

Concentrating Growth Workgroup – 2014 Work Plan

Activity 1: Advocate for increased funding for core sustainable growth programs

For several years the Workgroup has encouraged the Commission's support for increased General Assembly funding of the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit, Community Investment Tax Credit, Community Legacy, Neighborhood Business Works, Strategic Demolition & Smart Growth Impact Fund, and other core sustainable growth programs. Funding of these programs has risen from \$32.2 million in FY 2008 to nearly \$40 million in FY 2015. This is a significant accomplishment and has helped smart growth development to occur in many communities around the State.

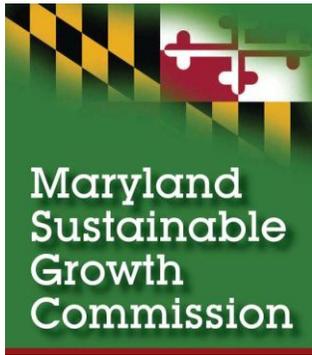
Intended Accomplishment: The Workgroup intends to continue its advocacy by recommending and justifying a further increase in the FY 2016 State budget.

Intended Completion Date: April 2015.

Activity 2 : Sustainable Growth Status Check

The Workgroup will continue to craft a "Status Check" rubric that would allow the Commission to measure and publicly announce the State's degree of progress toward meeting sustainable growth goals. The Status Check would issue be issued annually or every other year and seek to measure progress in five subject matter areas:

- Growth, Development and Redevelopment
- Rural, Agricultural and Environmental Resources
- Socio-Economic Equity
- Transportation – Land Use
- Economic Development.



While we acknowledge this effort has been somewhat controversial, we intend to make one last effort to craft an approach that the Commission can support and implement.

Intended completion date: December 2014

Activity 3 : Streamlining Regulatory Approvals – Case Studies

Several years ago we prepared and distributed a set of “best practices” for streamlining land use approvals of sustainable growth projects. We next reached out to several jurisdictions to ask whether they would be interested in partnering with us to implement a “pilot program” of streamlining practices in their jurisdiction. That effort was less than fully successful, in part because changing regulatory approval processes is a complex, highly visible and controversial act for a jurisdiction to undertake. Moving forward, we propose to highlight case studies of jurisdictions that have chosen to streamline on their own, in the hope that other jurisdictions may choose to follow these examples. Baltimore City, Prince George’s County and Montgomery County have instituted streamlining practices, and the Baltimore District Council of the Urban Land Institute is also soliciting input from both elected officials and developers to identify best practices. We propose working with MDP staff and ULI Baltimore to prepare an “Ideas on Streamlining the Regulatory Approval Process in Maryland to Facilitate Growth in Designated Areas” publication for distribution to county and municipal governments. We would also seek to present these case studies to MACO and MML at their summer or winter meetings.

Intended completion date: January 2015.