



# **BUILDING GREEN COMMUNITIES**

## **Online Resources for Local Governments**

A compendium of information, resources, and tools from the Environmental Protection Agency, other federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations



Compiled by:  
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

October 2008

# **BUILDING GREEN COMMUNITIES**

## **Online Resources for Local Governments**

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The purpose of this compendium is to help local government officials and other community leaders find online sources of information, tools, and other resources that can help them build green communities.

Entries have been grouped under general topical categories, but users should note that several topics overlap and relevant information may be found under more than one topic.

All text was adapted from the Web sites cited for each entry.

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## 1. Green/Sustainable Communities -- General

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### 1a. Green/Sustainable Communities -- EPA/Federal Web Sites

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***EPA Smart Growth*** program helps communities improve their development practices and get the type of development they want. EPA works with local, state, and national experts to discover and encourage successful, environmentally sensitive development strategies. EPA conducts research, publishes reports and other publications, showcases outstanding communities, works with communities through grants and technical assistance; and brings together diverse interests to encourage better growth and development.

<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/index.htm>

***Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program*** is a competitive grant program that offers communities an innovative way to address the risks from multiple sources of toxic pollution in their environment. CARE educates and supports communities by helping them assess the pollution risks they face and provides access to EPA's and other voluntary programs to address local environmental priorities and improve the environment through local action. The CARE program is also a gateway to help communities access information and resources available to help them build partnerships to assess and address environmental risks. The site includes links to tools and publications, community profiles, and information about how to apply for a CARE grant. [www.epa.gov/care/](http://www.epa.gov/care/)

***CARE Resource Guide*** helps users navigate EPA's Web site and find online resources to help communities improve their environment. Designed to help communities in the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program, the guide can be used by anyone interested in any aspect of working with communities-- the steps in the process of getting organized, analyzing risks, reducing risks, and tracking progress.

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oarweb/care/index.cfm?fuseaction=Guide.showIntro>

***EPA's Community Air Screening How-To Manual*** This manual provides a process for screening and prioritizing air quality concerns, making air quality assessment tools more accessible to communities. The manual presents and explains a step-by-step process that a community can follow to: form a partnership to access technical expertise, identify and inventory all local sources of air pollutants, review these sources to identify the known hazards that might present a potential health risk to the community, and set priorities and develop a plan for making improvements.. It is organized into two parts; a general overview for all members of a community partnership and a technical guide with detailed information for the experts who will be carrying out technical aspects of the screening, such as air dispersion modeling. <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/cahp/pubs/howto.htm>

***Green Communities.*** This Web site is a portal to tools and information on the best strategies, programs, and policies to reduce a community's environmental footprint. A five -step environmental planning framework leads to a greener, sustainable future.

<http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm>

***Creating Great Neighborhoods: Density in Your Community.*** One principle of smart growth is to take advantage of compact building design. This publication highlights the success of nine community-led efforts to create vibrant neighborhoods through density; provides readers with an understanding of the connections between smart growth and density; and introduces five time tested design principles to ensure that density becomes a community asset and not a liability. <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/density.htm>

***Community Guide to EPA Voluntary Programs.*** This publication provides overviews of nearly 40 EPA voluntary programs that may help communities address toxics and other environmental concerns. The publication contains a purpose and description of each program, an example of how a community has used the program, how to apply, and an EPA contact. <http://www.epa.gov/care/publications.htm>

***Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth.*** Growth and development can have adverse effects on water resources, including loss of woodlands, meadowlands, wetlands and increased polluted run-off. Increases in impermeable cover and vehicle traffic also can negatively impact water quality and quantity. Intended for communities, local governments, and state and regional planners already familiar with smart growth, the document is a compilation of 75 policies designed to protect water resources and implement smart growth.

[http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water\\_resource.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water_resource.htm)

***Protecting Water Resources with Higher-Density Development.*** The environmental impacts of development can make it more difficult for communities to protect their natural resources. Where and how communities accommodate growth has a profound impact on the quality of their streams, rivers, lakes, and beaches. Development that uses land efficiently and protects undisturbed natural lands allows a community to grow and still protect its water resources. This publication contains the results of EPA research on storm water runoff from different development densities. The research indicates that low-density development may not always be the preferred strategy for protecting water resources. Higher densities may better protect water quality — especially at the lot and watershed levels.

