



NEW ONLINE TOOLBOX PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON LAND USE CHALLENGES



On December 31st, Smart Growth Vermont launched our new online Community Planning Toolbox. This new resource features tools to help your community encourage neighborhood development in downtowns and villages, promote reuse of historic structures and protect farmland, wildlife habitat and scenic resources. The Toolbox also offers examples of zoning, bylaws, community development programs and educational materials to guide local decision makers through the new growth center designation 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, this year's recipient of our Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership, wrapped up his acceptance speech at the close of our 2007 Smart Growth Awards, he left attendees with this thought: "All land in Vermont is, in some sense, a common interest commodity. Living in Vermont is a common interest enterprise."

Bob's humble and eloquent words echoed the sentiment 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 in the way their community integrates growth with conservation. Widely considered the father of Act 250 and the prime force behind the state's billboard law, Arthur Gibb was Chair of the Environmental Board and a state senator from Addison County. He passed away in 2005 at the age of 97.



Arthur Gibb



Bob Lloyd, Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership winner

Bob Lloyd Photo: Don Campbell

> Story continued inside...

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September 13, 2007 marked a milestone in the Vermont Forum on Sprawl's history as our new name, **Smart Growth Vermont**, was unveiled at our second annual Smart Growth Awards Celebration. As our focus and work evolved from raising public awareness about the causes and effects of sprawling development pattern to providing the tools and assistance communities need to foster smart growth, we felt that a new name was needed to clearly communicate this message and better reflect our mission. Whether we're talking about keeping businesses and jobs in our downtowns, supporting local farms or providing housing opportunities for all Vermonters, how we use and develop our land will determine whether the state maintains its essential character. Smart growth provides a framework for creating land use policies that respect our traditional landscape. Smart Growth Vermont is committed to working with local and state leaders to forge innovative solutions to the growth and development challenges facing the state. We hope you will join us in this effort.

VERMONT FORUM ON SPRAWL becomes SMART GROWTH VERMONT

110 Main Street
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www.smartgrowthvermont.org



SMART FACT:
On average, a new home 10 miles from downtown costs taxpayers twice as much as one near downtown.
Source: Urban Land Institute

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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 overhauling its zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations.



Graphic images prepared by Terra Firma Design help illustrate site design standards for Cornwall Village.

The Commission asked Smart Growth Vermont to help reach out to area landowners, identify appropriate boundaries for the Village District, and help prepare standards to encourage new housing that reflects a village scale and pattern of development. Staff helped conduct a survey of landowners in the vicinity of the Village, worked with the regional planning commission to study boundary options, and helped craft new development standards. In addition, Terra Firma Design developed graphics to illustrate the goals those standards are intended to achieve.

“Smart Growth Vermont helped to focus on different options for the Village and innovative ways to manage future development,” explained Planning Commission 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.” ★

RESOURCES

New Book Documents How Changes in Land Use Could Help Reduce Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In the 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) 207-3355.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SMART GROWTH AWARDS CONTINUED...

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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 Noelle MacKay, Executive Director of Smart Growth Vermont. This year’s award winners include:



Photo: Craig Bailey

“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.”

AWARDS

2007 Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership: Robert Lloyd, Tinmouth, VT

Smart Growth Awards

- Starksboro Town Center
- One More Home Program, Montpelier, VT
- Main Street Mill, Richford, VT



Starksboro Town Center

Smart Growth Merit Awards

- Marble Works Residences, Middlebury, VT
- Middlebury South Village, Middlebury, VT
- Southern Vermont Recreation Center, Springfield, VT



Main Street Mill, Richford

To learn more about our award winners, visit our new website at www.smartgrowthvermont.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 Program:

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.

Addressing the Affordable Housing Shortage:

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 Parnau at serena@smartgrowthvermont.org or call (802) 864-6310. ★

WWW.SMARTGROWTHVERMONT.ORG



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