

Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Recent Regional Accomplishments Q2



On June 16, 2013, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrated four years of partnership helping communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. Federal staff working in the regions helped celebrate the occasion by participating in a nationwide conversation about working with state and local partners and each other to support sustainable and livable communities. Regional milestones and successes between April and June, 2013 include:

Communicating Successes

Regions 2, 9, and 10 developed reports summarizing accomplishments under the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) in conjunction with the fourth anniversary of the PSC. The Region 9 report is available at www.sustainablecommunities.gov/pdf/PSW-sustainable-communities-report-lg.pdf and includes case studies illustrating how the PSC is supporting communities in their efforts to design neighborhoods that provide more housing and transportation choices. Region 6 HUD surveyed area public housing authorities for their sustainability best practices and is currently following up on submissions.

Coordinating Policies and Programs

In Region 4 the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and EPA met with Primary Care Association Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to discuss the benefits of redeveloping brownfields and using green infrastructure approaches in the construction of community health centers. Region 2 collaborated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of State on a Brownfields Interagency Work Group for the purposes of providing technical support and advice to communities involved in the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. Region 9 HUD supported the Department of Energy (DOE) in providing outreach and information on DOE's Tribal Energy program. Assistance included coordination with other Federal agencies in reviewing applications for tribal energy grant funds.

Supporting Communities

Regions 1 and 5 held White House Roundtable Discussions on "Building Livable and Economically Resilient Communities" in Boston, Massachusetts and Racine, Wisconsin, respectively. Many other Regions plan to hold Roundtable Discussions, which are an opportunity for municipal staff, community leaders, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to meet with Federal staff and report about the successes and challenges of their projects—and what the PSC can do to help. Region 10 EPA, FHWA, and HUD participated in a Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit Workshop hosted by the City of Boise on June 10 as a recipient of an EPA Building Blocks Technical Assistance Grant. The participants evaluated the city's building and land-use codes and offered tools and advice for best practices in sustainable development. The three focus areas were Sustainable Sites and Development Practices, Water Efficiency- Conservation and Management, and Materials and Resource Conservation. The findings were presented to the public at an open house later that evening.



