

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Since 2010, the Sustainable Growth Commission has promoted smart growth. Commission members, who represent local and state government, business and nonprofit organizations, consider how to help implement laws and regulations concerning Maryland's growth and development.

Much of the commission's attention in 2014 focused on the request from Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown to investigate and recommend ways to accelerate Maryland's infill, redevelopment and revitalization efforts. In response, the commission produced *Reinvest Maryland: Accelerating Infill, Redevelopment & Community Revitalization*, which sets forth dozens of recommendations to help communities across Maryland improve their downtowns, strengthen their economies and add housing.



Downtown Silver Spring made up one of 10 community profiles in Reinvest Maryland

in

Commission members collaborated on growth initiatives occurring throughout the state, including Baltimore's Partnership for Building Reuse effort to increase market-driven building reuse in major cities. At the request of State House Speaker Michael Busch, the commission, with the Department of Housing and Community Development, facilitated an assessment of the financial crisis on historically owner-occupied neighborhoods and identified strategies and recommendations to preserve their stability and promote homeownership. The Neighborhood Stabilization and Homeownership Workgroup will make recommendations in January.

The commission held its second annual Sustainable Growth Forum on February 5 in Annapolis, with a focus on how millennials and baby boomers are shaping what and where we build, grow and invest. The commission recognized eight individuals, organizations and projects that have contributed to sustainability and smart growth in Maryland with Sustainable Growth Awards. The commission expanded the appeal and interest of the annual forum and awards ceremony by including the Sustainable Growth Challenge, a collegiate competition engaging students from across the state in planning and sustainability issues. Commission members recognized four teams from a dozen submissions from undergraduate and graduate student teams conducting community planning exercises.