



2012 Smart Growth Awards Guidelines and Nomination Instructions

All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, February 3, 2012.

New Jersey Future's Smart Growth Awards honor projects, plans and initiatives in all parts of the state that demonstrate smart growth principles in action. The awards help to shine a spotlight on individuals, businesses or organizations with the vision to resist status-quo growth patterns and encourage smart-growth values and designs. In past years, winners have included government officials, developers, contractors, architects, planners, corporations, lenders and community groups.

Honorees will be recognized at our 11th Smart Growth Awards Celebration on June 7, 2012.

Guidelines & Eligibility

Winning projects exhibit most if not all of the smart-growth principles outlined below:

- Near existing development and infrastructure
- Create or enhance a vibrant mix of uses (residential, retail, office)
- Protect or enhance open space, farmland, parks and critical environmental areas
- Increase range of housing options
- Create or enhance transportation choices
- Walkable, designed for activities at the street level that encourage personal interaction
- Respect community character, design and historic features
- Create or enhance connections to existing developments or plans
- Utilize green or regenerative design techniques and materials

Location. All projects must be located in the State of New Jersey. The Smart Growth Awards highlight the impressive array of activities going on statewide—from urban and suburban to rural development and redevelopment projects.

Project types. Approved and built projects as well as adopted plans of all sizes and scales are eligible for consideration. We encourage the submission of both large- and small-scale projects. On occasion, a special initiative that is not technically approved, built or adopted will be recognized; however, applicants must make a strong case for how these initiatives have been implemented and/or institutionalized.

- Approved projects have successfully completed the local approval process and have an anticipated completion date of five (5) years or less. Larger, multi-phase projects must be expected to be over 50 percent complete within the five-year time frame.
- Built projects must have been completed within the past five (5) years.
- Adopted plans must have been approved by resolution by the governing body within the past three (3) years. If a master plan is under consideration, the nominator must explain what steps have been taken by the municipality to implement the plan.

Categories. Award-winning projects have previously fallen into the categories listed below. This list is not exhaustive and is intended for illustrative purposes, not a required element of the submission. You can read more about previous honorees on our website at www.njfuture.org.

- Arts and community rebirth
- Community-university partnership
- Creative affordable housing
- Historic building reuse
- Infill neighborhood design
- Innovative land-conservation program
- Main Street/downtown revitalization
- Participatory neighborhood planning
- Town Center redevelopment
- Waterfront revitalization

Selection Process

The 2012 Smart Growth Awards will be selected by an independent jury, which includes representatives of New Jersey Future's Board of Trustees as well as other respected professionals in development and planning. All nominations will receive careful consideration by the Awards Selection Committee. All finalists will be visited by at least one member of the committee prior to the final vote.

Submission Requirements/Checklist

- Entry Form. All submissions must include 10 copies of the completed Entry Form.
- Project Narrative. All submissions must be accompanied by 10 copies of a two- to three-page description of the nominated project. Be sure to address the following:
 - How does the project advance smart-growth principles? Reference the principles listed under Guidelines and Eligibility for background.
 - How does the project fit into existing development and/or community/regional plans? Provide some context for the project under consideration.
 - How has the community been involved in the development of the project/plan? What has been the community response to the project/plan?
 - If nominating a plan, what steps toward implementation have been made?
 - What challenges had to be overcome? What types of innovations stemmed from the project? Are there aspects that could be replicated in communities elsewhere?
- Plans. If the project being nominated is a plan, please enclose two (2) hard copies of the plan as adopted. If it is available in a digital format, please include 10 copies of the CD version as well.
- Images. All entries must include a minimum of one (1) contextual map that shows the project and its relationship to the surrounding area, as well as a minimum of four (4) graphics (photographs or renderings) that illustrate the project and the project area in general ("before" and "after" shots are highly encouraged). Please provide 10 hard copies of the contextual map and select images.
- CD-ROM. Please provide a CD that contains: the completed entry form, two-page project narrative as well as available digital images and/or plans.
- Nomination package summary. Please note that these packages will be sent to each member of the jury, so please take care to organize and collate each one. To minimize waste, please do not use binders, covers or folders, and avoid submission of laminated materials. In sum, please include:
 - Ten (10) hard copies of the completed entry form, the project narrative, contextual map and select images.
 - In the case of a plan, include 10 CDs that contain the digital version of the plan, if available.
 - One (1) CD with all of the nominations materials: entry form, narrative, map, images.

Deadline:

Submission packages must be received or postmarked by Friday, February 3, 2012.

Mail to:

New Jersey Future
2012 Smart Growth Awards
137 West Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

Questions:

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Entry Form – Page 1

Project Overview

Project name: _____

City, County: _____

Project type: built project approved project adopted plan

Date built/approved/adopted: _____

If other, describe: _____

As applicable:

Land area (acres) _____

Residential units (# and type) _____

Retail, office, other (sq. ft.) _____

Civic / public uses _____

Project Category

Check all that apply.

- Arts and community rebirth
- Community-university partnership
- Creative affordable housing
- Historic building reuse
- Infill neighborhood design
- Innovative land-conservation program
- Main Street/downtown revitalization
- Participatory neighborhood planning
- Town Center redevelopment
- Waterfront revitalization
- Other: _____

Brief Project Description

In one brief paragraph, please summarize the project.

