



Smart Growth Awards 2009

Smart Growth Vermont is pleased to announce that we are now accepting nominations for our 2009 Smart Growth Awards! This awards program honors projects, initiatives, and plans anywhere in the state of Vermont that demonstrate smart growth principles in action. “Smart growth” refers to an approach to land use that revitalizes neighborhoods, protects farmland and open space, keeps housing affordable, and provides more transportation choices. Smart growth is good for the economy, communities, and the environment.

Nomination Criteria

The smart growth awards showcase approved and built projects, conservation initiatives, and municipal plans and programs that embrace smart growth principles. Development projects can be new development or redevelopment of any scale and should demonstrate conformance with at least five of the eight principles below. Conservation initiatives should focus on linking protection of working rural lands with development in and around traditional centers and should be consistent with at least four of the eight principles below. Municipal plans and programs can include a plan, bylaw provision, or related policy or program that encourages smart growth development in a community, a region, or statewide, and should also support at least five of the eight criteria below.

Nominated projects, initiatives, and plans will be judged by the following criteria:

- Be in an appropriate location, in most cases within an existing settlement presently served by infrastructure (except for conservation initiatives)
- Support a mix of uses and be well integrated into the existing community fabric
- Create or enhance transportation infrastructure that allows for safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access and public transit service
- Have sufficient density and scale to support a range of housing options
- Promote adaptive reuse of existing structures or infill of underutilized urban sites
- Protect and conserve working farms and forests or important natural habitats
- Incorporate sustainable design features and energy saving measures
- Provide benefits for the surrounding area, such as economic development, historic preservation, public access to parks, or other enhancements to the quality of community life

In addition, the following also must apply:

- *Completed projects* must have been constructed within the last three years.
- *Approved projects* must have received all applicable regulatory approvals and have an anticipated timeframe for completion of two years or less.

- *Conservation initiatives* must have received approval from all applicable entities and have shown tangible progress towards their goals.
- *Municipal plans* and related implementation programs (e.g., bylaw provisions) must have been duly adopted by the municipality within the past three years.

Submission Requirements

Please submit six identical packets that contain all the following information in the order indicated, postmarked no later than APRIL 30, 2009:

- A hard copy of the completed one-page nomination form (see page 3 of this packet)
- A project narrative that explains in detail how the nominated project or initiative relates to at least five of the eight smart growth criteria listed above. Please limit the narrative to four pages and provide substantiation for each smart growth criterion that applies to the project. Such information could include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - ✓ Specific metrics that substantiate the smart growth characteristics of the project itself, such as net and gross density, distribution of price points, percent affordable units, LEED score, and the like
 - ✓ Data that substantiate the broader smart growth benefits of the project, such as acres of farmland or forestland conserved, square footage of historic structures rehabilitated, and linear feet of sidewalks and bike paths built as a result of the project
 - ✓ Information about those architectural or landscape qualities of the project that make it a model of how good design can contribute to the success of smart growth
 - ✓ Maps that show the location of the project relative to existing community centers, employment centers, neighborhood commercial areas, transit options, and other smart growth amenities, with quarter-mile and half-mile radius circles drawn around the center of the project to show scale
- At least one hard copy, high resolution photo or drawing that illustrates the project or initiative, printed on 8.5 by 11 paper (maximum two images per sheet)

In addition, please provide one CD with all of the above documents on it. Use only .doc, .pdf, and .jpg formats.

General Requirements

All application materials must be typed on plain white letter-sized paper. In order to reduce waste and streamline the review process, please do not use any binding or cover materials. Please submit a total of six hard copies of the nomination narrative. Finally, please be sure to fill out the cover sheet and include it with the application!

It is very important that all applications include a custom-written project narrative that addresses how the project meets at the minimum number of smart growth criteria required for the type of nominee in question. Generic project materials do not give the committee enough information to evaluate a project.

Third Biannual Smart Growth Awards Cover Sheet

Person submitting nomination

Name: _____ Affiliation (if any): _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Phone number: _____

Nominee Information

Nominee(s): _____

Organization: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Project Information

Project Name: _____

Location: _____

Project Type: Built or Approved Project Municipal Plan Conservation Initiative

Date Built/Approved/Adopted/Completed: _____

REMINDER: All applications MUST INCLUDE all of the items listed in the "Submission Requirements" section (page 2), including a project narrative that addresses how the project meets the relevant criteria.

MAIL TO

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QUESTIONS

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