[http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water\\_resource.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water_resource.htm)

***Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place.*** This Guide offers a process and set of tools for defining and understanding the human dimension of an environmental issue. It gives leaders in government agencies and in nongovernmental organizations and tribes (such as directors of watershed groups, public health officials, outreach coordinators, environmental educators, and environmental justice workers) technical tools for more effectively working with the public on environmental protection efforts. [http://www.epa.gov/CARE/library/community\\_culture.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/CARE/library/community_culture.pdf)

***Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI).*** The Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) is a computer-based screening tool developed by EPA that analyzes Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) release data. RSEI is often used by government regulators, communities, journalists, industry and others to examine trends, identify important emissions situations for follow-up, support community-based projects, and carry out initial screenings of potential impacts of emissions. RSEI analyzes factors including the amount of toxic chemical releases, the degree of toxicity, and the size of the exposed population and then calculates a numeric score. To give the score meaning, it must be ranked against other scores also produced by RSEI. The model highlights releases that pose the highest potential risk or potentially pose the highest risk. This way, RSEI helps policy makers and communities quickly identify situations that require further evaluation and set priorities for action.

[http://www.epa.gov/oppt/rsei/pubs/basic\\_information.html](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/rsei/pubs/basic_information.html)

***Environmental Finance Program.*** EPA's Environmental Finance Program assists communities in their search for creative approaches to funding their environmental projects. The Environmental Finance Program provides financial technical assistance to the regulated community and advice and recommendations to the Agency on environmental finance issues, trends, and options. Drawing on the financing expertise of staff, the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), and university based Environmental Finance Centers, the Environmental Finance Program seeks to lower costs, increase investment, and build capacity by creating partnerships with state and local governments and the private sector to fund environmental needs. <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage/efp.htm>

***Rural and Community Development.*** The Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) helps strengthen the capacity of local citizens to be key players in guiding the future of their rural communities; provides resources for local decision makers to make informed choices in addressing regional and national issues; and helps families, communities, farms and ranches, and businesses attain prosperity and security. CSREES helps to build rural and community prosperity through research, education, and extension, much of it led by the CSREES four Regional Rural Development Centers with their many partners in the university system and in communities across the country.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/ruralcommunitydevelopment.cfm>

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## 1b. Green/Sustainable Communities -- External Web Sites

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**Smart Growth Online.** EPA joined with several non-profit and government organizations to form the Smart Growth Network -- a forum for raising public awareness of how growth can improve community quality of life; promoting smart growth best practices; developing and sharing information, innovative policies, tools and ideas; and cultivating strategies to address barriers to and advance opportunities for smart growth. *Smart Growth Online* is a clearinghouse of news, research, publications, tools, case studies, and other resources. This site links to publications including *This is Smart Growth*, featuring 40 cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities that have used smart growth techniques to improve the quality of development; *Getting to Smart Growth, 100 Policies for Implementation*, with policy ideas as well as additional resources and case studies; and *Smart Growth in Action*, containing case studies on affordable housing; urban infill development; mixed-use downtowns, brownfields redevelopment, magnet schools, and transportation planning.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.smartgrowth.org/sgn/default.asp>

**Smart Growth Implementation Toolkit** is a set of practical tools to help communities grow smarter by helping users untangle the thicket of policies and procedures that get in the way of smarter growth and sustainable development. The tools, which can be customized for individual communities, can help community leaders assess whether existing land use and development policies, zoning codes, and regulations align with the community's aspirations for its future and develop a strategy to encourage smart growth projects in the community. The tool is a project of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute in cooperation with EPA.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.smartgrowthtoolkit.net/>

**Smart Communities Network Web Site** offers resources, tools, links to articles and publications, and community success stories on topics including community energy, green buildings, sustainable business, financing, and resource efficiency. Developed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology, the site provides resources intended to help strengthen local economies, improve and protect the quality of local environments, enhance the quality of life in communities and build towards a more sustainable future.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org>

**Green Government DataBase.** In early 2008, the National Association of Counties Green Government Initiative launched this searchable database of county green programs, policies, plans, staff descriptions and more. Topics include global warming/climate change/air quality, indoor air quality/pest management/green cleaning; green building; energy efficiency/renewable energy; fleets/alternative fuels and vehicles; transportation; land use--conservation, trees, landscaping, open space; conservation, trees, landscaping, open space; water conservation, water quality; purchasing; waste management.

