

Appendix --- B

Principles and Working Group

The New York State Smart Growth Working Group and Participating Members Smart Growth Themes and Principles for New York State

At the first smart growth conference in 1999 one of the major conclusions on which there was general agreement was that a working group should be established that would monitor and guide the next steps for achieving smart growth in New York state. This informal working group was established and for the last two years it has served well in developing a set of principles based on the recommendations from the speakers at the 1999 conference.

The working group has also drafted legislative proposals and language and some of this language was incorporated in the Executive Order signed by Governor Pataki in January 2000, which established the Quality Communities Task Force. Many members of the Working Group participated on the Advisory Board to the Task Force and the Working Group itself gave the Task Force a list of recommendations to be considered in the final report. Many of these recommendations by the Working Group were indeed part of the final report, "State and Local Governments Partnering for a Better New York," which was released in February 2001.

The participating member organizations of the Smart Growth Working Group are listed below. The principles developed by the group may be found on the next page.

Smart Growth Working Group Participating Members

American Farmland Trust	New York League of Conservation Voters
Association of Towns of the State of New York	New York Parks and Conservation Association
Audubon New York (chair)	New York Planning Federation
Catskill Center for Conservation/Development	New York State Builders Association
Common Good Planning Center	New York State Conference of Mayors
Environmental Advocates	New York Upstate Chapter
Glynwood Center	of the American Planning Association
Government Law Center of Albany Law School	Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Group for the South Fork	Office of the Mayor of Rochester
Institute for Local Governance and Regional	Preservation League of New York State
Growth, University of Buffalo	Regional Plan Association
Land Trust Alliance Northeast Program	Scenic Hudson
Land Use Law Center, Pace University	SUNY College of Environmental
School of Law	Science and Forestry
The League of Women Voters of New York State	Sustainable Long Island
Long Island Builders Institute	The Nature Conservancy
New York Farm Bureau	Westchester Land Trust

A smart growth working group chaired by Audubon New York with representatives from environmental, conservation, home builders, local government, planning, academic, farming and historic preservation groups agreed to the following smart growth themes and principles in 1999.

Smart Growth Themes For New York State

- Bottom Up, Community Based Planning
- Based on Incentives
- Respecting Home Rule
- Accountability and Implementation
- State Agency Consistency & Coordination
- Funding for Local Planning
- Promoting Economic Development and Natural Resource Protection

Smart Growth Principles For New York State

- 1) Provide for and encourage local governments to develop through a collaborative community based effort a comprehensive land use plan or amendment thereto which includes long term land use and permit predictability and coordination, efficient decision making and plan implementation.
- 2) Encourage mixed use development and redevelopment and infill development of main streets, historic districts, downtowns and adjacent areas and brownfields to lessen the necessity for expansion of infrastructure and accommodate an appropriate proportion of necessary development which would otherwise be located on undeveloped land. Further, to encourage investment in infrastructure in locally-designated growth areas within and adjoining urban, suburban and rural areas.
- 3) Encourage the location of land development in areas where infrastructure and public services are adequate and also encourage more compact development, for example, through the use of transfer or purchase of development rights, incentive zoning, cluster developments, tax incentives, conservation easements and planned unit developments, to provide for effective use of open space.
- 4) Encourage the reform of state and municipal regulatory activities to promote expedited permitting of development that is consistent with these policies and with local smart growth plans, for example, by preparing generic environmental impact statements for designated centers under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
- 5) Adopt measures for the preservation of open space and park land in order to protect natural resources, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Preserved land should be subject to effective stewardship to ensure appropriate care and use of these areas. Whenever practicable, park land should be proximate and accessible to existing development.
- 6) Encourage the retention of farms, farm services, and associated infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, through the use and support of state initiated farmland protection programs and other state and local activities.
- 7) To assure consistency, cooperation and coordination of state and local government decisions on infrastructure and facilities location, maintenance and improvement, for example, through state open space, transportation and industrial and economic development investments consistent with these principles. This will ensure sound comprehensive land use planning, and stimulate economic competitiveness and the efficient allocation of resources.
- 8) Encourage consideration of future housing needs and to promote a diversity of home type and affordability in proximity to places of employment, recreation and commercial development, to facilitate a variety of transportation choices, to reduce automobile dependency, traffic congestion and broaden access to the job market and community facilities to families of all economic circumstances.
- 9) Encourage the cooperation within regions - whether among villages, towns, cities, counties or existing regional authorities and service providers - to implement common local and regional goals while reaffirming home rule and recognizing the plans of other local governments.

*Prepared by the Smart Growth Working Group
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