

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q1



Regional milestones and successes between January and March, 2013 include:

Communicating Successes

Region 5 hosted White House roundtable discussions about the Partnership in Cincinnati, OH and Indianapolis, IN. Local elected officials and key stakeholders participated. Each event reinforced the importance of Federal collaboration and described the positive impacts and the implications for the economic futures of the respective communities. Site visits to projects funded by the Federal partners included: the Cincinnati streetcar project (DOT), recently planned and developed housing units located near transit (HUD), and brownfield redevelopment projects (EPA). In both cities, a HUD-funded Community Challenge Grant facilitated a zoning code update to support housing development, allow storm water-friendly site design, and encourage transit-oriented-development.

Coordinating Policies and Programs

Region 10 HUD, EPA, Small Business Administration (SBA), USDA Rural Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco have formed the Idaho Interagency Working Group on Indian Affairs. The agencies meet to discuss resources, challenges, and successes related to government programs that could be used to promote sustainable communities and economic development for Native Americans. The meetings are designed to foster communication and information exchange between government agencies and identify opportunities for collaboration. The group is currently developing a one-day government-to-government workshop intended to inform Federal, state, and local agencies on how they can communicate, collaborate, and coordinate more effectively with Idaho tribes. Region 4 EPA, HUD, FHWA, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), USDA-Rural Development, Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the Army Corps of Engineers worked to establish a Regional Community Resilience Work Group that will engage communities in a broad discussion to enhance resilience to economic, environmental, and housing challenges as well as natural disasters.

Supporting Communities

Region 8 HUD hosted a charrette for Rifle, CO. Approximately 65 local, state, Federal and non-profit representatives attended, discussed the status of the project, and identified implementation recommendations. Participating Federal partners included: FHWA, FTA, EPA, HUD, USDA, and the Small Business Administration. Region 1 held an all-grantee conference that focused on defining social equity and meeting the future measurement and implementation challenges of sustainable communities planning and development work. Conference sessions included topics such as: community engagement strategies; equitable access to transportation, housing, and healthy food; place-based versus conventional economic development; measuring real-time plan and project impacts; safe and resilient community design; and building relations with foundations and other funders.



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Region 1 –Prepared to conduct five Sustainable Communities Building Block workshops including the following topics: Parking Audits, Sustainable Strategies for Small Towns and Rural Areas, Equitable Development, and Bike Sharing.

Region 2 –Provided two trainings to all six New York State Recovery Support Functions in response to Hurricane Sandy. The trainings covered the mission and goals of the Partnership and presented interagency resources for sustainable community development.

Region 3 –Continues to provide support to the three communities in the Region that received grant assistance under EPA’s Brownfields Area-wide Planning Grant Program. The city of Ranson, WV has completed its plan and has begun to implement its strategies. Monaca, PA and Roanoke, VA are nearing the completion of their plans.

Region 4 –HUD and EPA assisted the Piedmont Together project team in inviting 14 representatives from 8 different Federal and state agencies to learn about the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation’s (PART) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant, Piedmont Together.

Region 5 –FEMA is conducting meetings across counties and watershed areas throughout the Region to discuss the Risk Mapping, Assessing, and Planning (RiskMAP) project, which helps communities to address their vulnerabilities to natural hazards. FEMA is working with local officials to create low cost or no cost mitigation measures for these hazards. The primary RiskMAP goal is to connect people, non-profits, and other organizations, including regional partnership agencies, to create a more resilient region.

Region 6 –FHWA Texas Division hosted a global climate change workshop. EPA participated as well as five of the seven coastal MPOs.

Region 7 –EPA and FHWA are worked collaboratively in Joplin, MO to ensure that USDOT TIGER funding for a sidewalk project along 20th Street coordinates well with EPA’s green street design for that same roadway. Nearly two years after a devastating EF5 tornado, Joplin, MO, has received an additional \$113 million from HUD to help continue recovery efforts.

Region 8 –HUD, Vision West North Dakota (VWND), and the North Dakota DOT provided the Region 8 Partnership with a project update regarding oil boom issues and coordination efforts in ND. The team learned that although housing and roads are huge issues in Western North Dakota the local community identifies child care as their number one issue.

Region 9 –EPA participated in the Grand Boulevard Initiative in San Mateo County, CA, which received a DOT TIGER Planning Grant. EPA continues to help integrate sustainability objectives and features, such as pervious concrete, into the designs, and to provide technical assistance and contacts.

Region 10 – Hosted an International Sustainability Information Exchange on Urban Affairs with John Jay McCloy Fellows from Germany, local communities in the Pacific Northwest, and Sustainable Communities grantees.