EXIT Disclaimer

[http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green\\_Government\\_Database&Template=/cfiles/ggi/green\\_counties/ggi\\_search.cfm](http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green_Government_Database&Template=/cfiles/ggi/green_counties/ggi_search.cfm)

**Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN)** is a "first-stop shop" providing environmental management, planning, funding, and regulatory information for local government elected and appointed officials, managers and staff. Topics include air quality, brownfields/superfund, climate change, coastal communities, drinking water, energy efficiency, environmental liability, environmental management systems, smart growth, storm water, urban forestry, wetlands. LGEAN enables local officials to interact with their peers and others online. LGEAN also manages a toll-free telephone service (877/865-4326).

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.lgean.org>

**LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System** integrates the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building into the first national system for neighborhood design. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification provides independent, third-party verification that a development's location and design meet accepted high levels of environmentally responsible, sustainable development. LEED for Neighborhood Development communities can reduce urban sprawl, encourage healthy living, protect threatened species, and increase transportation choice and decrease automobile dependence.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=148>

**Green Counties Survey Reports.**\* The National Association of Counties (NACo) released two new green government surveys: the *NACo County Green Programs Survey*, and *Local Leaders in Sustainability: Green Counties*, a joint report from NACo and the American Institute of Architects.

- The **County Green Programs** survey found that: 58% of county respondents have a program to encourage green government practices; 14% generate renewable energy; 84% do not have a green purchasing policy; and 21% have, will or plan to conduct a county operations greenhouse gas survey. EXIT Disclaimer  
[http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green\\_Government\\_Initiative\\_Publications&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=27976](http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green_Government_Initiative_Publications&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=27976)
- The **Local Leaders in Sustainability** survey focused on the top 200 most populous counties in the country and discovered that green programs have increased by over 400% in the last three years. EXIT Disclaimer  
[http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green\\_Government\\_Initiative\\_Publications&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28018](http://www.naco.org/GreenTemplate.cfm?Section=Green_Government_Initiative_Publications&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28018)

**Strategies for Successful Infill Development.** Infill development -- creative recycling of vacant or underutilized land -- can improve existing communities and revitalize those with problems. This publication by the Northeast Midwest Institute covers planning for infill, design strategies, the role of housing, transportation, brownfield development, and more. Available online, the publication also includes case studies of successful infill development efforts. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.nemw.org/infillbook.htm>

***Congress for the New Urbanism*** (CNU) promotes walkable, neighborhood-based development as an alternative to sprawl. Members are planners, developers, architects, engineers, public officials, investors, and community activists who create and influence the nation's built environment, transforming growth patterns from the inside out. Initiatives include a climate change campaign, a street design manual, affordable housing, highways to boulevards, emergency response and street design, and sustainable transportation networks.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.cnu.org/>

***Housing + Transportation Affordability Index***, developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Center for Transit Oriented Development, is an innovative tool that measures the true affordability of housing. Planners, lenders, and most consumers traditionally measure housing affordability as 30 percent or less of income. The Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, in contrast, takes into account not just the cost of housing, but also the intrinsic value of place, as quantified through transportation costs.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://htaindex.cnt.org/>

***Environmental Management Systems for Local Government Entities***. An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency. This pilot effort is testing the applicability and benefit of an EMS on environmental performance, pollution prevention, and stakeholder involvement in government operations. Since 1997, 23 local governments have participated in pilot projects; 9 more are underway. The initiatives are a cooperative effort of several EPA offices and the Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF). EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.getf.org/projects/muni2.cfm#4>

***Public Entity EMS Resource Center (PEER Center)*** provides a broad array of information and tools to help public entities understand and adopt environmental management systems (EMS) for their operations. The PEER Center is a collaborative effort between the Office of Water at U.S. EPA and the Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF). The Web site includes a Toolkit for Wastewater Facilities, a Common Management Framework for Utilities (wastewater), Environmental Management Systems and Asset Management Pamphlet, and case studies. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.peercenter.net/>

***Best Workplaces for Commuters*** recognizes employers that provide their employees with commuting benefits that meet a national standard. When outstanding commuter benefits are provided by an organization at the community level, such as a business park, downtown district, developer, or property manager, the districts can be designated a Best Workplaces for Commuters District. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.bestworkplaces.org/index.htm>

***Local Government Commission*** (LGC) provides many free resources including newsletters and publications, fact sheets, case studies, model projects, and articles on topics such as land use, water, and energy. Members are local elected officials, city and county staff, planners, architects, and community leaders who are working to create healthy, walkable, and resource-efficient communities. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.lgc.org/>

