

Environment and Housing

Providing quality housing in a safe and appealing environment is a key component of any Smart Growth strategy. Access to transportation, commuting patterns, access to service and education, crowding, noise and consumption of energy and other natural resources are all affected by the decisions made during construction. Utilizing Smart Growth strategies can widen the range of housing options, enabling communities to mitigate environmental and financial costs brought on by so many of these factors. These strategies can create an environment where all homeowners, environmentalists and builders alike, are satisfied.

Case Studies

- [Lowell, Massachusetts Master Plan](#)
 - Lowell, Massachusetts addresses brownfields (contaminated or potentially contaminated sites) within three elements: unique waterfront environments, economic growth and sustainability.
- [Virginia's Green Buildings](#)
 - The Virginia Sustainable Building Network (VSBN) website offers case studies of exciting green building projects.
- [The Effects of Inclusionary Zoning on Local Housing Markets](#)
 - This study provides local decision-makers with valuable evidence on the impacts of Inclusionary Zoning (IZ).
- [Smart Growth In Action: Wellington Neighborhood, Breckenridge, Colorado](#)
 - The Wellington Neighborhood provides affordable and market-rate housing on a site that was once dredge-mined utilizing recycled land and free transit to the nearby town.
- [Smart Growth In Action: Southside Neighborhood, Greensboro, North Carolina](#)
 - The Southside neighborhood revitalization is one of Greensboro, North Carolina's first significant mixed-use, infill projects transforming a blighted area into a thriving neighborhood.
- [Smart Growth In Action: Housing Enhancement Loan Program, Cuyahoga County, Ohio](#)
 - The Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office created the Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP), a program to improve quality of life and keep thousands of families in older Cleveland neighborhoods and inner-ring suburbs.
- [Denny Park—Green Communities](#)
 - Green Communities is a five-year, \$550 million program to build more than 8,500 environmentally healthy homes for low-income families.
- [Highlands Garden Village – Denver, CO](#)
 - Highlands Garden Village is a small neighborhood 10 minutes from downtown Denver and sits on the former Elitch Gardens amusement park. The pedestrian friendly neighborhood provides a healthy, vibrant, mixed-

use community, with diverse housing, meaningful work opportunities, convenient services, and places to pursue educational, cultural, and spiritual interests.

Other Resources

- [Brownfields and Land Revitalization](#)
- [Design for Health: General Health Issues](#)
- [Environment and Housing Quality](#)