



Washington Smart Growth Alliance Announces Comprehensive Revision of Smart Growth Recognition Criteria

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(Washington – August 25, 2008) The Washington Smart Growth Alliance has comprehensively revised the criteria by which it reviews development proposals for Smart Growth Recognition. For over six years, the Alliance's independent jury has reviewed development proposals submitted each quarter against a demanding set of criteria for:

- Location
- Density, Design and Mix of Land Uses
- Transportation / Mobility / Accessibility
- Environment
- Mixed Income Housing
- Community Benefits
- Community Participation

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As a result, more than 50 developments in the region have been granted recognition as smart growth proposals. Recognition by an independent third party like the Alliance helps inform public officials and others about the benefits of smart growth projects to the community and the region, and in so doing, helps such development projects move forward.

The new Smart and Sustainable Growth Recognition Criteria hold out higher standards for housing affordability, sustainable development practices and urban design. At the same time, the new criteria provide for three different levels of recognition, so regardless of where a project is in the local entitlement process it can receive the recognition it needs to help it proceed to the next level.

Alliance President Sam Black said: "The new criteria were developed with the help of a broad-based task force and with input from the development community. They represent a step forward both in raising our standards and in making the criteria flexible enough to meet the needs of proposals in different stages of review."

The revised criteria will be in effect for the September 15, 2008 round of reviews. The criteria, along with revised application instructions, are available for download at <http://www.sgalliance.org/SGRPrevisedcriteria.pdf>.

The Alliance is a unique partnership of business, civic and environmental organizations that have in the past been on opposite sides of some issues but have reached consensus on many quality of life, smarter growth, and sustainability topics relating to the National Capital region.