

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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FYI

## **PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP: THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SMART GROWTH**

A new [paper](#) published by [the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities](#) outlines how local governments are the essential players in the smart growth arena. **Balanced growth simply cannot happen without the support of local government** – its elected officials, top managers and staff. Local governments control numerous legal and policy strategies that related to the design, development, and maintenance of land use and the built environment.

Increasingly limited funding for a growing number of responsibilities makes it nearly impossible for local governments to annually balance a budget without facing tough budgeting decisions. As local governments struggle to do more with less, it becomes critical to identify and highlight the links between sustainability, jobs, revenues, quality of life, and other issues related to local government finance.

**“In the context of smart growth, the role of elected leaders is to articulate the vision of a community that is balanced, efficient, successful, and healthy. Of course, not all agree on how to reach this vision. Limited vision on the part of elected officials clearly hampers the ability of local government administrators to pursue innovative or holistic policies.”**

*Public Sector Leadership – The Role of Local Government in Smart Growth*

Supporters of smart growth strategies may be confused about the scope of local government powers that vary from state to state and the somewhat conservative approaches local governments often take when it comes to land use decision-making.

This [paper](#) **discusses the opportunities and constraints that local governments face** in advancing smarter, more balanced communities and hopefully sheds some light on the critical role that local governments can and must play in the next generation of the smart growth movement.

**LAND USE IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY** - In partnership with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(Region 5\)](#) and [Purdue University](#), the [Local Government Environmental Assistance Network \(LGEAN\)](#) recently launched an [online tool](#) to **help local government planners measure the water quality impacts of land use changes**. Specifically, local governments provide information about their location, the proposed land use change, and the area's soil type. Based on community-specific climate data, the [Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment \(L-THIA\) model](#) estimates changes in recharge, runoff, and non-point source pollution resulting from proposed development.

## Upcoming Events

[5<sup>th</sup> Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference – Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities](#) – January 26 – 28, 2006, Denver, CO. The program will feature cutting-edge smart growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies.

## Interesting Articles/Websites

[Global Main Street: Internet Helps Downtown Smart Growth Revival](#) - Online entrepreneurs compete with big-boxes as they revive downtowns across the country. "The technology's widening use by small retailers is enlivening downtowns across the country by enabling merchants to market niche products to a national and global Main Street.

[Ten Principles for Creating Successful Squares](#) - To really succeed, a square must take into account a host of factors that extend beyond its physical dimensions.

[Top Cities for Young People – The Young and Restless in a Knowledge Economy](#) - A new report finds that young people are increasingly preferring close-in neighborhoods. This is the so-called 'creative class' that is up for grabs.

*Enabling informed growth management  
decision-making for Lancaster County*

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