credits:
We are advocating for an increase in the amount of tax credits available to owners of buildings in designated downtowns and village centers.

Evaluating the Use Value Appraisal Programs:
This important program, commonly called the "Current Use" program, has been reviewed by a legislative task force charged with evaluating program effectiveness, considering modifications and making recommendations to the Legislature in January. We are working to ensure this program continues to provide benefits to Vermonters who conserve and work the land.

Resolving Affordable Housing Shortages:
Smart Growth Vermont and members of the Vermont Smart Growth Collaborative are working with other stakeholders to develop a program that provides incentives for the construction of new housing that serves the needs of low and moderate income Vermonters; fosters smart growth development that reinforces Vermont's historic settlement pattern; and discourages scattered development and fragmentation of farms and forest lands.

If you would like to receive our Legislative Alerts, please e-mail Serena Parnas at serena@smartgrowthvermont.org or call (802) 866-6316.

WWW.SMARTGROWTHVERMONT.ORG

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

RESOURCES


In this new book, Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change, a team of leading urban planning researchers concludes that less auto-dependent development is the key to mitigating climate change. For more information, visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org or call (202) 267-3355.

SMART GROWTH AWARDS CONTINUED...

More than 130 people gathered on Burlington's waterfront to celebrate the work of Vermonters whose projects and plans create economic opportunities, housing and a sense of community in a way that respects our unique landscape. "Each of these projects is a story of how Vermonters breathed new life into their community in a way that truly serves the needs of its residents," said Nicole MacKaye, Executive Director of Smart Growth Vermont. This year's award winners include:

"Each of these projects is a story of how Vermonters breathed new life into their community in a way that truly serves the needs of its residents."