

# Sustainable Growth Challenge

2019-20

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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?

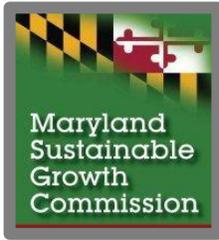
All students attending a Maryland College, along with their professors, are eligible to submit final projects. However, the projects themselves must represent student driven work. Students can define the specifics, but generally, projects should focus on sustainable investment in Maryland's communities, keeping in mind sustainability's triple-bottom line of economic opportunity, environmental protection, and social justice.

## 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 could involve a team or individual effort and should support at least one of Maryland 12 Visions for Smart Growth. Explained [here](#) along with the 10 Smart Growth Principles. Undergraduate and/or graduate students pursuing degrees in planning, architecture, engineering or related subjects can submit projects. Following the submission deadline and student presentations, a panel of Maryland sustainable growth experts will deliberate and decide on the winners.

## 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 final project itself (report, plan, etc.), a video or in-person presentation is required



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- a. At least one of the students responsible for completing the work must attend a presentation day in the winter of 2020 (TBD). A previously recorded video of the presentation can be submitted instead of a live presentation, but students must be available (by phone is okay) to answer questions about the presentation

## What is the SGC Timeline?

The following timeline outlines the process for the SGC in 2019 and '20

Date	Activity
Summer 2019	Education Workgroup representative outreach to faculty to discuss the SGC, encourage participation, and explain the timeline, submission requirements, and incentives
Fall 2019	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 2020	Submissions for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2019 SGC due to the Education Workgroup by January 17, 2020

## How will the Submissions be Scored?

A review panel of Sustainable Growth Commission members will score submissions based on the criteria of Sustainability, Innovation, Community Involvement, Maryland's 12 Visions, Implementability, Presentation, and Coordination. See the [SGC Rubric](#) for more detail.

## 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
5. Check out [previous years' winners here](#)

## 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)