

# Sustainable Growth Challenge

2017-18

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## What is the Sustainable Growth Challenge (SGC)?

The SGC is a project through which the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission engages Maryland college students in developing creative solutions to sustainable growth while also providing them with a career-building, real world learning experience. The SGC is an interdisciplinary exercise promoting economic growth, environmental stewardship, and sustainable land use at the community level.

## What is the 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 with an annual awards program. The commission operates under a specific [statutory charge](#).

## What Kinds of Projects are Accepted?

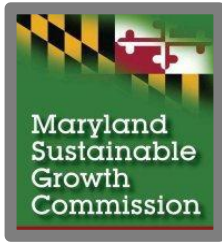
Projects might include strengthening connections between campuses and towns, infill and redevelopment, and solutions to environmental challenges. The Education Workgroup of the Sustainable Growth Commission sponsors the SGC, which is also managed by the University of Maryland, National Center for Research and Education, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

## Who is Eligible to Submit Projects for the SGC?

All students attending a Maryland College, along with their professors.

## How Does the SGC Work?

Faculty and students should begin considering potential projects for SGC submission early in the semester and developing workplans that meet the submission requirements (see below). These projects must involve a team effort and support at least one of Maryland 12 Visions for Smart Growth. Explained [here](#) along with the 10 Smart Growth Principles. The faculty-run projects include undergraduate and/or graduate students pursuing degrees in planning, architecture, engineering or related subjects, and are submitted to a panel of State smart growth experts who deliberate and decide on the winners for each round.



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## What are the SGC Submission Requirements?

1. Final project (examples include a final report, plan, web tool, etc.)
2. Submission form ([link provided](#))
  - a. Faculty and student(s) name and contact info
  - b. An explanation of how the project addresses 1 or more of Maryland's 12 visions
3. In addition to the project itself, a multimedia submission (video, presentation, website, etc.) explaining the project must also be submitted for the panel review

**Note: College staff other than the professors themselves can complete submissions**

## What is the SGC Timeline?

The following timeline outlines the process for the SGC in 2017 and 18

Date	Activity
Summer 2017	Education Workgroup representative outreach to faculty to discuss the SGC, encourage participation, and explain the timeline, submission requirements, and incentives
Fall 2017	Faculty inform their students about the SGC, register those who are interested, and communicate participation and project ideas to the Education Workgroup. Education Workgroup members are available for questions and/or a visit to a class to explain the SGC
January 2018	Submissions for the Fall 2017 SGC due to the Education Workgroup by mid-January <sup>1</sup>

## What are the SGC Awards for Winners?

1. SGC winners will receive recognition at a statewide event or in a statewide publication
2. The Education Workgroup will invite, in writing, the Dean or University President to the awards ceremony
3. SGC winners (faculty and students) are invited to speak and present their winning projects at a conference, such as MPCA, MML, or APA MD
4. Others to be developed

## How can I find out More About the SGC?

Contact Joe Griffiths, Local Assistance and Training Manager for the Maryland Department of Planning at 410-767-4553 or at [joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> After 2018, submissions for the entire year prior to mid-January will be accepted by the due date. The Education Workgroup will explain this as part of 2017 outreach