



# 2016

## Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards Award Guidelines and Nomination Instructions Presented by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

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Larry Hogan, Governor  
David R. Craig, Secretary of Planning



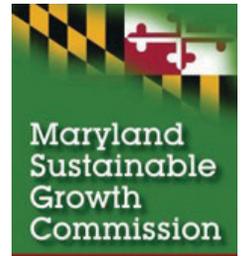
# The Annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards

The Annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission and are the highest level of recognition for managed growth and development in the state.

The Awards honor and celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations and local governments in their efforts to realize the “Twelve Visions” adopted by the Maryland General Assembly:

- 1. Quality of Life and Sustainability:** A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment.
- 2. Public Participation:** Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals.
- 3. Growth Areas:** Growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers or strategically selected new centers.
- 4. Community Design:** Compact, mixed–use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near available or planned transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural systems, open spaces, recreational areas and historical, cultural and archeological resources.
- 5. Infrastructure:** Growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.
- 6. Transportation:** A well–maintained, multimodal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable and efficient movement of people, goods and services within and between population and business centers.
- 7. Housing:** A range of housing densities, types and sizes provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes.
- 8. Economic Development:** Economic development and natural resource – based businesses that promote employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the state’s natural resources, public services and public facilities are encouraged;
- 9. Environmental Protection:** Land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and coastal bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems and living resources.
- 10. Resource Conservation:** Waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems and scenic areas are conserved.
- 11. Stewardship:** Government, business entities and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection.
- 12. Implementation:** Strategies, policies, programs and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, state and interstate levels to achieve these Visions.

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission is seeking nominations from all parts of the state for the people, projects, organizations and communities that have advanced innovative policies in furtherance of the Twelve Visions.



# About the Sustainable Growth Commission

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission is charged to

- Assess and advise on the progress of state, regional and local planning in Maryland in achieving the goals of the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy, as defined in § 5-7A-01 of this title;
- Make recommendations on the adequacy, coordination and implementation of funding mechanisms and other state assistance for planning activities and infrastructure and land preservation needs, consistent with the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation among the state and local jurisdictions and recommend mechanisms to facilitate voluntary joint planning;
- Advise on the content and preparation of the state development plan, state transportation plan and state housing plan and the implementation of these plans, including the relationship of these plans with local land use plans;
- Promote and make recommendations regarding efficient and predictable model state and local development regulations to achieve the goals of the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Evaluate the continuing viability and effectiveness of the state and local government smart growth indicators contained in § 1-208 of the Land Use Article and make recommendations for amendments or additions to the indicators;
- Review the reports of local jurisdictions on adequate public facilities development restrictions required by Title 7, Subtitle 1 of the Land Use Article and assess whether and to what extent adequate public facilities ordinances affect the achievement of the goals of the state economic growth, resource protection and planning policy;
- Develop and assist in the implementation of educational and outreach programs about smart growth;
- Review periodically the educational requirements for members of planning boards and commissions and boards of appeals required by § 1-206 of the Land Use Article and evaluate compliance rates for the members;
- Make recommendations for changes in state law, regulations, policies and procedures, if any, that the commission believes are necessary to achieve the state's economic growth, resource protection and planning policy; and
- Serve as an advisory board to the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet, providing advice and guidance.



# Award Types

## Leadership and Service

Awards presented for leadership and service recognize individuals, organizations, agencies and institutions for laudable activities or accomplishments in Maryland that advance the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in promoting smart growth and sustainable communities at the local, regional or state level. The activity or service can be related to a specific project or advocacy effort or recognize leadership or involvement with one or more activities or organizations over time. Examples of nominees might include, but are not limited to, elected officials, local government staff, nonprofit organizations and members of the local business community. The activity or service must have been completed within the last two years or be ongoing. Nominations will be evaluated on the extent to which an individual and/or organization's contributions have significantly advanced the public's appreciation, understanding and/or involvement in smart and sustainable growth or preservation and resource protection in Maryland.

## Smart Growth Communities

Awards presented for smart growth communities recognize outstanding achievements by individuals organizations, government agencies and other entities for projects and activities of all sizes, scopes and on all types of properties. The project/activity submitted embodies, results in or encourages development that addresses at least one of the Twelve Visions. Successful nominations will likely address several of the smart growth principles rather than just one. All nominated projects must have been completed within the last two years. The commission will evaluate nominations in two broad groups – (1) public projects and programs and (2) private developments.

