

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

March 16, 2004

FYI

THE SMART MONEY IS ON SMART GROWTH - Business and government leaders grow especially eager to restrain spending and stimulate growth in times of tight budgets and persistent economic uncertainty. In this [paper](#), Mark Muro and Robert Puentes of the [Brookings Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy](#) review the growing evidence that compact development patterns and reinvestment in established areas can save taxpayers money and improve regional economies. Overall, they conclude that managing growth with an eye to promoting urban vitality can at once reduce the cost of providing public infrastructure and services, and enhance regional economic performance. The report also contends that suburbs also benefit from policies that bolster the health of central cities. In sum, the best academic literature suggests that smart growth is especially smart in times of fiscal conservatism.

WATER AND SMART GROWTH: The Impacts of Sprawl on Aquatic Ecosystems- Water quality continues to be a primary environmental concern among the American public. Yet many do not realize that the sprawling development patterns that have characterized American growth in recent decades are the second largest and fastest growing source of pollution to our water system. The public's concern for water safety along with evidence that draws a linkage between settlement patterns and water conditions creates a powerful argument for land use reform. This [paper](#), commissioned by the [Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities](#), reviews the importance of protecting our watersheds, the effects of pollution on our water systems, and current trends in growth and development. It makes the case that comprehensive land use reform can become the organizing principle of the nation's water quality agenda, suggesting strategies that can be taken at the regional, neighborhood, and site scales to protect aquatic resources.

MEASURE UP LANCASTER – This [report](#) prepared by the Lancaster Community Indicators Project, an independent statistical and analytical collaborative effort of several service, civic, governmental, and education organizations in Lancaster County. The Project was initiated in 1998 by several organizations that recognized the importance of establishing a valid, reliable method to measure progress toward community goals. “Imagine 2020”, the vision statement crafted by stakeholders of Lancaster Healthy Communities, which in turn was adopted by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners as the official vision statement of the [Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan](#), was used as the basis for what should be measured. The [2003 edition of Measure Up Lancaster](#) contains currently available data for each indicator. The list of indicators informs the public about the continuing well-being of our community.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 27, 2004
9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. -Historic Preservation: Good Medicine for Tough Times – Bucks County Community College – To register call (215) 504-8668.

Tuesday, April 6, 2004
4:00-6:00 p.m. - Regional Transportation Summit
 Transportation challenges don't know County borders – many are regional in nature. That's why The Lancaster Chamber and Harrisburg Regional Chamber are teaming up for this summit at the Whitaker Center for the Arts. To register, email <mailto:cpattison@hbrc.org>

Thursday, April 29, 2004
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Regional Economics: Planning for Community and Economic Development – This course will provide the participant with an understanding of the increasingly important relationship between regional economic development and local community revitalization. It will also explore why, in the age of the knowledge-based economy, both community and economic development must be addressed for a town or a region to be competitive. *Sponsored by the Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Workforce Investment Board of Lancaster County.* Four Seasons Golf Course. For more information contact Toby Vargas, Lancaster County Planning Commission (717) 299-8333.

Interesting Websites
[Farmland Information Center](#)
[Capital Region Water Board](#)

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

Or visit our website www.hourglassfoundation.org

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