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## Smart Growth Resources

After the success of the Association's Smart Growth Symposium on November 8, 2007 at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton, Pioneer Valley municipal leaders and members have asked for more information. Here are the Smart Growth FAQs followed by useful Smart Growth web site,



### Frequently Asked Questions about the NAR Smart Growth Program

#### **Is NAR taking a pro- or anti-development position?**

NAR's position is pro-community. How governments meet the challenge of rapid growth affects the very livelihood of America's REALTORS® and the vital interests of their customers, America's homeowners, property owners, and tenants. Our role is to help communities successfully manage the challenge of growth through local decision making, research, sharing of expertise, creative problem solving, and building community consensus.

#### **What can we expect local REALTORS® to do as a result of this initiative?**

Our goal is to raise awareness among REALTORS® nationally; to urge them to become active in the local land use planning process; and, through their local, state, and national associations, to provide resources to help policy makers solve growth-related issues.

#### **How did NAR get involved with Smart Growth?**

Individually and through their state and local associations and boards, REALTORS® have been active in growth and land use issues for decades. In hundreds of communities and dozens of states, REALTORS® have become outspoken advocates for policies that maintain the integrity of housing markets by preserving choice and affordability without compromising the qualities that make communities desirable.

The NAR Smart Growth program, established in 2000, focuses on providing education and advocacy resources to support REALTOR® associations at the state and local levels. Through the REALTOR® network of 1,600 state and local associations and boards, NAR serves as a catalyst and resource to share expertise, research, training, and other forms of assistance to participating state and local associations.

#### **How can communities resolve the conflicting concerns of first-time home buyers who want affordability and choice and those of existing homeowners who want a quality of life untouched by the negative aspects of growth?**

These concerns are not necessarily in conflict. NAR research shows that both homeowners and renters share virtually the same concerns. They want affordability, choice, and a high quality of life. We believe most communities can reach consensus on these issues through public education, discussion, and planning. The key is to begin early in order to anticipate growth pressures before they polarize attitudes and spawn such extreme policies as moratoria on development.

#### **Will NAR continue to measure public attitudes?**

Yes. We will conduct national public opinion surveys annually. We will also assist state and local REALTOR® associations in surveying voters in their jurisdictions on growth and quality of life issues.

## Smart Growth Resources (continued)

### Useful Links

National Association of REALTORS® Smart Growth  
[www.realtor.org/smartgrowth](http://www.realtor.org/smartgrowth)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Smart Growth  
[www.epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth)

Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® Quality of Life  
[www.marealtor.com/content/quality\\_of\\_life\\_campaign.htm](http://www.marealtor.com/content/quality_of_life_campaign.htm)

American Planning Association Smart Growth  
[www.planning.org/sgreader](http://www.planning.org/sgreader)

U.S. Green Building Council  
[www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

Smart Growth Network  
[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)

Smart Growth America  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

Urban Land Institute Smart Growth  
[www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
[www.pvpc.org/](http://www.pvpc.org/)

Regional planning body for 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire County areas.

### Free Smart Growth Magazine

To receive a free subscription to *On Common Ground*, the National Association of REALTORS® Smart Growth magazine, **contact Ted Wright at (202) 383-1206 or email [twright@realtors.org](mailto:twright@realtors.org).**