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Chula Vista to host workshop on LEED ND to achieve greater sustainability

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Chula Vista, CA — Chula Vista officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on September 30 and October 1, 2013 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop will explore the City's options for incorporating sustainable practices in the community, through the lens of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) program. Already, the City is working towards its sustainability goals with its Climate Action plan and other initiatives and hopes to use the workshop to determine how neighborhoods can be developed to contribute to that vision.

"The City of Chula Vista is excited about this opportunity to learn more about the LEED for Neighborhood Development system and the strategies that could potentially turn development sites into vital, dynamic and sustainable places for the Chula Vista community," said Ed Batchelder, the Advance Planning Manager for the City of Chula Vista. "The workshop will help inform future site design that can promote healthy and vibrant developments compatible with adjacent residential and mixed use neighborhoods."

Chula Vista residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of strategies to achieve greater sustainability in the community through the LEED ND program. The event will be held September 30, 2013 at 3:00 PM at 670 L Street in southwestern Chula Vista.

"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. "The workshop will provide an important starting point for the City of Chula Vista to begin thinking about how a more sustainable and healthier community can be achieved through the LEED ND program. Not only will it help guide the City in its current development projects, but it will also provide a foundation for future planning and building in the city."

In November 2012, Chula Vista 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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