## 2. Climate Change

### 2a. Climate Change: EPA/Federal Web Sites

***Climate Change -- State and Local Governments.*** This website provides details on actions by states and efforts by local agencies to address climate change, along with links to relevant EPA voluntary programs that can help states and localities meet their goals. It also provides a directory of tools that can help state and local governments inventory their greenhouse gas emissions, analyze greenhouse gas reduction opportunities and quantify the energy, environmental and economic benefits of lowering greenhouse gases  
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/stateandlocalgov/index.html>

***Smart Savings: Climate Solutions for Cities*** identifies twenty actions that local officials can take to reduce energy costs, clean the air, reduce congestion, curb sprawl and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The actions include energy efficiency improvements, providing alternative transportation, reducing and recycling waste and improving urban design.  
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/index.html>

***Heat Island Reduction.*** Urban temperatures can be up to 10 degrees hotter than rural surroundings, resulting from a high concentration of construction materials that absorb, rather than reflect, the sun's heat. By planting trees and installing reflective roofs and pavements, communities can achieve the benefits of lower air temperatures, improved air quality and energy savings, which in turn, reduces greenhouse gases. <http://www.epa.gov/heatislands/>

**Community actions** include education, demonstration projects, incentives for voluntary action, tree planting programs, tree-sharing ordinances, and building construction standards, energy codes, energy plans, and comprehensive master plans.  
<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/community.html>

**Trees and vegetation** can decrease local surface and air temperatures. Strategic planting around homes and buildings directly cools the interior of homes and buildings, decreasing air conditioning costs and peak energy demand. Trees and vegetation can improve air quality, reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, decrease storm water runoff, improve community livability, and provide other benefits.  
<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/vegetation.html>

**Cool roof systems** stay up to 70°F (39°C) cooler than traditional materials during peak summer weather. By minimizing energy use, cool roofs do more than save money – they reduce the demand for electric power and resulting air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/coolroofs.html>

**Green roofs** can reduce urban heat islands by providing shade and through evapotranspiration, the release of water from plants to the surrounding air. They also reduce sewage system loads by assimilating large amounts of water, absorb air pollution and store carbon, protect underlying roof material, and provide habitat for birds and other small animals.<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/greenroofs.html>

**Cool pavements** can affect the urban heat island and resulting air quality, results are complicated by several factors. There are situations, however, where communities can choose paving materials that lower surface temperature and achieve related benefits. Large parking areas, terminal facilities, airfields, or urban roadways with large expanses of paved surface are examples where cool pavements may be most practical.  
<http://www.epa.gov/heatislands/strategies/coolpavement.html>  
<http://www.epa.gov/heatisland/strategies/coolpavement.html>

**Carbon Sequestering.** Carbon sequestration is the process through which certain agricultural, forestry, green roofs, and other practices remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) -- the most important greenhouse gas emitted by human activities -- from the atmosphere. The term “sinks” is also used to describe agricultural and forestry lands that absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. Carbon sequestration can be a useful component of a climate change action plan.

--**Agriculture and forestry:** <http://www.epa.gov/sequestration/index.html>

--**Geologic sequestration:** [www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells\\_sequestration.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_sequestration.html);  
[www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/co2\\_geosequest.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/co2_geosequest.html)

**Clean Construction USA** program assists owners and operators of construction equipment to reduce emissions from older diesel engines that are in operation today. Policy makers can provide a variety of tax and other incentives or programs to implement clean construction projects. This site contains examples, case studies, sample contract language, and more to help policy materials promote clean construction.  
<http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/construction/whatyoucando.htm>

**Clean Ports USA.** Because EPA's regulations only apply to newly manufactured diesel engines, the voluntary Clean Ports USA program was developed to help port authorities and fleet owners reduce emissions from the older engines that are currently in port operation today. EPA offers public port authorities education, incentives, and grant funding assistance for the adoption of cleaner diesel technologies and strategies that work best for the port.  
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/ports/index.htm>

**Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD)** partners recover ozone-depleting chemicals from old refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and humidifiers, thereby protecting the ozone layer and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Using best practices, RAD partners ensure that refrigerant is recovered and reclaimed or destroyed; foam is recovered and destroyed, or the blowing agent is recovered and reclaimed; metals, plastic, and glass are recycled; and PCBs, mercury, and used oil are recovered and properly disposed. RAD partners include utilities, municipalities, retailers, manufacturers, universities, and other interested organizations. In addition to receiving public recognition, joining the program may also serve as a way to document climate efforts and may help partners meet any voluntary commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/partnerships/rad/index.html>

