

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Tool Descriptions (Last Updated - November 9, 2011)	
Organization	Tool
Global Green	LEED for Neighborhood Development Assessment LEED for Neighborhood Development standard provides a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resource-efficient, and equitable. Through a 3-day intensive visit and consultation, the Global Green team will evaluate a specific neighborhood to identify the existing positive qualities of the neighborhood, consult with community stakeholders in meetings and a public workshop, and identify major opportunities to improve neighborhood sustainability.
Smart Growth America	Complete Streets Workshops Complete Streets policies ensure that all future street projects respond to the needs of everyone using the roadway. These workshops help communities set new priorities for transportation investments, write a policy, and tackle implementation challenges. Three distinct one-day workshops meet the needs of communities at different stages of Complete Streets familiarity. Conducted with the National Complete Streets Coalition.
Smart Growth America	Cool Planning: Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change The Cool Planning: Local Strategies to Slow Climate Change workshop seeks to actively involve communities in the process of finding solutions that can be implemented at the local level to slow climate change. Specific community development, land use, and transportation planning techniques can enable communities to reduce their carbon footprints and will be covered in depth in this workshop. The workshop will draw on a technical assistance team that has facilitated hundreds of smart growth and sustainable community development presentations, programs, and workshops in communities across the U.S. and abroad. Conducted with Otak, Inc.
Smart Growth America	Implementing Smart Growth 101 Smart growth strategies help towns and cities across the country grow stronger economically by using land strategically, making the most of existing resources and using public funds to catalyze private development. Yet many communities face barriers or are uncertain how to implement smart growth. As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to realize the benefits of smart growth. The Implementing Smart Growth 101 workshop draws on this expertise to provide actionable steps that the community can use to overcome the barriers to smart growth and build stronger economies now and for generations to come.
Smart Growth America	Implementing Transit-Oriented Development 101 The transit-oriented development (TOD) 101 Tool provides technical assistance to communities interested in transit-oriented development and how it can help a region shape growth. The TOD Tool is based on an all-day workshop that will define successful TOD and provide an overview of TOD at the regional, corridor, and station area scale. Conducted with Strategic Economics.

<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Parking Audits Parking audits provide a neutral setting where an impartial parking expert can evaluate local policies and practices and offer advice based on the state of the practice, with an emphasis on what works well and what should be avoided. The audit can be community-wide or can focus on a specific district. Conducted with Charlier Associates, Inc.</p>
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health Smart growth policy can help communities save money now, reduce their liabilities for the future and use targeted investment to spur economic development. The “planning for economic and fiscal health” workshop draws on successful private and public sector lessons to help local leaders foster smart growth communities that cost their taxpayers less to build, run and maintain. This workshop first brings you the latest lessons in how smart growth saves money for local governments, makes money for businesses and is integral for the long-term fiscal and economic health of the community. Using an interactive and hands-on method, the workshop then shows how to apply these lessons in your community.</p>
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Regional Planning for Small Communities Regional planning for small communities is a one-day workshop to help small communities understand how to plan for and manage growth in a regional context. The workshop helps regions develop the capacity to identify where growth is most likely to occur and to create strategies for managing growth that preserve community character while enhancing economic competitiveness and quality of life.</p>
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Smart Growth Zoning Codes for Small Cities Small cities and rural areas often have very different growth and development issues from their big city cousins—but their zoning codes are often drawn from the same templates. This workshop will offer a menu of “quick fixes” that local governments can make to their zoning codes to promote smart tailored for small cities and rural areas. Conducted with Clarion Associates.</p>
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Sustainable Land Use Code Audit Audits of local land use codes are being undertaken by an increasing number of communities that recognize their zoning and subdivision regulations are an important key to long-term sustainable development patterns and practices and economic growth. These code audits examine 10-12 sustainability issues such as energy conservation, renewable energy, and community health that are chosen by the community and provide an assessment of barriers and regulatory gaps in the codes to attaining community sustainability goals in these areas and potential implementation strategies. Conducted with Clarion Associates.</p>
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Transportation Performance Measurement This assistance provides an introduction to transportation system performance measurement and reporting. Based on broad, inclusive public conversations about desired future conditions, communities can establish objectives-driven planning, programming and design processes coupled with monitoring and reporting methods that improve the accountability and effectiveness of their transportation programs and</p>

	systems. Conducted with Charlier Associates, Inc.
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<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Using LEED-ND to Accelerate the Development of Sustainable Communities</p> <p>The planning and development of sustainable communities can be accelerated through local government leveraging of the LEED for Neighborhood Development (ND) rating system. This one-day workshop teaches local government staff a three-step leveraging process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identifying ND-eligible lands; 2) catalyzing projects on those lands; and 3) amending land-use and transportation plans to expand eligible land supply and improve vicinity conditions so as to increase achievable ND points.
<p>Smart Growth America</p>	<p>Walkability Workshop / Audit</p> <p>The Walkability Workshop/Audit is a one-day assessment and training workshop that includes a technical presentation, a walkability audit, partnership-building activities, visioning exercises, a short design session, and the creation of a working group. The workshop can be developed to accommodate local needs and contexts, and has been effectively used in all regulatory environments. A community-wide or stakeholder presentation by the team can be made in the evening.</p>

