



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

Does your community need help understanding or dealing with growth and development? Below you'll find a list of products or services available through the Livable Communities Coalition. Find the question (left-hand column) that best fits your community's need, then read across to learn more about what the Coalition can offer.

WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY NEED NOW?

HOW CAN THE COALITION HELP?

WHAT PRODUCTS OR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

“We want to do a better job with growth, but we don't know where to start.”

Whether a community is just beginning to look at growth or already on the path to smart growth, the Coalition can help it decide next steps in building a strategy for smart growth.

Environmental scan and recommendation: The Coalition meets with local officials and/or community representatives to determine where on the path to smart growth the community is, what the logical next steps might be, and which steps are likely to be most productive.

“We're wondering if our land use policy and zoning codes need updating.”

The Coalition provides communities with a way to analyze local land use and zoning policies.

Policy Audit: Taking a close look at land use policies, the Coalition works with stakeholders to produce a report that identifies policy strengths (features that support smart growth) and weaknesses (features that might hinder smart growth).

Code and Zoning Audit: Stakeholders and the Coalition work together to identify strengths and weaknesses in local zoning codes, summarizing findings in a report that can serve as a guide for changes.

“Can someone help us decide what our next step should be?”

Using a guide to smart growth strategy, the Coalition helps communities map next steps on their paths to smart growth. An audit summary can also pinpoint specific changes to policy and code documents.

Audit Summary: The Coalition captures findings from policy and/or zoning audits, identifies priorities and a possible sequence of events, and names the documents that need to be amended and the decision makers that will need to be involved.

Smart Growth Strategy Builder: Guides a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the local smart growth environment and maps possible routes to implementation of changes.

“How can we get more residents involved in planning for change?”

The Coalition can create a forum for stakeholders—citizens, local governments and developers—to voice needs, wants and concerns in a facilitated, neutral environment. If needed, the Coalition can also conduct targeted “listenings” aimed at helping specific constituencies voice their needs or identify obstacles.

Facilitation: A forum led by the Coalition can uncover, record and analyze stakeholder needs, issues, and questions with regard to future growth and development.

Interviews: What do key influencers, stakeholders, or decision makers think about growth? Interviews conducted by the Coalition help assess trends, needs, and goals.

Community soundings: The Coalition can conduct neighborhood-level “listenings” to identify community needs, fears, and goals.

“We’ve got a specific issue we need advice on.”

Once stakeholders’ needs and concerns are identified, there may be a need for specific answers. The Coalition can enlist a team of volunteer experts who will work with stakeholders to help find those answers.

Technical assessment: Convening a team of volunteer experts, the Coalition can help determine possibilities for smart growth and development.

Commissioned study: When necessary, the Coalition commissions studies to answer questions needing extensive research, such as whether tax allocation districts are working effectively.

Resource identification: Using its uniquely broad membership base, access to volunteers, and national smart growth network, the Coalition identifies and helps engage resources for communities on a custom, as-needed basis.

Gap analysis and remedy: Is there a gap in the community’s otherwise strong process for growth? The Coalition looks for opportunities to do what other groups aren’t able to do to facilitate and promote smart growth.

Stakeholder outreach: The Coalition can convene meetings of stakeholders, including citizens, government officials, developers, and land owners, to find consensus.

Communication: Drawing on its extensive experience working with stakeholders in a variety of situations, the Coalition builds and implements plans for communication to help communities succeed.

“How do I know if the big development planned for our community is really smart growth?”

Mixed-use developments have come back into fashion. But how can a community know whether a major proposed development is really smart growth? The Coalition’s Smart Growth Scorecard is designed to answer that question.

Smart Growth Scorecard: The Coalition’s scorecard applies 50 tests to proposed mixed-use developments, scores the answers, and then averages the scores to produce an overall grade that tells communities, local governments and developers whether a proposed project is smart growth. The Coalition’s report also identifies areas where the plan can be improved.

“What is smart growth? Is there someone who can tell us what we should be looking for when it comes to new development?”

How can smart growth raise the quality of life for metro Atlanta residents? The Coalition explains smart growth principles and shows where and how they can be used to meet the region’s growth challenges and raise the quality of life for all residents.

Presentations: Let the Coalition explain the ways that metro Atlanta’s population is changing, the reasons that smart growth make sense for your community, what smart growth looks like, and how it can benefit residents of the 20-county metro Atlanta region.

Educational materials: From handouts explaining housing choice and greenfield development to illustrations of what density looks like, the Coalition has a wealth of materials that help explain smart growth.

Web site: Additional educational materials, examples of smart growth from metro Atlanta and the nation, and links to smart growth resources can all be found on the Coalition Web site, www.livablecommunitiescoalition.org.

E-News: The Coalition’s popular monthly e-publication informs, educates, and explains one news item or concept a month, making smart growth principles accessible to the general public.



To learn about projects the Coalition is currently working on, to see slides of Smart Growth projects, view Smart Growth news and information, or find resources and tools, please visit us at www.LivableCommunitiesCoalition.org