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## **2b. Climate Change: External Web Sites**

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**Cities for Climate Protection Campaign**, a project of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI), enlists cities to adopt policies and implement measures to achieve quantifiable reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability and sustainability. ICLEI provides regionally specific tools and technical assistance to help local governments in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>

**Mayors Climate Protection Center.** The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in June 2005. Thus far, over 50 mayors have signed the agreement committing to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their communities to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 -- through actions like increasing energy efficiency, alternative transportation, maintaining healthy urban forests, reducing sprawl and promoting the use of clean, renewable energy resources. The site includes a "Climate Protection Strategies and Best Practices Guide" with examples of city climate protection efforts. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/>

**Cool Cities** are cities that have made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Begun in 2005, the Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign empowers city residents and local leaders to join and encourage their cities to implement smart energy solutions to save money and build a cleaner, safer future. The Web site includes city profiles, tools, best practices and technical information, and a discussion forum. EXIT Disclaimer <http://coolcities.us/about.php>

**Pew Center on Global Climate Change -- State Solutions Program.** The State Solutions program at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change conducts research and disseminates information about state actions in an effort to bring effective state climate solutions into the federal policy-making arena and facilitate cross-fertilization between state and federal policy makers. The program provides information to states on climate impacts and policy opportunities, fosters peer-to-peer learning among state officials, and advises on the development of state and regional initiatives by providing expert advice and detailed analysis.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.pewclimate.org/states-regions/about>

### 3. Clean Energy

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#### 3a. Clean Energy -- EPA/Federal Web Sites

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**Energy Star** is a joint program of EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy helping everyone save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

**Energy Star Tools and Resources** has a range of tools and resources that can help in implementing a successful energy management strategy. Topics include energy management assessing building and plant energy efficiency, assessing new building design, improving building performance, financial evaluation, and awards/recognition.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tools\\_resources.bus\\_energy\\_management\\_tools\\_resources](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tools_resources.bus_energy_management_tools_resources)

**Energy Star for Government** includes tools and resources that may be of particular interest to local governments. They can help local governments establish comprehensive energy management programs, procure energy efficient products, receive online training, and finance energy efficiency projects. Local governments may also become Energy Star partners.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus\\_government](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus_government)

**EnergyStar @Work** is an online tool with tips and information on how to save energy and protect the environment in the workplace. Using an animated image of a typical office work space, the tool has tips and links to information employees can use--from starting a Green Team in the office to simply changing a desk lamp bulb. Of particular interest to local governments are energy-saving tips for building managers, executives, and small businesses; information on taking the Energy Star Challenge; and a downloadable tip card to pass along to friends, family, and coworkers.

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=bygtw.showSplash>

**Energy Star Challenge Toolkit.** The Energy Star Challenge is a national call-to-action to improve the energy efficiency of America's commercial and industrial buildings by 10 percent or more. Local governments can participate in the Challenge and can also establish a program and marketing campaign to increase and accelerate energy efficiency activities by owners and managers of commercial and industrial buildings in their communities. The toolkit contains communications materials that can help publicize and expand local efforts.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=challenge.challenge\\_toolkit](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=challenge.challenge_toolkit)

***Energy Star Product Savings Calculators.*** Series of calculators that quantify the cost savings associated with using Energy Star certified products over traditional models. The calculators are designed to assist procurement officials in smart purchase decisions. Calculators include Commercial Appliances, Commercial Food Service, Commercial Heating & Cooling , Construction Products, Electronics, Office Products, Residential Appliances, Residential Heating & Cooling, and Residential Lighting.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus\\_government](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=government.bus_government)

***Clean Energy-Environment State and Local Program*** assists state and local governments in their clean energy efforts by providing technical assistance, analytical tools, and outreach support. EPA offers assistance in: identifying and documenting cost-effective policies and initiatives that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related clean technologies; measuring and evaluating the environmental, economic, and public health benefits of clean energy initiatives; offering a suite of national voluntary programs; and fostering peer exchange opportunities. <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/index.html>

***Green Power Communities*** are cities, towns, and villages in which the local government, businesses, and residents collectively buy green power in amounts that meet or exceed EPA's Green Power Community purchase requirements. By buying green power, communities can reduce the community's carbon footprint; increase community pride; protect the environment; engage businesses, environmental organizations, and citizens; and earn national recognition.

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities/index.htm>

***Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network*** is an informational resource network that supports local governments' efforts to use clean energy strategies to advance a number of community priorities. EPA currently offers many clean energy programs, resources, and tools that can assist local governments.

