

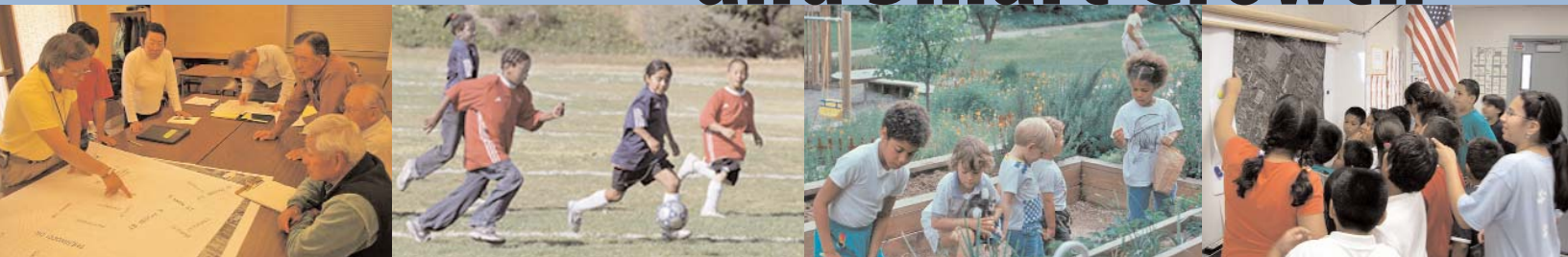


**February 3-5, 2011**

Charlotte, North Carolina

## **10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities**

# **Equitable Development, Environmental Justice and Smart Growth**



*Smart growth encourages development that creates healthy, vibrant places that give people greater opportunity and choice. How can smart growth support equitable development, environmental justice and economic vitality and empower communities of color, tribes and disadvantaged groups to shape the neighborhoods, communities and regions in which they live? The 2011 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference includes several sessions and a pre-conference workshop that explore these critical issues and showcase strategies and opportunities for greater collaboration among the smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice communities.*

[www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org)

**Successful Approaches to Equitable Development: Capacity Building, Area-Wide Planning and Revitalization Strategies**

■ THURSDAY, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Achieving equitable development outcomes requires the integration of smart growth principles with the unique character, context and voice of local communities. Case studies will describe successes and challenges of environmental justice capacity building, a green infrastructure strategy for area-wide brownfields and revitalization strategies for industrial communities in transition. Following the presentations, participants will break out into three groups to discuss strategies for achieving equitable development through capacity building at the state, local and grassroots levels, area-wide planning for vacant properties, and strategies for raising the quality of life for communities suffering disproportionate economic and environmental impacts.



**Latinos and Smart Growth: Lost in Translation**

■ THURSDAY, 10:45-12:15 p.m.

While smart growth would appear to embrace key tenets of environmental justice which speak to where we live, work, pray, learn and play, the smart growth vision of suburbanites moving into urban areas is supplanting local indigenous leadership and local visions of growth. More open space, esplanades and swimmable water translate into loss of manufacturing jobs and small local businesses. Affordable housing is replaced with luxury housing, greenways become cycling paths for people rolling through poor neighborhoods, and local culturally grounded institutions like bodegas get priced out and replaced with trendy organic shops. Institutions such as homeless shelters, methadone clinics and other social services are seen as out of context for a new vision that laden with intolerance. What does smart growth really mean? What does it mean for



Latino communities and how are local leaders addressing concepts that appear attractive on their face, but discriminatory in practice.

**Addressing Gentrification: Strategies for Fair and Equitable Neighborhood Development**

■ THURSDAY, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Encouraging reinvestment in existing communities and neighborhoods is a central principle of smart growth. However, there are many stories of communities and neighborhoods where existing, low-income and often minority residents have been displaced as their neighborhoods have experienced new investment and activity. Tools and strategies exist that support more inclusive community revitalization, minimize displacement and expand community benefits. This session will explore these tools and strategies, learn from success stories and hear the federal perspective.

