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## **COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT TOOL KITS (economic, energy, sustainability, zoning, smart growth, transportation)**

*These tools and principles are provided for your information only.  
Please be advised that the New York State Office for the Aging and the Livable New York  
Affiliate Partners do not endorse, guarantee, or warrant the effectiveness of the  
community-development tool kits included here or the qualifications of  
the organizations developing these tools and principles.*

- **Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute**, School of Education and Social Policy, 148 Annenberg Hall, Northwestern University, 2120 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208; (847) 491-8711; [abcd@northwestern.edu](mailto:abcd@northwestern.edu).  
<http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>.

The Asset-Based Community Development Institute's (ABCD) approach to community development reflects a large and growing movement that draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities—building on the skills of local residents, the power of local associations, and the supportive functions of local institutions.

ABCD works directly with community groups to conduct capacity-building activities, develop asset-oriented strategies, facilitate local asset-mapping, and mobilize activities. ABCD also trains agencies and institutions on the concepts and ideas associated with the Institute's approach to building sustainable communities to transform the ways these organizations work with communities.

- D. Nizalov, L. Reese, H. Ockman, and O. Nizalova, ***Municipal Economic Development Tool Kit***— This project's aim is to disseminate the best national and international practices in urban economic development through the collection and promotion of a set of basic economic development tools used by practitioners and extension specialists around the globe, including descriptions of development tools and practical advice about how to address common critical issues of municipal economic development. The project is the result of a collaboration among the Global Urban Studies Program, Extension Service of Michigan State University, Local Economic Development—Ukraine Project of the United States Agency for International Development, Kyiv Economic Institute, and Kyiv School of Economics:  
<http://www.municipaltoolkit.org/>; <http://www.municipaltoolkit.org/en/about/>.
  - Description of 11 development tools collected in 2007:  
<http://www.municipaltoolkit.org/en/content/>.
- Lisa M. Feldstein, Rick Jacobus, and Hannah Burton Laurison (2007), ***Economic Development and Redevelopment: A Toolkit for Building Healthy, Vibrant Communities***—153-page, 18-section/steps manual on using economic

development as a tool to increase healthy food, including resources and best practices. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Health Services.  
<http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/toolkit-economic-development-and-redevelopment>. <http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/toolkit-economic-development-and-redevelopment>.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and ICF International (June, 2010), ***Sustainable Design and Green Building Tool Kit for Local Governments*** (EPA 904B10001). Washington, DC: Environmental Protection Agency.  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/recycle/green-building-toolkit.pdf>.
- Smart Growth BC, ***Creating More Livable Communities, "Guides and Tool Kits"***:  
<http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/Publications/GuidesandToolkits/tabid/159/Default.aspx>.
  - Alice Miro and Jodie Siu (2009), ***Creating Healthy Communities: Tools and Actions to Foster Environments for Healthy Living***. Provides specific examples of land use actions your local government can take to promote healthy living:  
<http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/Portals/0/Downloads/CreatingHealthyCommunitiesGuide.pdf>.
  - Deborah Curran and Tim Wake (2008), ***Creating Market and Non-Market Affordable Housing: A Smart Growth Tool Kit for BC Municipalities***. Explanations of eight tools and strategies, from inclusionary zoning to land banking, and highlighted examples of best practices demonstrating how local governments are adapting affordable housing strategies to fit their unique needs.  
[http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/Portals/0/Downloads/SGBC\\_Affordable\\_Housing\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca/Portals/0/Downloads/SGBC_Affordable_Housing_Toolkit.pdf).
  - Bernard LaRochelle (2001), ***The Smart Growth Tool Kit: Helping to Create More Livable Communities in British Columbia***. An overview of key sustainability issues, including an introduction to smart growth, smart growth tools, citizen involvement strategies, and resources.  
[http://66.51.172.116/Portals/0/Downloads/J1\\_ToolKitInPart\\_1.pdf](http://66.51.172.116/Portals/0/Downloads/J1_ToolKitInPart_1.pdf).
- Rosalyn McKeown, Ph.D. (July, 2002), ***Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit***—based on the concept that communities and educational systems within communities need to dovetail their sustainability efforts . . . that local educational systems can modify existing curricula to reinforce community sustainability goals. 142-page manual, including eight sections, case studies, exercises, strategies, and resources. Development of the Toolkit was funded by the University of Tennessee's Waste Management Research and Education Institute (<http://eerc.ra.utk.edu/WMREI.html>).
  - The Toolkit: [http://www.esdtoolkit.org/esd\\_toolkit\\_v2.pdf](http://www.esdtoolkit.org/esd_toolkit_v2.pdf);  
<http://www.esdtoolkit.org/about.htm#contact>.
  - The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, ***Smart Growth / Smart Energy Toolkit***. Providing

information on planning, zoning, subdivision, site design, and building construction techniques. Includes individual slideshows on 14 different topics, illustrating the basic concepts of each smart growth/smart energy module and providing summaries of case studies.