Project for Public Spaces	Place Audit and Street Audit The Place Audit and Street Audit are interactive exercises for working with the public or groups of agencies where citizens, in facilitated groups, observe a place in the field and use the place evaluation form to diagnose its performance based on four key attributes of successful public spaces: uses and activities, access and linkages, comfort and image, and sociability.
Project for Public Spaces	The Power of Ten Exercise This spatial self-diagnostic tool helps a community assess what and where its assets and liabilities are, and what is missing and needed to help make it a better place to live in and visit.
Project for Public Spaces	The PlaceMap The PlaceMap is a new form of community engagement through open online community mapping that extends the reach and transparency of the Power of Ten Exercise. Using PlaceMap, local stakeholders can be engaged prior to and after onsite collaboration. The PlaceMap was recently used in San Antonio.
Project for Public Spaces	Green Infrastructure Valuation Guide This guide distills the key considerations involved in assessing the economic merits of green infrastructure (GI) practices. It assists decision-makers in evaluating options for water management and deciding how, where, and when to incorporate GI in development and redevelopment. Conducted with Center for Neighborhood Technology.
Project for Public Spaces	Green Values® National Stormwater Management Calculator The calculator is a valuable stand-alone or companion tool to the Green Infrastructure Valuation Guide that allows users to quickly compare the performance, costs, and benefits of GI to conventional stormwater practices. It takes users through a step-by-step process ending in selection of a stormwater runoff volume reduction goal, outlines a range of GI Best Management Practices, and demonstrates in layperson terms the performance results and planning level cost estimates of GI versus conventional solutions. Conducted with the Center for Neighborhood Technology.
Project for Public Spaces	The Housing and Transportation Affordability Index The index documents the transportation costs associated with a home's location for 337 U.S. metropolitan areas, pricing the tradeoffs between housing and transportation costs that buyers and renters make when choosing where to live. This brings a level of transparency to housing transactions that has not previously existed and helps citizens and community leaders better understand the economic tradeoffs between different development patterns. Conducted with the Center for Neighborhood Technology.
Project for Public Spaces	TransopolySM, Neighborhood TransopolySM, and E-TransopolySM This suite of public involvement tools helps the public understand the relationships between transportation and land use planning. Each takes the form of a game that encourages consensus by having a group of participants collectively decide on the transportation infrastructure improvements to purchase, requiring participants to make fiscally prudent