**“Race”-ing to Equity: A Toolkit and Tale of Two Cities**

■ THURSDAY, 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Racial disparities affect virtually every dimension of community life. Different population groups and communities are often differently situated in terms of pathways needed to achieve desired results for development, conservation and smart growth. Even so, planners and developers may apply “universal” approaches to change presuming that one size fits all. If an approach seems necessary on its face, it nevertheless may not be sufficient to achieve the desired results across all racial/ethnic groups or neighborhoods. This session will provide participants with a thorough assessment of the implications of race and equity to create communities of opportunity. Participants will explore real-world strategies deployed in Baltimore and Portland, and use the Race Matters Toolkit to conduct a Racial Equity Impact Analysis.

**Sustainable Communities and Freight – Applying a Smart Growth Framework to Ports, Goods Movement and Environmental Justice**

■ FRIDAY, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Every year, the United States depends on the two billion tons of freight that moves through our nation’s busy marine terminals, as well as volumes of domestic product. It is distributed by air, truck, train or ship through a complex system that delivers these goods to local distribution centers, warehouses and neighborhood stores. U.S. ports expect volumes will continue to increase, and result in further expansion and development to accommodate this growth. Communities located next to goods movement activities may be affected by environmental impacts from these operations, including traffic congestion, air emissions, land use and other quality-of-life issues. This session will discuss how smart growth principles can be applied to goods movement and what initiatives can be taken by the freight transportation industry – including ports – to help promote environmental justice.

**Linking Climate Justice and Sustainability to National Equitable Development Advocacy Concerns**

■ FRIDAY, 1:45-3:15 p.m.

Communities of color have had to face disproportionate environmental risks as a byproduct of unequal and unsustainable development patterns. Major advocacy organizations are espousing green empowerment zones, weatherization and green development to brighten prospects for declining communities. These groups are trying to leverage expanding green development initiatives to support healthy communities to meet today’s challenges of concentrated unemployment and underutilized infrastructure. This session will discuss the relevancy of climate justice, green development and metropolitan planning to the quality of life, prosperity and health for struggling communities. Climate-neutral reinvestment strategies, including building rehabilitation, public transit and walkable communities have synergies with equitable development. Success will hinge upon whether national objectives to increase energy independence, decrease fossil fuel emissions, and provide for green lifestyle choices do not unfairly burden vulnerable populations.



### **Environmental Justice and Community Engagement: Can Inclusive Engagement Lead to Just and Smart Growth?**

■ **FRIDAY, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

This session will address community impacts linked to smart growth development projects, ranging from demolition debris to new waste disproportionately affecting surrounding and low-income communities, and identify access to legal protection for those marginalized and adversely impacted by development projects. Panelists will share strategies for engagement in planning and implementation that represent the interests of environmental justice and smart growth areas. Case studies will highlight positive and negative impacts that smart growth projects have had on underserved communities, and ways to engage the community in efforts to protect, stabilize and revitalize underserved neighborhoods.

### **Overcoming Exclusion: Advancing Equity in Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities**

■ **SATURDAY, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

Low-income residents of unincorporated communities face health and safety risks that are less widely understood in large part because the very nature of being “unincorporated” means there is less information about the area and fewer opportunities for residents to raise issues in public meetings or planning reports. Many of these communities are victims of poor planning — and even discriminatory practices — that often result in a severe lack of basic community infrastructure such as safe sidewalks and quality services like safe drinking water. Advocates, researchers and non-profit allies are partnering with resident leaders across the country to address these challenges and highlight this issue as critical for equitable development. This session will explore several partnerships that are using such strategies as planning policy reform, community capacity building and even litigation to improve basic infrastructure, service provision, governance and civic engagement.