[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/index.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/index.html).

- Slideshows:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-slides.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-slides.html).
  - Case studies:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-CS.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-CS.html).
- **Community Planning Tool Box.** Common issues, legal issues, tools, resources, and case studies. Smart Growth Vermont, 110 Main Street, Burlington, VT, 05401, (802) 864-6310, [info@smartgrowthvermont.org](mailto:info@smartgrowthvermont.org).  
<http://www.smartgrowthvermont.org/toolbox/>.
  - **Urban Sprawl Tool Kit.** Background, Case Study, and Tool Kit, which includes an extensive list of links to books, model ordinances, potential providers, and Internet Tools. Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.  
<http://marine.rutgers.edu/pt/education/coastaltraining/urbansprawl/index.html>.
  - Peter Marshall (2007), **The Pennsylvania Downtown Economic Development Tool Kit.** Harrisburg, PA: Department of Community and Economic Development, Governor's Center for Local Government Services.  
[http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/westmoreland/lib/westmoreland/Downtown\\_Econ\\_Toolkit\\_manual.pdf](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/westmoreland/lib/westmoreland/Downtown_Econ_Toolkit_manual.pdf).
  - Michael D. Evans (2005), **Arts and Culture Economic Development Tool Kit: Increasing Economic Benefit Through Arts and Cultural Projects.** Developed to give arts and cultural organizations ideas of how to look at their projects and activities as contributing to economic development efforts. Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; The Rural Arts and Culture Program; and the Michigan State University Museum.  
[http://ruralarts.museum.msu.edu/resources/evansed\\_toolkit.pdf](http://ruralarts.museum.msu.edu/resources/evansed_toolkit.pdf).
  - **Smart Growth/Smart Energy Tool Kit**, "Integration of Smart Growth/Smart Energy into Comprehensive Planning"—provides information on planning, zoning, subdivision, site design, and building construction techniques for making smart growth and smart energy a reality; designed to increase understanding of smart growth/smart energy tools and policies; how to customize and apply the techniques to suit local circumstances. Includes modules, case studies, slide shows, and model bylaws. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/).
- 22 modules:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-modules.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-modules.html).
  - 16 case studies:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-CS.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-CS.html).

- 15 model bylaws:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-bylaws.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-bylaws.html).
- 14 slideshows:  
[http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit/pages/SG-slides.html](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/pages/SG-slides.html).
- David O'Neill (2000), **Smart Growth Tool Kit** (book and video). Washington, DC: Urban Land Institute. Step-by-step instructions, case studies, strategies that have worked in different cities, resource guide, program agendas, and a smart growth presentation. Includes concrete examples of successful projects involving infill redevelopment, brownfields, conservation design, master-planned and new urbanist communities, town centers, and transit neighborhoods. Available at bookstores and through Amazon.com.
- *A Toolkit of Sustainable Development Decision Support Tools, "New Tools for Community Design and Decision Making: An Overview."* Golden, CO: U.S. Department of Energy, Regional Support Office for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy. Based on a presentation by Peter Katz, provides information and descriptions of planning tools that can address the barriers to building better communities often encountered when using smart growth principles.  
<http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/toolkit/TCDDM/>.
- **The Infill Design Toolkit: A Guide to Integrating Infill Development into Portland's Neighborhoods.** Portland, OR: City of Portland, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability:  
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=49254&>.
- Douglas Miskowiak and Linda Stoll (2006), **Planning Implementation Tools: Overlay Zoning.** Overlay zoning tool kit. Stevens Point, WI: Land Use Education Center, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point.  
<ftp://ftp.wi.gov/DOA/public/comprehensiveplans/ImplementationToolkit/Documents/OverlayZoning.pdf>.
- **Transportation and Health Tool Kit** (2011), American Public Health Association, Washington, DC. A community's transportation decision-making has an impact on a range of critical issues affecting residents and overall community well-being, including public safety, air quality, physical activity and fitness, obesity, the built environment, health and cost equity, accessibility, and others. This tool kit is a resource for municipalities to create a "community-building" bridge between the public health and transportation sectors to ensure that transportation decision-making emphasizes critical public health concerns.  
<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/priorities/issues/transportation/Toolkit.htm>.