



The measure of our success

 *Smart Growth*

... a vision of strong communities, a vibrant economy,
a healthy environment, and respect among people
— all being achieved together.

What's Smart Growth?

Smart Growth is a way of encouraging development and revitalization that makes the most sense for future livability. It's about quality of life for all of us.

Smart Growth is based on a vision of strong communities, a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and respect among people — all being achieved together.



Under a Smart Growth approach, land and resources are used wisely to allow for healthy growth. Attractive, compact



development is encouraged where it can happen best, while urban sprawl and destruction of habitat or special places are avoided. Schools, parks, open space, transportation, and other community needs are planned so many people, regardless of income, can benefit. Businesses are thriving. Air and water are clean. A sense of community and personal respect helps guide what people do.

Smart Growth is being discussed across the nation. Through a variety of techniques, including incentives, programs, partnerships, education, and budget choices, it becomes reality.

“Protecting green spaces, growing smart may well be one of the most common sense, cost effective environmental solutions ever.”

Carole M. Browner

Administrator, U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

What does Smart Growth mean for Washington?

Washington is one of the 10 fastest growing states in the nation. Our population will increase more than one million by 2015 and more than 2.1 million by 2025. When it comes to Smart Growth, we have successes and problems.

“Technology companies must support smarter growth to protect local quality of life in order to compete for the best and brightest workers.”

Carl Guardino

President and CEO, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group

Washington’s economy is strong. Housing starts remain high. Our growth management laws began 10 years ago to provide a framework for Smart Growth to happen.

Since 1994 most local governments have adopted 20-year growth plans. Cities, counties, and citizens have found new ways to work together on issues such as urban sprawl. They are working to conserve farm and forest lands and revitalize downtowns. Development is being linked with having adequate roads, water, and other infrastructure.



Yet, not everyone shares in the economic prosperity. Infrastructure needs of our growing state are great and some areas have daunting traffic problems. Environmental issues also are of concern as we grow. For example, how and where we develop land affects water quality and the habitat for native fish. Other challenges include finding enough decent, affordable housing and making sure our communities are good places to live. Some Washington communities are using Smart Growth as a way to discuss growing pains and find solutions.

What's Next?

As the 21st Century begins, it's time to see if we need more tools for Smart Growth. With good choices now, Washington can be an even greater place for everyone to live and work.

People from both private and public sectors are coming together to share ideas about best development practices and community livability.

The state's Growth Management Program is organizing some of the discussion through a series of roundtables and other forums.

An action plan, *Smart Growth Strategy for the 21st Century*, will be developed to build on Washington's growth management efforts, and find solutions for emerging needs. It will include benchmarks or indicators to measure Smart Growth progress.

Other actions – including legislation, task forces, public and private choices, regional coordination efforts, incentives, and education – are expected to follow up on the strategy.

Citizens, elected officials, and others can read and comment on issue papers prepared for the strategy discussions.



Information will be available on our website, and letters also can be written to the Growth Management Program.



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and Economic Development

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“The concept of smart growth has exploded onto the national consciousness as one of the most critical issues confronting America today.”

**National Association of
Homebuilders**

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