## **Achieving Equitable Development**

### *Strategies to Empower Community Organizations*

**Wednesday, February 2 ■ 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

*Explore the connections between smart growth, environmental justice and equitable development. Learn how to overcome barriers to integrating complementary efforts.*

**S**mart growth, equitable development and environmental justice all strive for development that creates healthy, vibrant places and that gives people greater opportunity and choice. Given this common goal, how can smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice efforts work together to ensure that development decisions meet the needs of disadvantaged communities?

How can collaboration ensure that lower-income communities, communities of color and indigenous communities participate in and benefit from the decisions that shape their neighborhoods and the communities and regions in which they live?

#### ■ **On the Workshop Agenda**

During this one-day workshop, participants will:

- Get to know federal, state, local and tribal tools and programs that support equitable development.
- Hear from community leaders who have forged successful partnerships.
- Learn about opportunities for collaboration between smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice.
- Explore why integrating these efforts is critical and necessary to right past wrongs, can revitalize America's disadvantaged communities, grow the economy, and create healthy and sustainable urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities.
- Learn about tools and strategies to help finance equitable development

**Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration is \$39.**

■ **To Register for the Pre-conference Workshop:**

**[www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org)**



### **Environmental Justice and Smart Growth: Continuing the Conversation**

**Saturday, February 5:** The New Partners Conference will include a morning networking session as a further opportunity for environmental justice, regional equity and smart growth stakeholders to continue the conversation. Discuss opportunities for collaboration and partnership nationally and within different regions of the country. National leaders in smart growth and environmental justice will share their experience and stories of successful collaboration and partnerships.



# THE 10TH ANNUAL **NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH** CONFERENCE

## Other sessions of interest

Beyond the Equitable Development track, the entire conference program is infused with many sessions that include a focus on equity and environmental justice, including:

- Working in Partnership towards Equity: Creating Safe and Healthy Communities
- Putting Health at the Center of Community Planning through Non-Traditional Partnerships
- Banking on Equitable Development
- 2010 Smart Growth Funding Update: Equity into Smart Growth Funding
- Creating Equitable Redevelopment: Using Fair Housing Law to Develop Communities of Opportunity
- Fresh Food for All: Integrating Food Systems into Planning and Economic Development
- Achieving Equity through Regional Vacant Property Policies
- Engaging Underrepresented Communities: Interactive Approaches to Equitable Transit Planning
- Getting Results in Affordable Housing: Local Government, Land Trusts and the Private Sector
- RE-Powering Communities with Equity through Clean Energy
- Strategies for Bringing Green Jobs to Older Urban Centers
- Sustainable and Equitable Transportation for Communities: Reprioritizing Federal Policies
- Catalyzing Community-Scale Movements: The Healthy, Active and Vibrant Communities Model
- Building the Workforce for Sustainable Development – Tackling the Job of Jobs
- From Partnership to Reality: Federal and Local Collaboration for Equitable Development
- TOD, Corridor Revitalization and Air Pollution: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You (and Others)
- Creating Sustainability in Disasters' Wakes: New Orleans' Rising
- Rethinking Density: Is Smart Growth Good Enough?

*Presented by the Local Government Commission • Supporters include:*



**W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION** The Annie E. Casey Foundation

## Register Now!

[www.newpartners.org](http://www.newpartners.org)

Visit the conference web site for registration information and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

### ■ Diversity Scholarships

The LGC has received foundation support to establish a Diversity Scholarship Fund for this event that will allow us to waive the conference registration fee and provide travel stipends to community leaders from lower-income and traditionally minority communities, and representatives from organizations whose primary work is focused on social equity, environmental justice and equitable development. For information on how to apply for a Diversity Scholarship: Shani Alford, [salford@lgc.org](mailto:salford@lgc.org), (916) 448-1198 x330 [newpartners.org/scholarships.html](http://newpartners.org/scholarships.html)

### ■ Conference Location

The conference will be held at the Westin Charlotte Hotel in Charlotte, NC. The hotel is offering a special group rate of \$95 single/double occupancy until January 12. Make your reservations by calling (866) 837-4148, and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

### ■ For Conference Information

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