



TO: Susan Summers, Chair
FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff
SUBJECT: Progress Report
DATE: September 24, 2018

Since the last report in July, the Education Workgroup (workgroup) held two regular meetings; on 8/7 and 9/4. During the two months since the last meeting of the Commission, the workgroup continued and expanded its outreach to Maryland Colleges and Universities about the Sustainable Growth Challenge and initiated research, in partnership with the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors (SMAR), for development of a reinvest Maryland training. Joe Griffiths, primary liaison to the workgroup, requested that the research regarding fast tracking and predevelopment processes, requested by the Rural Economies Workgroup, be tabled until two new Regional Planners are hired by the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning). This will significantly free Joe's time up, allowing for more resources to be devoted to this effort. Each initiative is described in greater detail below.

1. Reinvest Maryland Professional Training

In August, Karen Mierow and Joe Griffiths joined the SMAR Education Committee in a conference call. During that meeting, we agreed to develop a survey related to the mission and content of Reinvest Maryland 2.0, for the organization's membership. Karen created the survey, which she disseminated to SMAR's membership in early September, and you can find it [here](#). Please let Joe know if you would like access to this survey or have any suggestions for its dissemination. Also, SMAR agreed to send the workgroup industry information and data that we could potentially use in the training curriculum. They sent Karen a preliminary batch of research on 9/12.

Please contact Joe Griffiths at joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov or 410-767-4553 with any questions or suggestions.

2. Sustainable Growth Challenge

Workgroup members continued to spread word about the Challenge, and targeted institutions that have not yet participated, including UMBC, Towson University, Chesapeake College, Frostburg St., Salisbury University, and the College of Southern Maryland. Joe sent a general all call invite email on 7/26, and will follow with more in the fall of 2018. The aim this year is to attract submissions from institutions outside of the Central Maryland region. This has always been difficult with the in-person presentation requirement, necessitating long distance travel for a group of students from areas outside of the State's core. The workgroup is hoping the allowance for video recorded presentations will assist in this area.

3. Rural Economies Workgroup Assistance

Maryland Department of Planning staff has been collecting examples of fast tracking and pre-application processes for further research, and will be contacting the following jurisdictions this summer, as well as continuing to research others.

- Hagerstown
- Baltimore City
- Princess Anne

Next Workgroup Meeting: 10/2/2018