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/local.html>

***Clean Energy Resources Database for Local Governments.*** This searchable database contains references to Web pages and other documents that can assist local governments with clean energy initiatives. Topics include biofuels, building codes, combined heat and power, energy efficiency, green buildings, heat islands, housing, procurement, renewables, smart growth, transportation, and waste. Categories of information include case studies, guidance, informational, funding, recognition, sample ordinances, technical assistance, tools, and training. [http://cfpub.epa.gov/ceird/index.cfm?fuseaction=local.search\\_js](http://cfpub.epa.gov/ceird/index.cfm?fuseaction=local.search_js)

***Clean Energy-Environment Tools and Resources Compendium*** is designed to help state and local officials plan for and evaluate clean energy policies and programs. It includes models, calculators, and guidance to help them understand, quantify, and communicate the energy, environmental, and economic benefits of these actions.

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/tools.html>

**Lead by Example** programs offer state and local governments opportunities to achieve substantial energy cost savings within their own operations, demonstrate environmental leadership, and raise public awareness of the benefits of clean energy technologies. The fact sheet available on this Web site (scroll down to Cross Cutting Programs and Resources) explains steps state and local governments can take to implement policies and programs that use clean energy in their facilities, fleets, and operations.

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/local-best-practices.html>

**Local Government Clean Energy Webcasts.** EPA conducts monthly clean energy webcasts for local governments. In addition to presenting basic information about the topic, webcasts typically include case study presentations from local governments that have implemented clean energy programs. Topics have included green power procurement, energy efficient product procurement, and navigating the federal grants process. Local governments can sign up to be notified about future webcasts and to listen to previous webcasts

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/webcast.html>

**Clean Cities** is a government-industry partnership sponsored by the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Program. Clean Cities coordinators lead local, geographically-based coalitions composed of local fleets, fuel providers, and decision-makers that focus on a united goal: petroleum reduction. Strategies include use of alternative fuels and vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, idle reduction technologies, fuel economy measures, and low-level fuel blends. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/>

**Energy Efficiency Resources Database.** This searchable database describes key resources and documents relevant to the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. Among the topics are: evaluation, measurement and verification; energy efficiency potential studies; cost effectiveness; program design and implementation; codes and standards; funding; emissions trading; state management best practices; clean energy supply; local government; and portfolio standards.

EXIT Disclaimer [http://cfpub.epa.gov/ceird/index.cfm?fuseaction=napee.search\\_js](http://cfpub.epa.gov/ceird/index.cfm?fuseaction=napee.search_js)

**AgSTAR** is an outreach program designed to reduce methane emissions from livestock waste management operations by promoting the use of biogas recovery systems, typically at swine and dairy farms. A biogas recovery system is an anaerobic digester with biogas capture and combustion to produce electricity, heat, or hot water. <http://www.epa.gov/agstar>

**EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program** is a voluntary assistance and partnership program that promotes the use of landfill gas as a renewable, green energy source. Landfill gas is the natural by-product of the decomposition of solid waste in landfills and is composed primarily of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane. By preventing emissions of methane (a potent greenhouse gas) through the development of landfill gas energy projects, this program helps businesses, states, energy providers and communities protect the environment while building a sustainable future. <http://www.epa.gov/outreach/lmop/index.htm>

***Building Technologies Program*** of the US Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resources program works with the private sector, state and local governments, national laboratories to improve the efficiency of buildings and the equipment, components, and systems within them. The program supports research and development (R&D) activities and provides tools, guidelines, training, and access to technical and financial resources for Energy Star (with EPA) and four other programs:

- **Appliances and Commercial Equipment Standards** develops test procedures and sets minimum efficiency standards for residential appliances and commercial equipment.
- **Building America** conducts and supports research, development, and demonstration activities that will produce homes that use up to 70% less energy.
- **Building Energy Codes** supports development of more stringent and easier-to-understand building energy codes; develops downloadable compliance tools and materials; and provides technical and financial assistance to help states adopt, implement, and enforce building energy codes.
- **High Performance Commercial Buildings** works with architects, engineers, builders, contractors, owners, and occupants to optimize building performance, comfort, and savings through a whole-building approach to design and construction.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/>

***Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program***, in the US Department of Energy, Office of Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), facilitates the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The program provides technical assistance and analysis to help state, local, and tribal decision makers examine which set of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies is right for them and manages the grant and incentive programs for states and Indian tribes. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.eere.energy.gov/wip/>

