

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q4



On October 26th and 27th, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) convened a national virtual forum on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC). Part 1 was a national webinar with messages from leadership as well as presentations from Regions 4 and 5 (Southeast and Midwest). Part 2 provided an opportunity for regional staff to meet within their regions with a common agenda, to discuss topics such as: grantee engagement, regional partnership work plans, and goals and challenges. Finally, in Part 3, each region provided a brief summary of their meetings and discussed next steps. Some regional engagement milestones and successes between October and December, 2011 include:

Improving Communication

Regional offices have been working hard to improve communication amongst federal agencies, between federal agencies and partners, and amongst partners. Region 3 FHWA conducted outreach to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to discuss becoming potential partners in livability and sustainability. Region 9 EPA delivered a presentation on tribal sustainable development programs and practices during the Region 9 Annual Tribal Environmental Conference. Region 8 presented to individuals from the city of Rapid City, SD and surrounding communities to discuss sustainability and provide information on HUD's sustainable grant program.

Technical Assistance to Communities

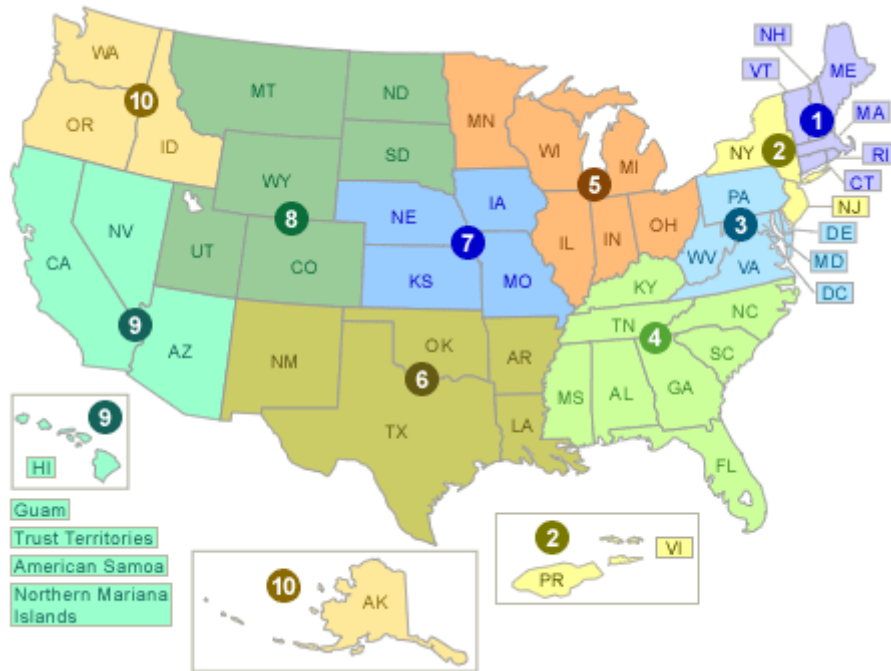
Regional offices continue to provide various forms of technical assistance to partners and communities. Region 6 EPA is providing targeted Brownfields Assessment assistance to the Westside Neighborhood Redevelopment in Port Arthur, TX, and is coordinating with HUD and DOT regional partners to identify resources and assistance to support additional affordable housing and transportation options around the future health clinic. Region 1 is coordinating with the University of Maine to provide GIS classes for the HUD grantee, Northern Maine Development Commission, to assist rural municipalities in mapping sea level rise as well as potential future development.

New Programs/Initiatives

Regional offices have developed several new projects and innovations. Region 2 EPA initiated an effort to analyze and identify systemic problems and best practices with federal funding for communities. The project is divided into several phases. A GIS workgroup was formed to begin compiling the necessary data and identify past problems and best practices with regard to leveraging funds. Region 10 representatives from HUD, EPA, USDA-RD and the Idaho Department of Commerce met on December 2, 2011 to discuss the Environmental Review (ER) process. The agencies discussed areas where interagency collaboration could: streamline and standardize the process; reduce duplication of effort; and account for multi-agency funding considerations.



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Region 1 – Co-hosted the *New England Smart Growth Leadership Forum: Putting Sustainability into Practice*.

Region 2 – Initiated an effort to analyze best practices and systemic problems with federal funding for communities.

Region 3 – Is providing technical assistance to the Charles Town-Ranson community, which has been selected by the Partnership to serve as a national model for how small rural cities can foster livability.

Region 4 – Held a virtual forum which included FEMA, HRSA, DOL and the COE.

Region 5 – Assisted the City of Moline, IL on a multi-modal transit station project and historic redevelopment on a brownfield site.

Region 6 – Conducted outreach to DOL, bringing them into the regional Partnership.

Region 7 – Held a regional strategic planning session with EPA, HUD, FHWA, FTA, HHS and USDA RD.

Region 8 – Jointly sponsored a workshop on transportation strategies for livable communities in Wyoming.

Region 9 – Delivered a presentation on tribal sustainable development programs and practices.

Region 10 – Developed a demonstration model for collaborative engagement among federal partners.

