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Better development costs 30% less, yields 10 times the revenue according to new research

Report quantifies average fiscal impact of smart growth strategies

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Washington, DC – Towns across the country are looking for ways to balance their budgets, and better development strategies are a key piece of that puzzle. New analysis unveiled today by Smart Growth America quantifies just how much money towns could save by using smart growth strategies.

“Over the years plenty of towns and cities have compared the costs and benefits of different development scenarios and found that smart growth would benefit their bottom line,” said William Fulton, Vice President of Policy Development and Implementation at Smart Growth America. “This is the first time anyone has collected those case studies and determined a national average for how much towns can expect to save by using smart growth strategies.”

Building Better Budgets: A National Examination of the Fiscal Benefits of Smart Growth Development surveyed case studies from across the country that compare the costs and benefits of different development scenarios. The report looks at the costs associated with different development patterns as well as their revenue potential and finds:

1. Smart growth development costs at least one third less for upfront infrastructure construction.
2. Smart growth development saves taxpayers at least 10 percent on ongoing delivery of services.
3. Smart growth development generates 10 times more tax revenue per acre than conventional suburban development.

The development scenarios included in the analysis are separated into two categories: “smart growth development” and “conventional suburban development.” A detailed discussion of individual studies is included in the appendices of the report.

“Smart growth strategies are a tremendous opportunity for cities and towns to save money,” said Geoff Anderson, CEO of Smart Growth America. “Local leaders everywhere can use this information to make better fiscal decisions about development in their region. We have a responsibility to American taxpayers to do better.”

Read the complete report at <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/building-better-budgets>

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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