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### **3b. Clean Energy: External Sites**

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***Alliance to Save Energy.*** The Alliance to Save Energy is a non-profit coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders. The organization supports energy efficiency as a cost-effective energy resource and advocates energy-efficiency policies that minimize costs to society and individual consumers, and that lessen greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the global climate. This Web site includes information and links to other sites on topics such as appliance and equipment standards, insulation, financing energy efficiency, lighting, and energy efficient schools. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.ase.org/>

**Building Code Assistance Center** provides custom-tailored assistance on building energy code adoption and implementation. BCAP assists state and local regulatory and legislative bodies and helps coordinate others representing environmental interests, consumers, and industry. BCAP was established in 1994 as a joint initiative of the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Major funding comes from the US Department of Energy and the Energy Foundation; EPA also funds. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.bcap-energy.org/>

**Energy Policy State Legislation Database.** This database of the National Council of State Legislatures tracks current and previous years' bills on energy issues relating to topics such as energy security, efficiency, climate change, fossil energy and renewable energy.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/enviro/ClimateChange.htm>

**Community Energy Opportunity Finder** of the Rocky Mountain Institute is designed to calculate the potential benefits of implementing energy efficiency within a community including energy and dollar savings, air emissions reductions, and number of jobs created. The tool provides a preliminary analysis. The online tool helps communities collect information on its energy use, and then demonstrates the potential energy savings; dollar savings; emission reductions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); and jobs creation that could be achieved through energy efficiency programs. The Finder includes information to help a community get started with its own energy projects, places to turn for information and advice and ideas for funding. The Finder also provides an overview of the kinds of renewable energy sources that could power a given community.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.energyfinder.org/>

**Transportation Emissions Guidebook** from the Center for Clean Air Policy aims to demonstrate to state and local officials the impact policy decisions have on air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy use, and to provide basic means of calculating emissions reductions from specific transportation and land use policies. The Center emphasizes the gains that can be made by implementing policies that integrate land use and transportation planning and reduce travel demand and traffic congestion.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.ccap.org/guidebookAccess/login.php>

## 4. Green Buildings

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### 4a. Green Buildings: EPA/ Federal Web Sites

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**Green Buildings.** Green, or sustainable, building is the practice of creating and using healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. This Web site explains EPA's Green Building program and components of green buildings: energy efficiency and renewable energy, water efficiency, waste reduction, toxics reduction, indoor air quality, and smart growth and sustainable development. <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/>

**Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers** is intended to assist federal building project managers meet various green construction mandates and recommendations. It may be of interest to local officials planning the construction of green buildings. The Guide provides sample specification language that can be inserted into project specifications for green buildings. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.wbdg.org/design/greenspec.php>

**BEES (Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability)** software is a powerful technique for selecting cost-effective, environmentally-preferable building products. Developed by the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Building and Fire Research Laboratory the tool is based on consensus standards and designed to be practical, flexible, and transparent. BEES measures the environmental performance of building products by using the life-cycle assessment approach specified in the ISO 14040 series of standards. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/software/bees/>

**Funding Opportunities for Green Building.** Numerous sources of funding for green building are available at the national, state and local levels for homeowners, industry, government organizations and nonprofits. Currently, EPA does not provide funding to support green building projects. This Web page provides links to a variety of funding sources including grants, tax-credits, loans, and other funding. <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/tools/funding.htm#state>

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## 4b. Green Buildings: External Web Sites

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***Playbook for Green Buildings and Neighborhoods: Strategic Local Climate Solutions.*** The Playbook provides local governments with guidance and resources to rapidly advance green buildings, neighborhoods, and infrastructure.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.greenplaybook.org/>

***US Green Buildings Council*** (USGBC) and its more than 70 chapters are involved at all levels of government, helping to educate and advocate for healthier, more resource-efficient and more sustainable buildings. Through a variety of resources, USGBC also encourages and facilitates the exchange of information among cities, counties, states and federal agencies to advance the successful development and implementation of green building programs. Through USGBC, governments have access to best practices, lessons learned and other initiatives already in place across the country.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1779>

***State and Local Government Toolkit.*** This toolkit from the U.S. Green Buildings Council provides information on how cities and regions across the country have led the way in incorporating green building into local ordinances, incentives, and guidelines. The toolkit provides information, including summaries of successful programs, for jurisdictions interested in starting their own green building programs.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1780>

***Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™*** encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=222>

