



2016

Report of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission



The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2010, the Sustainable Growth Commission makes recommendations on growth and development issues and celebrates smart growth achievements. Commission members, who represent local and state government, business and nonprofit organizations, consider how to improve Maryland's implementation of laws and regulations concerning growth and development and to promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation among the State and local jurisdictions.

With the appointment of many new members to the Growth Commission in 2016, much of the Commission's attention has focused on learning first-hand about the growth challenges facing local governments, particularly in the rural parts of Maryland – visiting Allegany, Caroline, Harford and Kent Counties. The Commission has continued to work on the recommendations from the *Reinvest Maryland: Accelerating Infill, Redevelopment & Community Revitalization* report, identifying how state and local governments can work together to spur reinvestment into our existing communities. Additionally, the Commission's Rural Economies Workgroup made significant progress investigating local food production opportunities, enhancements to Maryland's forestry industry, the needs for continued state land preservation efforts, and reducing impediments to rural development.



The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission meets bi-monthly rotating at locations throughout the state. Pictured here, the commission met at Chestertown Town Hall in November.



Members of the Growth Commission gain insight about the local communities where they meet, touring local attractions and businesses. Pictured here, a group of commissioners learn about the Fiber Arts Center in Denton.

The Commission's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Workgroup is also continuing to study the reports of local jurisdictions with adopted APFOs to determine if APFOs are redirecting development away from Priority Funding Areas. The Workgroup's preliminary assessment has been that local reports indicate statewide growth pressures have not returned to pre-Great Recession levels to provide sufficient evidence that APFOs are redirecting development beyond some localized restriction. In addition to the work with APFO's, the Commission has been reviewing the Transfer of Development Rights

(TDR) report released by the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) and the research paper on the future of sustainable farming and forestry in the state.

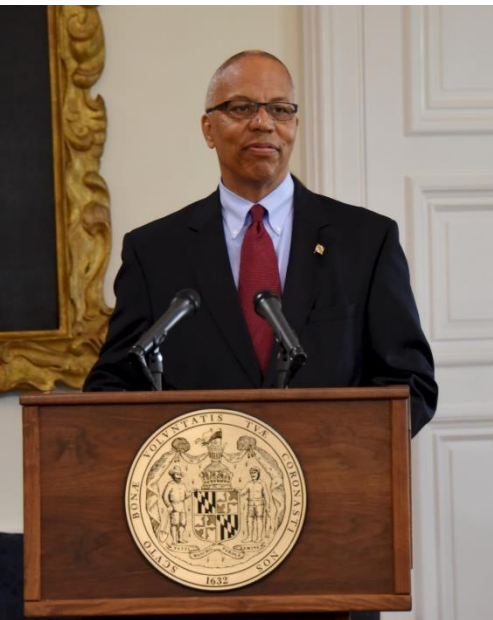
The Commission hosted its third annual Sustainable Growth Challenge recognizing two collegiate teams from the dozen submissions. This challenge engages students from across the state in planning, sustainability, and reinvestment issues enabling teams to conduct community planning exercises, analyze economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable growth and develop creative community solutions. It also provides students with an opportunity to interact with local leaders and their communities.

On September 15, 2016 the Commission held its fourth

annual Sustainable Growth Awards Ceremony in Annapolis. The award presentation was hosted at the Maryland State House in the Governor’s reception room, featuring a welcome address by Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. The Commission recognized eight individuals, organizations and projects that have contributed to sustainability and smart growth in Maryland. The Lt. Governor remarked that he was proud to recognize the contribution these recipients have made to the state, noting the importance of innovation, leadership, and passion that makes Maryland a leader in cultural preservation, community and economic development, and environmental stewardship.



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Secretary Wendi Peters, and Commission Chair Susan Summers present the Leadership & Service Award to Laura Wright.



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford addressing the award recipients and guests.

Eight people and projects received 2016 Sustainable Growth Awards.

2015-2016 Sustainable Growth Challenge Collegiate Competition Winners

The Sustainable Growth Challenge, an annual collegiate competition hosted by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, engages students from across the state in planning, sustainability and reinvestment issues.

The competition enables teams to conduct community planning exercises, analyze economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable growth and develop creative community solutions. The competition provides students the opportunity to interact with local leaders and engage in their own community planning processes.

Following a rigorous jury selection process, the Commission presented the following teams with top honors in the 2015-2016 Sustainable Growth Challenge:

Harford Community College “Best Undergraduate School” project for “Passport to Harford” – This project focused on a 75-mile bicycle and pedestrian route connecting five major towns in Harford County. As part of the students’ project, they created a mobile app making it easier to access the trail and have a more enjoyable experience.

University of Maryland “Best Graduate School” project for “Gold Street Park – Druid Heights” – The students worked with the Druid Heights community in Baltimore, Maryland to explore the potential of a vacant lot in the neighborhood that negatively impacted the revitalization of the area. Collaborating with the neighborhood, the students designed a community park plan with a meditative space, a nature play area, terraces for community events, water features and a bio-retention area that helps to revitalize and transform this community.



Harford Community College Undergraduate Team



University of Maryland Graduate Team

2016 Sustainable Growth Awards

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards celebrate significant achievement by individuals, businesses, organizations and local governments. The awards promote exemplary work that represents or inspires collaboration, innovation, conservation, community impact and quality of life. The Commission recognized the following for their 2016 awards:

Civic Works' Retrofit Baltimore Program – Leadership & Service Award for educating Baltimore communities on the benefits of sustainable options and enhancing residents' quality of life through energy improvements and making homeownership more affordable.

Community College of Baltimore County – Leadership & Service Award for the commitment to sustainable living and learning involving and benefiting all who work, study and play at its campuses.

Laura Wright – Leadership & Service Award for activism in cultural and heritage preservation and race relations, as well as leading the renovation and re-use of the historically significant Odd Fellows Lodge in Sandy Spring.

The Centre – Sustainable Communities Award for transforming one of the largest vacant buildings in the Station North Arts District into a hub for artists and entrepreneurs focused on social innovation and tech companies.

Center for Parks & People Foundation – Sustainable Communities Award for providing creative solutions to parks and recreation issues and reclaiming and revitalizing vacant lots creating usable space that benefits the entire community.

520 Park Avenue – Sustainable Communities Award for transforming a vacant department store warehouse into a vibrant mixed-use facility for hundreds of residents and visitors.

Pike & Rose Project – Sustainable Communities Award for transforming an aging strip center into a desirable, livable neighborhood with a new grid of walkable streets, diverse uses and varied architecture.

Washington County Solar Initiative Project – Preservation and Conservation Award for establishing a public-private partnership with both economic and environmental benefits that utilizes landfill properties to generate solar electricity.

Videos detailing each award winning project may be viewed on Planning's website at: planning.maryland.gov/YourPart/773/MSGC_Awards2016.shtml.



Representatives of the 520 Park Avenue project



Maryland Sustainable Growth trophies



Civic Works' Retrofit Baltimore Program



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Susan Summers, Chair

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Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Wendi W. Peters, Secretary of Planning
Ewing McDowell, Deputy Secretary of Planning