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Dauphin County, PA to host workshop on smart growth implementation

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Hummelstown, PA — Dauphin County officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on September 18 and 19, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop will help the community envision smart growth strategies in the context of Dauphin County, an area with varying levels of development density. It will also help to inform the county's comprehensive planning process.

"We are excited about the opportunity to host this free, grant-funded technical assistance program in Dauphin County," said Dauphin County Board of Commissioners' Chairman Jeff Haste. "The goal is to develop local solutions to help our community grow in ways that will provide benefits now and for generations to come."

"This workshop will give us more tools to leverage community assets and plan for our future," said Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries. "Dauphin County is very diverse, encompassing not only the capital city, but also suburban and rural areas. We look forward to working with Smart Growth America to discuss innovative strategies that fit our unique region."

"This is a tremendous opportunity to engage residents and local leaders in creating an action plan for sustainable growth that is beneficial for our region," Dauphin County Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III added. "We encourage leaders to register for this workshop and join the discussion."

Dauphin County residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of smart growth and how to implement local strategies for housing and transportation choice in the county's urban, suburban and rural communities. The event will be held September 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Lower Dauphin High School (201 S. Hanover Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036).

"Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local leaders keep their communities livable, sustainable and vital places," said Roger Millar, Smart Growth America Vice President. "This is a great opportunity for Dauphin County to learn how to use smart growth strategies to address demographic changes they are experiencing. The workshop will help them understand the impacts to the local economy and to local government budgets of different development patterns and ultimately aid them in their comprehensive planning process."

In November 2012, Dauphin County was one of 22 communities selected by Smart Growth America to participate in the free technical assistance program. Stretching from Maine to

Washington State, these communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Three other nonprofit organizations—Forterra, Global Green USA and Project for Public Spaces—also received competitively awarded grants under this program to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to help them use land strategically, make the most of existing resources and invest purposefully to catalyze private development.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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