	choices within a long-range vision for transportation planning. Conducted with the Center for Neighborhood Technology.
Project for Public Spaces	National Transit-Oriented Development Database The database provides users free web-based access to data on every existing and proposed fixed-guideway transit station area in the U.S. as of December 2010. Users can create database reports to conduct peer transit agency research in other regions to benchmark performance. Reports can be used for systems analysis, to evaluate development location alternatives, or to consider policy options. Conducted with the Center for Neighborhood Technology and Reconnecting America.
Project for Public Spaces	Transit-Oriented Development Implementation Typology This tool provides cities, transit agencies, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) a means of classifying and differentiating the many transit-rich places by grouping these areas based on key shared characteristics at both the corridor and regional scales. It offers an organized set of strategies that can assist with complex decisions about transit-oriented development (TOD), identify priority areas for investment, and assess the types of policies and incentives necessary to realize a corridor- or region-wide vision for TOD. Conducted with Reconnecting America.
Project for Public Spaces	Mixed-Income/Equitable TOD Action Guide This online tool for local jurisdictions fosters mixed-income transit-oriented development (MITOD) around planned transit stations. The guide helps practitioners identify the most appropriate and effective planning tools for achieving MITOD in their station area, and to facilitate the development of mixed-income communities across the system. Conducted with Reconnecting America.
Project for Public Spaces	Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares This training is based on the Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares Manual, a joint project of the Congress for the New Urbanism, the Institute of Traffic Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, and Environmental Protection Agency. The manual and training advance the successful use of context-sensitive solutions in the planning and design of major urban thoroughfares for walkable communities. They also demonstrate how context-sensitive design principles and techniques can be applied where community objectives support New Urbanism and smart growth: walkable, connected neighborhoods, mixed land uses, and easy access for pedestrians and bicyclists. The training can be customized to a city or region, addressing specific challenges and identifying thoroughfares in need of redesign for improved walkability.
Project for Public Spaces	Civic Engagement for Walkable, Livable Communities This training course assists communities in the creation of civic engagement plans to involve the public in meaningful town-making efforts. The training includes the Communications Planning & Civic Engagement Guide, a short but detailed, graphically rich guide that includes a resource appendix with best practices for planning, conducting, and evaluating effective civic engagement processes; a walkability checklist; and an evaluation toolbox. Conducted with the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Walk Audit/Streets and Intersections Audit These audits are used by the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, National Center for Biking and Walking, the Local Government Commission , and Project for Public Spaces to assess the walkability of a street, neighborhood, or community. Walk audits engage participants in inventorying and measuring the quality and effectiveness of the built environment for people on foot, bike, or other mode of active transport. Conducted with the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, National Center for Biking and Walking, and the Local Government Commission.</p>
<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Safe Routes to School Workshop This workshop provides flexible and comprehensive technical assistance to elementary and middle schools to improve the safety and desirability of walking and bicycling. A typical workshop includes (1) a walking audit of the site, with observation of student arrival/dismissal; (2) stakeholder interviews; and (3) a community workshop. Students are an integral part of the process. Conducted with National Center for Biking and Walking and the Local Government Commission.</p>
<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Active Community Schools (ACS) Workbook This guidebook is for people working to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians in school catchment areas and increasing rates of walking and biking to school. ACS supports users step-by-step as they think through and plan for all stages of schools-area program development and implementation for the component(s) they choose to address. This tool is particularly useful for groups at an early stage of defining the problems and planning a strategy or desired outcome. Conducted with the National Center for Biking and Walking.</p>
<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Bicycle Master Plan Roadmap This document guides communities through the three phases of Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) development: (1) developing stakeholder buy-in, goals, and staff capacity; (2) developing the plan; and (3) implementing and evaluating the plan. Conducted with the National Center for Biking and Walking.</p>
<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Community Image Survey (CIS) CIS is a tool for educating and involving community members in land use planning and urban design by using images rather than words to describe planning and community design alternatives. Conducted by the Local Government Commission.</p>
<p>Project for Public Spaces</p>	<p>Design Mini-Charrette This interactive and intensive collaborative design workshop harnesses the talents and energies of interested parties to begin to create and support a feasible plan for transformative community change. It is a public engagement process through which a 3-4 person design team works with local residents to craft a smart growth/sustainable development vision for the future of the community, along with specific recommendations for a town center or neighborhood. Conducted by the Local Government Commission or the National Charrette Institute.</p>

Project for Public Spaces	Project Start-up Intensive The tool assembles the key project partners (sponsoring organization, local planning agency, NGOs, etc.) to create a shared understanding and approach to the project. A common critical project flaw is conflicting values and approaches on the part of the partners. The goal of the Project Start-up Intensive is to establish a collaborative team approach that will carry the project through the myriad of challenges toward implementation. Conducted with the National Charrette Institute.
Project for Public Spaces	Form Based Code Tool This workshop provides training in the basic principles of Form Based Codes (FBC) or Place Based Codes (PBC) and their use as smart growth strategies to encourage compact, incremental growth patterns and create dynamic, healthy public and civic spaces. The application of these tools will focus on public places and connectivity. Conducted with Newport City Renaissance Corporation (CRC).
Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy)	A wide range of tools will be provided through a partnership among Forterra, Envision Minnesota, the Greenbelt Alliance, and the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance. Look for details in the next couple weeks.
EPA	Complete Streets Teaches communities how to set investment priorities, draft policies, and implement changes to make their streets safe and appealing to all users, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.
EPA	Creating a Green Streets Strategy Leads communities through actions to manage stormwater while developing streets that serve all users.
EPA	Green Building Toolkit Assists local governments in identifying and removing barriers to sustainable design and green building in their permitting processes.
EPA	Linking Land Use to Water Quality Helps local governments protect water quality through innovative approaches to land use and development that will also save money, help spur economic growth, and improve the community's quality of life.
EPA	Parking Audit Assists communities with managing parking supply and applying strategies for making the best use of parking for existing and planned land uses.
EPA	Preferred Growth Areas Offers a process for communities to review values, opportunities, tools, and constraints to determine the most environmentally beneficial locations for growth.
EPA	Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development: Helps the community understand the key principles and decisions at the location, site, and building levels that can result in a more sustainable plan or development proposal.
EPA	Smart Growth Zoning Codes for Small Cities and Rural Areas: Offers a menu of quick fixes that rural and small-town governments can make to their zoning codes and planning documents to get development that protects their character and quality of life.

EPA	Using Smart Growth to Produce Fiscal and Economic Health Helps communities get better economic results from development and investments.
EPA	Walking Audit Assesses the pedestrian environment in a community and helps form a vision for short- and long-term improvements to sidewalks and streets.