



Education Work Group Report November 24, 2014

TO: Jon Laria, Chair, MD Sustainable Growth Commission

FROM: Peter G. Conrad, Staff, Education Workgroup

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: November 24, 2014

The Education Workgroup is working on several projects with the assistance of MDP including the Sustainable Growth Challenge, development of a Realtors course and our marketing efforts. Below is our progress.

Sustainable Growth Challenge

After renewed outreach efforts, we have seven classes registered for the Fall 2014 Challenge. This includes Morgan State University with 3, University of MD College Park with 2, and one each from Baltimore County Community College, Johns Hopkins University.

We have followed up with the registrants, offered to speak to the classes and provided feedback on group concepts. Group submissions will be due by close of business on Friday December 12. Our review team will notify the student groups the week of January 5 regarding the selection of finalists. The finalists will be invited to present to the Sustainable Growth Commission panel on Thursday, January 22 from 12 – 4 p.m., light lunch included.

Collaboration with Realtors to Promote Smart Growth

The Maryland Department of Planning continues to move forward with a detailed outline of a Smart Growth For Realtor's course. Originally MDP and the Educational Work Group representative moved forward with an outline based on Maryland's Legislative Bills that have created the State's Smart Growth policies.

After our last meeting, it was requested that the work effort focus more on local (County) SG issues and not as much on State legislation. This is a slight change in direction and we are currently developing a more specific outline based not only on State SG legislation but also on how Smart Growth indicators can assist local Realtors in selling their respective communities to their clients.

A full draft will be available for in house review in the next 2 weeks and a draft will be available to the Educational Work Group in December.

Planning Commissioner Training

Work continues in updating its Planning Commissioner Training Course. This summer, trainings were offered to attendees at the MML and MACO conferences and the training will be offered at this fall's Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA). The training has been reorganized into more distinct modules, updated with recent planning related legislation and enhanced with more graphics, video and test questions

Implementation of Reinvest Maryland Education and Training Recommendations

At the Wednesday, September 24, 2014 Planning Director's Roundtable, MDP staff and panelists from Maryland Association of Counties, the Maryland Municipal League, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the APA Maryland Chapter engaged the attendees in a dialog about the recommendations regarding education and training from the Reinvest Maryland report. The Education workgroup will continue to formulate implementation steps based on this discussion.