

Call for Contributions:**EPA seeks model courses for teaching smart growth principles in applied class projects.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received requests from communities and universities for help in developing model courses that incorporate smart growth into hands-on, applied course offerings. In an effort to meet this demand, the US EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation seeks submissions of course prospectuses from academics and professionals in higher education. A limited number of submissions will be used in a publication of model courses in smart growth planning, policy, and implementation. The US EPA plans to distribute this publication to faculty teaching relevant, applied courses to help them develop effective, hands-on classes.

Contributions are invited from those teaching applied courses in a range of fields including (but not limited to):

- Planning
- Community development
- Public policy
- Sociology
- Architecture
- Urban design
- Landscape architecture
- Urban studies
- Rural studies
- Public affairs
- Political science
- Engineering
- Law
- Business administration

Purpose/description of the publication:

Smart growth principles can help communities protect and enhance their natural environment while their economy prospers. Across the United States, communities are reusing previously undeveloped land; providing more housing and transportation choices; preserving critical natural areas; and developing vibrant places to live, work, shop, and play. In many communities, however, the local government does not have the capacity to create, assess, and implement these practices. Colleges and universities can help local governments with technical ability, and intellectual and institutional resources. In particular, faculty members, including adjunct faculty, in applied programs often can organize courses that give students hands-on experience in helping communities meet their environmental, economic, and other goals.

This publication will feature model, applied-course prospectuses that professors can adopt (in part or in whole) to provide students with hands-on, practical experience using smart growth principles in their field, while also benefiting local communities and community groups. The publication will likely include 10 to 12 prospectuses that ideally will cover the ten smart growth principles and provide examples spanning the geographic spectrum from rural to urban.

The course prospectuses should address one or more of the smart growth principles.

- *Smart growth principles:*

1. Mix land uses.

2. Take advantage of compact building design.
3. Create housing opportunities and choices for a range of household types, family sizes, and incomes.
4. Create walkable neighborhoods.
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
7. Reinvest in and strengthen existing communities and achieve more balanced regional development.
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective.
10. Encourage citizen and stakeholder participation in development decisions.

Possible topics:

Contributions should be from courses completed within the past 2 years (or anticipated to be completed in the spring 2005 semester). The projects described in the course prospectuses must use smart growth principles in improving the quality of life in a community. Course prospectuses could be organized around some of the topics listed below. This list is not exhaustive and other themes are both welcomed and encouraged.

- Fiscal analysis of a development
- Infill redevelopment
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Housing affordability
- Stakeholder participation
- Fiscal benefits of mixed-use
- Regional visioning
- Scenario planning
- Expanding housing choice
- Transit analysis and traffic systems
- Walkability and pedestrian access
- Children's health protection as related to the built and natural environment
- Town/gown partnerships
- School siting/investments in educational facilities
- University/college development on and off campus
- Compact development/redevelopment
- Form-based code development and implementation
- College/university expansion into existing neighborhoods
- Rural smart growth
- Open space preservation
- Preservation of buildings, land, historic districts, and cultural resources
- Green-taping and other redevelopment strategies
- Stormwater regulations

Discussion of contribution content:

The course prospectuses should include a narrative introduction, an explanation of how the principles of smart growth are being used, the course outline, a discussion of the materials developed during the course and any actions taken as a result of the work, and a conclusion that sums up the project and offers recommendations for educators who might use the prospectus.

- Introductory narrative (5 pages)

- An explanation of the project, including its genesis, partners needed, basic goals and objectives.
 - Discussion of the educational components and how they fit in with the project completed in the applied course.
 - The role and expectations of the faculty, students, and stakeholders or partners.
 - The smart growth principles used in the project as well as how they were taught to the students, and, potentially, taught to the partners. Describe which resources were most effective in teaching smart growth.
 - Discussion of data needed and other resources required for the course. Include a discussion of the quality of the data as well as any problems encountered acquiring it.
- Course outline (3 – 5 pages)
 - Include reading list, week-to-week topics (using a standard 12 to 14 week semester – use week numbers, rather than dates), and interim products, deadlines, etc...
- Discussion of the end products and/or actions taken (2 – 3 pages)
- Concluding narrative (3 - 5 pages)
 - Sum up the project.
 - Discuss any lessons learned.
 - Discuss how others could use this course material. Replicating these applied courses is the publication's main goal.

Additional information on the publication:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to publish this booklet. Contributing authors will be acknowledged in the publication. In addition to the course prospectuses, there will be an introduction explaining the purpose of the publication, its anticipated use, as well as a discussion of smart growth principles and EPA's support of smart growth as an innovative approach to solving environmental problems. There will also be a section that lists print and web resources on smart growth for faculty, students, community groups, decision-makers, and other stakeholders.

Smart growth and the US Environmental Protection Agency:

Smart growth development practices support national environmental and public health goals by protecting sensitive watersheds, minimizing water quality impacts from development, reducing air emissions by increasing transportation choices, and encouraging cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of brownfields.

Selection process:

An editorial committee will review, provide comments on, and select up to 10 to 12 prospectuses for inclusion in the publication. Contributions will be selected based on the relevance to smart growth, transferability of the prospectus, and the quality of the submission as a whole. Authors whose contributions have been accepted will be provided reviewer comments and asked to revise their contribution prior to final submission.

Format of submissions:**Please submit by email in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect to:**

Matthew Dalbey, PhD, AICP
Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation
Email: dalbey.matthew@epa.gov

- Include a cover page that contains the following information:
 1. Name
 2. Professional title and affiliation
 3. Complete mailing address
 4. Telephone number, fax number
 5. E-mail address

- On a separate page include a biographical sketch (300 words max)

Project timeline:

Proposed contributions due:	May 2, 2005, 5 p.m.
Notice of acceptance:	May 16, 2005
Final submissions due:	July 1, 2005

Compensation and licensing of the work:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will not compensate authors for their contributions to this publication. Authors of accepted contributions will be required to submit a written waiver of claims for compensation. Authors of accepted contributions will also be required to grant the US EPA a license to include the contribution in the publication and to use the contribution to increase knowledge of smart growth and its use in solving environmental problems. The US EPA will make this publication available to educators and the general public free of charge.

Questions? Contact:

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