

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q3



On June 16, 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) celebrated two years of partnership helping communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. Some regional engagement milestones and successes between July and September, 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 1 coordinated peer-to-peer conference calls to help Partnership grantees who are working on similar topics to hear about each other's work and to learn from one another. Region 9 held a problem-solving session with EPA and HUD contacts to discuss the Tribal Greener Building Code development process and methods to enable HUD ONAP and EPA to work together more effectively. Region 10 developed a draft communications strategy and protocols in August, and HUD Region 10 made ongoing use of a sustainability listserv, created last quarter, to promote green events to partners and communities, and to market Partnership opportunities.

Technical Assistance to Communities

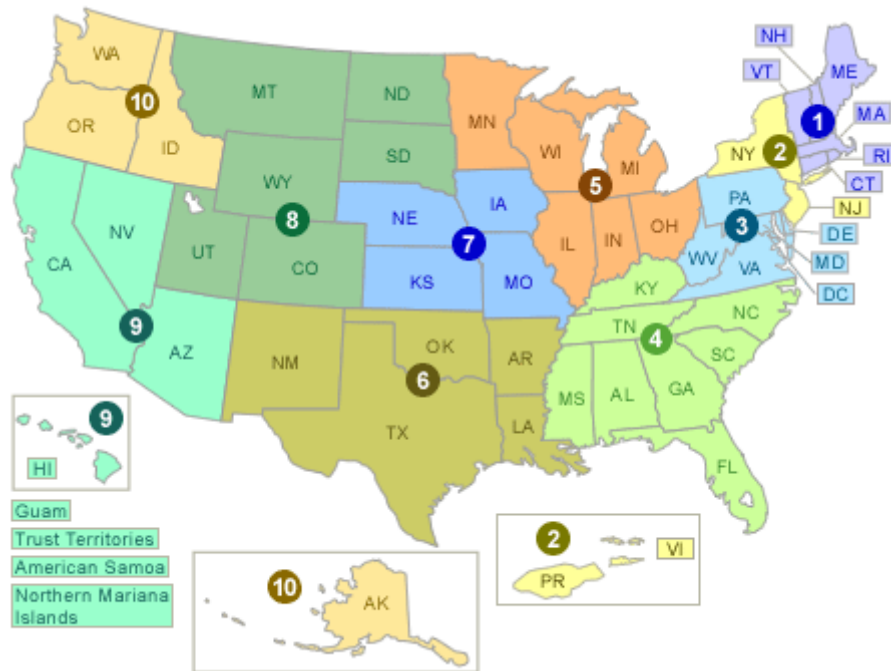
Regional offices continue to provide various forms of technical assistance to partners and communities. Region 7 EPA is working with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to provide technical assistance and advice on redeveloping a series of former gas stations along the former Lincoln Highway (US-30). USDA RD and FHWA are participants. Region 2 Interagency Partnership Team members served as Grant Reviewers and Quality Control Officers for the Community Challenge grant reviews. Region 5 presented a process and a set of recommendations for developing agricultural reuse projects on sites with an environmental history.

New Programs/Initiatives

Regional offices have developed several new projects and innovations. Region 4 FHWA Mississippi Division has worked with several entities to support and promote livability through the funding of enhancement projects. These projects have included several towns, cities, museums, and parks offering a far reaching opportunity for quality of life activities. Region 8 issued two Scenic Byways grants: 1) Bighorn Mountains Scenic Byways for the development of three corridor management plans; and 2) Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway to provide nonmotorized pathways and other livability enhancements to improve safety and mobility in Jackson.



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Region 1 - Completed the final report for the KeepSpace project in RI.

Region 2 – Finalized the first draft of a cross training intended as a tool to institutionalize the Partnership.

Region 3 – Ensured that Livability and Sustainability Initiatives were incorporated into NEPA documents.

Region 4 – Announced a new program called the HUD Green Refinance Plus Program.

Region 5 – Presented interim guidelines for safe gardening practices on brownfield sites.

Region 6 – Co-hosted the Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency Conference in Dallas, Nov 7-9

Region 7 – Built relationships with other federal agencies, including DOE, DOL, FEMA, and the Federal Reserve.

Region 8 – Presented the Partnership with HUD, EPA, and FTA at the American Public Works Congress in Colorado.

Region 9 – Shared new resource tools available on public engagement and assisted in identifying potential local partners on behalf of HUD Community Challenge grantee, City of Honolulu.

Region 10 – Developed draft communications strategies and protocols.