Nominations will be evaluated on the extent to which a project is:

- Effective, e.g. What are the goals of the project and is there tangible evidence of success?
- Collaborative, e.g. What public outreach and community involvement has occurred and how did it influence the project?
- Innovative, e.g. Does the project or activity take a new approach or present new ideas for others to apply elsewhere?
- Responsive to environmental and Community Impact, e.g. Does the project or activity improve the environment or the quality of life in the community?





## Preservation / Conservation Projects

Preservation/Conservation Project awards are presented to individuals organizations, government agencies and other entities for their accomplishments in protecting or improving farms, forests, natural resources and the waters of Maryland. This award recognizes outstanding efforts to:

- save Maryland's farm and forest land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices and supporting a sustainable future for farms;
- promote habitat management and wildlife conservation; and
- protect the environment and advancing conservation practices.
- All nominated projects must have been completed within the last two years.
- Nominations will be evaluated on the extent to which the project:
- Directly or indirectly benefits agricultural preservation, wildlife, natural resource conservation or environmental protection;
- Collaboratively involves public and private organizations; and
- Serves as an example/inspiration to others.

# How to Submit a Nomination

## Eligibility

- Individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations or institutions and federal, state and local agencies are all eligible to receive Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards.
- Current MDP staff, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission members and projects solely sponsored by MDP are not eligible.
- Self-nominations are accepted.

## Review and Selection Process

The Annual Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards are presented by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. All nomination materials are reviewed for completeness by Maryland Planning Department staff prior to presentation to a committee of the commission. This committee then recommends the award recipients to the full commission for consideration and final approval.



## When preparing your nomination it may be useful to consider the following:

- Nominations are reviewed and selected on a competitive basis and the commission may elect not to present an award in a given category in a given year if the nominations do not meet the criteria.
- The commission reserves the right to evaluate nominations for categories other than those proposed by the nominator.
- Concise, accurate and complete proposals that clearly state the worthiness of the nominee will be the most competitive.
- Nominators may submit no more than two nominations per category.

## Awards Timeline

- July 1, 2015                      Nomination materials available
- September 18, 2015          Nominations due to MDP
- November 23, 2015          Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting
- December 2, 2015            Nominees notified
- February, 2016                Award Ceremony

## Notification and the Awards Ceremony

- The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission will vote on the award recipients at its November 23rd meeting.
- Award recipients will be notified in writing immediately following selection. The nominators of selected projects will also be notified about the success of their submission.
- The nominators of nominations not selected will also be notified in writing.
- The Awards will be presented at the Fourth Annual Sustainable Growth Forum and Awards Ceremony expected to be held in February 2016.

## Questions?

Arabia Davis or Chuck Boyd  
Maryland Department of Planning  
arabia.davis@maryland.gov or chuck.boyd@maryland.gov  
(410) 767-4613 or (410) 767-1401

# Nomination Instructions and Tips

**Nomination Deadline: September 18, 2015**

## General Information

- Materials should be organized in a manner to facilitate review by the selection committee.
- Nominations must include the nomination form and supporting images in a digital format.
- All nomination materials will become the property of the Maryland Department of Planning. MDP may use materials in the awards presentation or for publicity or other purposes.

## Nomination Checklist

Use the checklist below to check your nomination for completeness. Nomination packages that are missing any of the following items may be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

## Nomination Form

- Submit completed nomination form electronically to [arabia.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:arabia.davis@maryland.gov) and [chuck.boyd@maryland.gov](mailto:chuck.boyd@maryland.gov) by no later than 5 PM on Friday, September 18, 2015.

## Photographs

- Except for the Leadership & Service Award, a minimum of three (3) images of the property, activity and other appropriate subjects that document the nomination should be submitted. A minimum of one photo of a person or group nominated for the Leadership and Service Award is required. Images are used to review nominations and to illustrate award-winning projects during a public awards presentation ceremony. Please select images that help illustrate the project and that will further the public's understanding of the project.
- All photos should be submitted in .jpg file format.
- Save images individually and label each photograph –photomontages, PowerPoint, formatted presentations or images imbedded in documents will not be accepted.
- Please label each photo file with a descriptive file name or attach a photo key to the nomination form that describes each image.
- Prints and slides are not necessary

## Supporting Materials

- Be sure to include electronically any supporting materials necessary to understand the nominated projects. You may submit brochures, pamphlets and DVDs as appropriate to help MDP understand and appreciate the project.
- All supporting materials will become property of MDP and will not be returned.