

ABOUT US

The Smart Growth Partnership is a community-based private non-profit created in 2001. We believe that the land we use today is being borrowed from our children and our children's children. Therefore, we are guided by the principles that communities need to make good long-term decisions about where, when and how they should grow. We seek to encourage growth that improves the quality of life for our current residents and businesses, but will also insure vibrant, high-quality growth for future generations in Westmoreland County.

MISSION

The Smart Growth Partnership enables communities to enhance their viability, quality of life, and long-term sustainability by providing education and technical assistance, and by promoting smart growth principles.

VISION

Through the efforts of the Smart Growth Partnership, smart growth principles and practices have been instilled into the governance and development of Westmoreland County. The Smart Growth Partnership is recognized by the communities of Westmoreland County as a quality community resource for land use education and technical assistance.

10 SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES

1. Mix land uses
2. Take advantage of compact building design
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
4. Create walkable neighborhoods
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration



Smart Growth Partnership

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PENNSTATE



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2010

Work Plan

PENNSTATE



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Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

IMPROVED COMMUNITY GROWTH STRATEGIES

EDUCATION

Objective: To increase the understanding and use of sustainable concepts of community planning amongst elected officials, planners, lawyers, developers, students and the general public.

TACTICS

- Hold an Annual Awards Dinner to celebrate and recognize communities, individuals and projects implementing smart growth practices.
- Host a day-long mobile workshop featuring the recently released Allegheny Valley Railroad and Norfolk Southern Commuter Rail Interim Study.
- Derry-Latrobe Economic Exchange Day – connecting county and local government officials, with university resources, and high school seniors.
- Co-host the Local Government Academy Newly Elected Officials Workshop.
- Make presentations on Smart Growth and community development to local government groups, universities, schools, conferences and community service organizations.
- Offer numerous educational opportunities for elected officials, planners, lawyers, developers and others, in collaboration with our partners.
- Develop and deliver Penn State Cooperative Extension Economic and Community Development state programs.

2010 TARGETS

Fifty or more individuals enroll in courses offered at the Smart Growth Partnership.

Fifteen quality award nominations are submitted for the Annual Smart Growth Awards, including four from outside the county.

Participation in the Annual Awards Dinner is over 175 people.

At least 30 key officials and developers regularly attend our mobile workshops.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Objective: Enhance the sustainability of communities by assisting municipalities and developers in the use and adoption of smart growth practices.

TACTICS

- Implement the Route 30 Master Plan Project. Produce an executive summary and host a final implementation meeting. Help communities adopt the model land use regulations developed in the Master Plan. Information is available at www.route30plan.com
- Facilitate a two-day Town Center Public Design Workshop for the Blue Spruce - Banner Parklet with the Murrysville Economic and Community Development Corporation.
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the duties and responsibilities which the Smart Growth Partnership will perform on behalf of the Westmoreland County agencies
- Complete grant writing assistance being provided to Allegheny Township, Vandergrift, East Vandergrift Regional Plan.
- Strategic Planning and Leadership Capacity building for Irwin Project Board of Directors strategic planning session.
- Assist municipalities and others with related grant writing and proposal development.
- Provide ongoing municipal planning, project monitoring, and assistance to municipalities.

2010 TARGETS

Smart growth policies and practices will be incorporated into two or more municipal plans and land development ordinances.

One development modeling some of/as many of the 10 Smart Growth Principles as possible.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Establish the Smart Growth Partnership as an integral part of the civic leadership of Westmoreland County as well as an efficient, effective and sustainable organization.

TACTICS

- Develop and adopt a one-year work plan for the Smart Growth Partnership.
- Raise support from diverse sources to fund our efforts. Seek out cost recovery for educational and technical assistance offered.
- Secure annual program sponsors to help underwrite the cost of our events, seminars, meetings and programs.
- Produce and publish a 2007-2009 annual report to inform our constituents and funders of our services, activities and accomplishments.
- Management of Board meetings, accounting and bookkeeping. Website communication and office management.
- Staff professional development.

2010 TARGETS

The Smart Growth Partnership remains viable with dynamic, influential leadership.

Continuing relationships with partners, targeted municipalities, governmental agencies and civic organizations based upon routine collaboration.

Secure 10 municipal members.

Secure 25 annual program sponsors.

Secure \$10,000 from Allegheny Energy as signature sponsor for the Annual Awards Dinner.

Raise 5% or approximately \$13,500 of our revenue from our annual program sponsors.