

Land Use

In terms of Smart Growth, Land Use refers to a systems approach to land development that supports healthy and active lifestyles by integrating retail, office, residential, open space and schools so that people can easily travel by foot, bike or public transportation. When development does not adhere to Smart Growth standards it can often lead to a host of environmental problems such as urban sprawl, smog, pollution or crowded living. In addition, serious health effects associated with inadequate physical activity include heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, depression and some types of cancer. These chronic diseases are best handled with prevention.

Case Studies

- [Smart Growth In Action: Sacramento Transportation/Land Use Study, California](#)
 - More than 5,000 community members, elected officials, and business leaders shaped the future of the Sacramento region through a series of workshops, regional conferences, web-based dialogue, and surveys. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) initiated this two-year process—the Sacramento Region Blueprint: Transportation/Land Use Study—to examine current land use and future growth patterns and to plan where and how the region should grow.
- [Smart Growth In Action: San Juan Pueblo Master Land Use Plan, San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico](#)
 - San Juan Pueblo, just north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been inhabited for over 700 years. In 2000, San Juan Pueblo tribal members initiated a community planning process to articulate and implement a long-term vision for the pueblo. At community design meetings, the elders recalled, “There was always an eye on you as a child and everyone felt they could count on their neighbor.”

Other Resources

- [Our Built and Natural Environments](#)
 - A report released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency documenting the many interactions between the built and natural environment, including air, water, and land resources.
- [Education and Smart Growth](#)
 - A paper from The Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities describing how the trend toward building new schools on large sites far from existing development centers, called “school sprawl” or “school gigantism,” can have far-reaching impacts on school children, school districts and the larger community.

- [The Center for Watershed Protection](#)
 - The Center provides local governments, activists, and watershed organizations with the technical tools for protecting streams, lakes and rivers.
- [Local Governments and Schools: A Community-Oriented Approach](#)
 - IQ Report that provides local government managers with an understanding of the connections between school facility planning and local government management issues, with particular attention to avoiding the creation of large schools remotely sited from the community they serve.