



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

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City of Sanford to Host Workshop on Using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) for Downtown Projects

City of Sanford officials and local residents will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on August 4 and 5, 2015 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The workshop will explore the City's options for incorporating sustainable practices, through the lens of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) program. City officials will specifically focus on how location, urban design factors, and green infrastructure can help shape development along Sanford's scenic downtown waterfront.

Sanford area residents are invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation that will feature a broad overview of strategies to achieve greater sustainability in the community through the LEED-ND program. The event will be held August 4, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the City of Sanford City Commission Chambers (300 North Park Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771).

"Green neighborhoods produce more business opportunities, jobs, household saving and other fiscal benefits. The City is committed to a smarter and greener future and open to innovative approaches for economic development and sustainable growth. With technical help from Smart Growth America, we can incorporate the smart growth principles in neighborhoods throughout the City," said Mayor Triplett.

In December 2014, Sanford was one of 14 communities nationwide selected from a pool of over 120 applications by Smart Growth America to participate in the technical assistance program. Stretching from Florida to Washington State, these 14 communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

"Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local leaders keep their communities livable, sustainable and vital places," said Roger Millar, Smart Growth America Vice President. "The workshop will provide an important starting point for the City of Sanford to begin thinking about how a more sustainable and healthier community can be achieved through the LEED-ND program. Not only will it help guide the City in its current downtown development projects, but it will also provide a foundation for future planning and building in the City."

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities to Smart Growth America, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Two other nonprofit organizations—Project for Public Spaces and Global Green—currently have active grants under this program to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to help them use land strategically, make the most of existing resources and invest purposefully to catalyze private development.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods.

For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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