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NATIONAL AWARD PROGRAMS

Smart Growth

- **National Award for Smart Growth Achievement**—U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington, DC. Through this award, EPA recognizes and supports communities that use innovative policies and strategies to strengthen their economies, provide housing and transportation choices, protect the environment, and develop in ways that bring benefits to a wide range of residents. The award program is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. For questions, contact Ted Cochin: cochin.ted@epa.gov or 202-566-2181.
 - Description of the award program, 2010 award-winning projects, and previous years' winners: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>.
- **Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Awards**—U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Aging Initiative*, Washington, DC. The principal goal of this national awards program is to raise awareness about the healthy synergies achieved when communities combine and implement the principles of smart growth with the concepts of active aging. Applicants are evaluated based on the overall effectiveness of their programs, level of community involvement and outreach, use of innovative approaches, and overall environmental and health benefits of the project.
 - Description of the award program, four 2010 award-winning projects, and three prior award-winning projects, including contact information: <http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/2010/index.html>.
- **Vision Long Island Smart Growth Awards**—Vision Long Island, Northport, NY. This award recognizes visionaries on the cutting edge of land use. The 2011 awards highlight efforts that address transportation, walkability, preservation, sustainable development, green design, and small and large scale mixed-use development. (631) 261-0242; <http://www.visionlongisland.org/>.
 - Description of 2009 award winners: http://www.visionlongisland.org/smart_talk/blasts/SGA09_postevent.html.

Design—Building/Housing

- **Housing and Community Design Awards**—The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the American Institute of Architects, Washington, DC. This award recognizes excellence in affordable residential housing design, community-informed design, participatory design, and housing accessibility.
 - Description of 2011 winners: http://www.huduser.org/portal/research/housingCommDesign_2011_1.html

- Description of 2010 winners:
<http://www.huduser.org/portal/research/AIA-2010.html>
- **HUD Secretary's Awards**—The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC. These awards recognize projects that incorporate housing within other community amenities for the purpose of either revitalization or planned growth.
 - Description of 2011 winners:
 - **Excellence in Affordable Housing Design Award:**
http://www.huduser.org/portal/research/housingCommDesign_2011_1.html.
 - **Community-Informed Design Award:**
http://www.huduser.org/portal/research/housingCommDesign_2011_2.html.
 - **Alan J. Rothman Award for Housing Accessibility Award:**
http://www.huduser.org/portal/research/housingCommDesign_2011_3.html.
- **Health Care Design Awards**—The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Academy of Architecture for Health, Washington, DC. This award showcases the best of healthcare building design and healthcare design-oriented research, highlighting trends of healthcare facilities and the future direction of these facilities. The award recognizes projects that exhibit conceptual strength that solve aesthetic, civic, urban, and social concerns as well as the requisite functional and sustainability concerns of a hospital.
 - For a description of past recipients:
<http://www.aia.org/practicing/groups/kc/AIAS076672?dvid=&recspec=AIAS076672>.

Design—Green Building

- **National Green Buildings Awards**—National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC: 1-800-368-5242;
http://www.nahb.org/award_details.aspx?awardID=470;
<http://hcdnnjgoinggreen.blogspot.com/2010/11/nahb-2011-national-green-building.html>.

Design—Energy

- **States Stepping Forward: Best Practices for State-Led Energy-Efficiency Programs**—American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Washington, DC. 2010 was the ACEEE's first awards initiative for exceptional state-led energy efficiency programs; in September, 2010, 18 top programs from 14 states were recognized, including the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's Combined Heat and Power Demonstration Program and their Wastewater Efficiency Program.
<http://www.aceee.org/press/2010/09/18-state-led-energy-efficiency-programs-recognized-best>; <http://www.aceee.org/research-report/e106>.
- **Certified Energy Star Buildings and Manufacturing Plants**—U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U. S. Department of Energy,

Washington, DC. An Energy Star certified facility meets strict energy performance standards set by EPA and uses less energy, is less expensive to operate, and causes fewer greenhouse gas emissions than its peers. To qualify for the Energy Star, a commercial building or manufacturing plant must earn a 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 energy performance scale, indicating that the facility performs better than at least 75 per cent of similar buildings nationwide. The ENERGY STAR energy performance scale accounts for differences in operating conditions, regional weather data, and other important considerations: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_bldgs.

- 2010—top 25 cities with the most Energy Star certified facilities: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2010_Top_cities_chart.pdf. Among the top 25 cities, New York City ranked fifth in 2010, with 211 certified buildings . . . moving up from 10th place in 2009.

Health Care Quality

- **National Quality Award Program**—a progressive, three-step (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) pathway for health and long-term care providers to advance towards performance excellence. The program is based on the core values and criteria of the *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program*, and applications are judged by trained Examiners who provide feedback on opportunities for improvement to support continuous learning. Facilities must achieve an award at each level to progress to the next level. This award is sponsored by the American Health Care Association (AHCA) (a non-profit federation of affiliated state health organizations, representing more than 11,000 non-profit and for-profit nursing facilities, assisted living residences, residences for people with developmental disabilities, and sub-acute care facilities) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) (the assisted living voice of the American Health Care Association, serving the needs of the assisted living community through national advocacy, education, networking, professional development, and quality initiatives). http://www.ahcancal.org/about_ahca/Pages/default.aspx.
 - About the Award Program:
 - http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/quality_award/Pages/default.aspx.
 - http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/quality_award/Pages/ApplicantResources.aspx.
 - Award Application information:
 - http://www.ahcancal.org/quality_improvement/quality_award/Documents/2012%20Quality%20Award%20Intent%20to%20Apply%20Instructions.pdf.