

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

November 18, 2003

FYI

A LOOK AT ETHANOL AND THE PROPOSED ETHANOL PLANT FOR LANCASTER COUNTY – (11/18/03)

This new white paper released by the Hourglass Foundation takes a look at the production and the use of ethanol in the United States and the proposed construction of an ethanol producing facility in Conoy Township. Read online at [http://www.hourglassfoundation.org/Publications/White_papers/An Ethanol Plant Proposed for Lancaster County.pdf](http://www.hourglassfoundation.org/Publications/White_papers/An_Ethanol_Plant_Proposed_for_Lancaster_County.pdf). To receive a printed copy of the paper, please send your request via email to <mailto:hourglass.foundation@verizon.net>.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; A TOOL FOR IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIVABILITY:

This fact sheet from Local Government Commission contains examples of how communities have used GIS to improve the livability of their communities. GIS software can help policy makers and stakeholders to make more informed and more effective decisions by relating data with place. GIS can take an overwhelming amount of information -- tabular, spatial, or graphic -- and display it in a way that makes it meaningful to local government staff, policy makers and the public. By displaying information in layers -- each layer with a particular issue -- it is easier to understand how issues interrelate. http://www.lgc.org/freepub/land_use/factsheets/gis.html. **Visit Lancaster County's extensive GIS website:** <http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/gis/site/default.asp?>

LAND VOTE 2003 - This report from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) monitors new conservation funding measures nationwide, and provides an annual ballot measure history for all conservation-related ballot measures that have been voted on since 2000. Despite a weak economy, American voters have shown overwhelming support for conservation-related ballot measures in 2003. Overall, 99 measures in 23 states have been approved by voters, creating \$1.8 billion in new conservation-related funding. This includes more than \$1.3 billion specifically dedicated for land conservation. The passage rate for these measures is 77 percent, an improvement upon the historical 70 percent passage rate from 1998 - 2002. For more information visit: http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cdl.cfm?content_item_id=12030&folder_id=2406

UNDERSTANDING SPRAWL – A CITIZEN'S GUIDE – From the David Suzuki Foundation - a guide for decision-makers and citizens who want to create a healthy, affordable and sustainable urban future. Citizen participation in decisions concerning communities is key to stopping sprawl. The best place to start is by establishing community goals which will help catalyze citizens. This Canadian report is an exploration of the forces that shape cities and what people can do about them – forces that are not unique to our northern neighbors. To view the report: <http://www.smartgrowth.org/library/articles.asp?art=857>

Interesting Websites

Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse — info on sprawl issues including books, reports, websites, state-by-state actions, political alliances, new government policies, lists of interested national organizations. <http://www.sprawlwatch.org>

National Association of Regional Councils — The official organization of America's regional councils of government. This is also the home site for NARC's Institute for the Regional Community, conducting leading-edge research, and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. <http://www.narc.org>

Coalition for Smart Growth – a unique and diverse group of community organizations and individuals drawn together by a shared interest in the future direction of Lancaster County www.smartlancastercounty.com

Planetizen Web Site — Articles from leading newspapers, and directly submitted commentary, on critical urban planning issues <http://www.planetizen.com/>

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Enabling informed decision-making for Lancaster County

Call our office at (717) 295-0755 or write to hourglass.foundation@verizon.net

News!

New Website Launched
www.hourglassfoundation.org