COOL PLANNING Comes to Eastport

September 24, 2012
Smart Growth America
Technical Assistance for Sustainable Communities

Assistance provided with grant support from US EPA’s Office of Sustainable Communities under their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program.
Welcome and Introductions

- Smart Growth America Technical Assistance Team:
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  - Mandi Roberts
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Presentation

• Overview of Smart Growth America Program
• Presentation
  ➢ Climate Change—the Facts
  ➢ What’s “Smart Growth”? 
  ➢ What’s “Cool Planning”? 
• Purpose of the Cool Planning Workshop
• Discussion – Ideas and Opportunities for Eastport
Climate Change... The Facts
Let It Be

But We Really Can’t “Let it Be”... The Way Things are Going, We Have to Take Action
Facts about Climate Change

• Global temperatures have been rising since the early 1900s (in an alarmingly increasing rate over the last 30 years).

• The last decade was the warmest on record.

• Glaciers, arctic ice, and snow pack levels are melting faster.
Facts about Climate Change

• The average sea level worldwide is projected to rise up to two feet by the end of this century.

• This rise will eliminate approximately 10,000 square miles of land in the United States.

• Hurricanes in the Atlantic and Gulf are becoming more intense as ocean temperatures rise.
Facts about Climate Change

- Changes in temperatures and weather patterns are causing wide-scale affects to ecosystems, habitats, forests, and wildlife migratory patterns, not to mention our food supply.
Many Good Reasons

CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.
SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES
What’s Smart Growth?

Planning principles directed at developing sustainable communities that are great places to live, to do business, to work, and to raise families.
Smart Growth: Top 10 Principles

1) Distinctive Communities
   – Attractive
   – Strong Sense of Place

2) Mix Land Uses

3) Compact Building Design

4) Range of Housing Opportunities

5) Walkable Neighborhoods
Smart Growth: Top 10 Principles

6) Preserve open space & critical resource areas
7) Develop towards existing communities
8) Provide transportation choices
9) Encourage “smart” development decisions
   - Predictable, fair, and cost effective
10) Encourage community collaboration
   - Planning processes
   - Development decisions
Smart Growth Strengthens Communities

- Good for the community
- Creates great places:
  - Healthy, attractive, desirable communities
  - Places where people want to be
  - Family-friendly
  - Live, work, shop and play
- Increased economic competitiveness
Smart Growth Strengthens Communities

• Local growth and development decisions affect how we get around, the types and amount of energy we use, and our quality of life.

This?

Or This?
COOL PLANNING COMES TO EASTPORT
What’s “Cool Planning”? 

- “Smart growth” through climate change lenses
- Reducing carbon emissions & improving sustainability through smart decisions
  - Land use planning
  - Transportation planning
  - Investment decision-making
- We can change policies and develop design guidelines to better shape our communities.
- Cool Planning Handbook tools can help to make a difference.
The Cool Planning Handbook

2012 APA national award for best practices

A few cool planning strategies from the Handbook include....

Purpose of the Cool Planning Workshop

- Apply smart growth and cool planning principles to Eastport.
  - How we grow and change as a community matters.
  - Focus on smart growth principles and strategies applicable to Eastport (identify the opportunities).
- Get ready to seize the opportunities: list ideas and actions that can be integrated into the town’s Comprehensive Plan.
Cool Planning Strategies in Eastport

• Growing More Compact and Getting Centered
• Recycling Your Properties
• Greening Your Energy Use and Infrastructure
Growing More Compact and Getting Centered

• Plan land uses to avoid sprawl and minimize travel
• Create local cottage industries and products, reducing transport needs
• Retain and enhance your vibrant, attractive town center
• Provide a combination of uses and services
  – “Main Street” and activity centers, not strip malls
  – Avoid spreading economic viability too thin
• Key benefits:
  – Improved tax base
  – Reduced infrastructure costs
  – Improved quality of life
  – More vibrant street life
  – Reduced need to travel/walkability
Growing More Compact and Getting Centered

- Housing trends are shifting to more compact types
- Density dividend:
  - Lower density = more traffic
  - More compact = better access to amenities, services, schools, less traffic
  - Growing demand for well-designed, compact development
  - Infrastructure cost efficiencies
- No “one size fits all” solution
Recycling Your Properties

- Infill redevelopment and adaptive reuse of existing buildings much less expensive than greenfield development and new construction
- Tax incentives and grants are available for historic preservation
- Target and market key infill redevelopment sites; prioritize infill redevelopment in CIP
Adaptive Reuse and Energy Retrofit Examples

Ocean Avenue Elementary
Portland, ME

Photos Source: Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Adaptive Reuse and Energy Retrofit Examples

Bayside Bowl
Portland, ME

Photos Source: Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Adaptive Reuse and Energy Retrofit Examples

Sally’s Place – Local Food Supplier
Eastport, ME
Greening Your Energy Use and Infrastructure

Three Steps:
• Vision
• Assessment
• Implementation
Vision – One Example is Portland, Oregon’s Climate Action Plan

• 2030 and 2080 GHG Reduction Targets
Lloyd Crossing Example

Sustainable design and development strategy

LLOYD CROSSING
Sustainable Urban Design Plan & Catalyst Project
Portland, Oregon
July 1, 2004

Eastport, Maine—Cool Planning Workshop

Lloyd Crossing Example

Sustainable design and development strategy

LLOYD CROSSING
Sustainable Urban Design Plan & Catalyst Project
Portland, Oregon
July 1, 2004
Assessment: Energy Audit to Support a Community Energy Plan
Assessment: Energy Audit to Support a Community Energy Plan
Assessment Approach to Support a Community Energy Plan
Potential Strategies to Support a Community Energy Plan
A Pathway to Net-Zero Energy
Strategies to Achieve Net-Zero Energy
Eco Districts
Planning for Eastport's Future
Planning Ahead!

- It’s the Right Thing to do **Now**!
- Smart Growth & Cool Planning = Multiple Wins:
  - Improved tax base thru higher-value development
  - Reduced infrastructure expenditures
  - Reduced travel and carbon emissions
  - Environmental impact is less
Opportunities Await

- Make smarter decisions today
  - Get a handle on growth before it gets a handle on you
  - Be pro-active, not reactive
  - Capture your share of the benefits of growth
  - Make your town the place to live and do business
  - Realize your goals
Taking Action – An Action Plan

- Integrating an Action Plan into your Comprehensive Plan update
- Benefits of an Action Plan:
  - Clarifies vision and priorities
  - Builds local partnerships (common objectives)
  - Generates momentum
  - Better positioning for grants
  - Keeps community focused and moving forward
STAY COOL!