



ULI in the Community Smart Growth Alliances



Background

In a growing number of regions, ULI has worked with diverse local stakeholders to support the formation of regional smart growth alliances (SGA). These alliances are created to serve as a forum to build consensus on the future of regional development and break the political stalemate that often arises around questions of how best to accommodate growth. Alliance partners often include, but are not limited to the following stakeholders:

- ULI District Council;
- Local or regional homebuilder, Realtor, or other development associations;
- Representatives from environmental organizations, land conservation groups or civic groups;
- State, regional and local governments;
- Chamber of commerce and other general business organizations; and
- Academic institutions.

The formation of a smart growth alliance typically includes the development of a common growth vision and key principles for implementation of smart growth projects and policies. Bridging differences between public officials, developers, environmental groups and grassroots organization, as well as between urban, suburban and rural interests is a key outcome of this work.



Environmental Protection Agency Grant

To build upon ULI's involvement with several SGA efforts, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded ULI a grant to support the formation of new alliances. The grant, which is augmented by ULI funds, will fund the creation of alliances, program support, and a network to share ideas and experiences. The Smart Growth Alliance Information Network (SGAIN) will be created as a forum for the exchange of information and lessons learned. The SGAIN will consist of a web site to share case studies on model programs and other relevant information. ULI will organize and host an annual information sharing forum for representatives from the participating smart growth alliances.

District Councils Examples

ULI Colorado, ULI Richmond, ULI Seattle, and ULI Southeast Florida have received funding and staff support to start new smart growth alliances in their regions. In addition, four existing alliances, all formed with support from ULI – Washington Smart Growth Alliance (WSGA), Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance (DVSGA), ULI Orlando/myregion.org and ULI Atlanta/Livable Communities Coalition – have also received funding and support to strengthen their organizations and act as advisors to the new alliances.