## 5. Purchasing Greener Products and Services

### 5a. Purchasing Greener Products and Services: EPA/Federal Web Sites

***Finding and Evaluating Green Products and Services.*** EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program has summarized information about popular environmentally preferable products and services, including environmental attributes to look for, procurement guidance, tools, case studies, and other useful resources. Categories include buildings and construction, carpets, cleaning, electronics, fleets, food services, landscaping, meetings and conferences, office supplies, and paper. <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/index.htm>

***Environmentally Preferable Purchasing*** (EPP) helps the federal government "buy green," and in doing so, uses the federal government's enormous buying power to stimulate market demand for green products and services. Geared first to help federal purchasers, this site can help green vendors, businesses, and state and local governments find and evaluate information about green products and services; identify federal green buying requirements; calculate the costs and benefits of purchasing choices; and manage green purchasing processes. <http://www.epa.gov/epp/>

***Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Database*** is a tool to make it easier to purchase products and services with reduced environmental impacts. Environmental information on over 600 products and services is included in this database. This database helps purchasers buy greener products and services by linking to contract language, specifications, and policies created and used by federal and state governments and others to buy environmentally preferable products and services; environmental standards and guidelines for products; vendor lists of product brands which meet these standards; and other useful sources of information about the environmental characteristics of other products and services. <http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/eppstand2.nsf>

***Promoting Green Purchasing: Tools and Resources to Quantify the Benefits of Environmentally Preferable Products.*** The guide outlines existing tools and resources that can help develop quantitative estimates of the projected benefits of making new environmentally preferable purchasing choices and to document the estimated benefits of past actions. <http://www.epa.gov/epp/tools/index.htm>

***Design for the Environment (DfE)*** works in partnership with industry and environmental stakeholders in partnerships designed help industries reduce risks from chemicals and improve energy efficiency. Since 1992, EPA's DfE Program has worked with more than 18 industrial sectors. Local governments may be interested in DfE's work in industries located in their jurisdictions, such as autobody shops, dry cleaners, printing shops, industrial and institutional laundry facilities, and others. <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/index.htm>

***Green Meetings Initiative.*** EPA's Green Meetings /Conference Initiative provides conference planners and suppliers of conference services, easy access to environmentally friendly goals of conference planning. The initiative provides green options and opportunities for conference planning. [http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/pubs/current\\_init.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/pubs/current_init.htm)

***Green Fleets.*** The searchable Green Vehicles Guide can help local governments choose the cleanest and most fuel-efficient vehicle for their fleets. Updated annually, it includes fuel economy and emissions for all new vehicles. <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/Index.do>

***Source Book on Natural Landscaping for Public Officials.*** Natural landscaping minimizes the environmentally detrimental effects of pesticides and fertilizers as well as noise pollution emissions from lawn-maintenance equipment, and virtually eliminates the need to use water for irrigation. While not maintenance free, natural landscaping requires less time and money for ongoing maintenance than conventional landscapes. This Source Book provides information as well as tools and techniques to help local officials advocate natural landscaping and bring its benefits to their communities. <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/toolkit/>

***Green Cleaning Pollution Prevention Calculator*** quantifies the projected environmental benefits of purchasing and using "green" janitorial services and products. It is designed to forecast the environmental benefits of reducing chemical use by doing some or all pollution prevention measures typically involved in the routine interior cleaning of an office building. EPA developed this tool for use by Federal agency environmental, health and safety facility managers, and other interested parties to estimate benefits to be achieved by adopting "green" cleaning practices. The tool is made available online by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. <http://www.ofee.gov/janitor/index.asp>

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## **5b. Purchasing Greener Products and Services: External Web Sites**

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***Planning Assistance for Green Meetings.*** EPA supported the Oceans Blue Foundation in the development of an online Green Meetings Tool, which shows hosts, planners and suppliers how to incorporate green principles into every aspect of conference and meeting planning. [EXIT Disclaimer http://www.bluegreenmeetings.org/](http://www.bluegreenmeetings.org/)

**Green Meetings Policy.** Meeting planners, hotels, convention centers, and trade-show providers are realizing the importance for eco-friendly practices within the meetings and conventions industry. Event planners are starting to fully consider the importance of environmentally-friendly events as they strive to minimize their events' environmental impact. The National Recycling Coalition's Green Meeting Policy includes ideas and strategies to inform and encourage individuals and organizations to adopt environmentally sustainable policies.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/Data/Sites/1/greenmtgpolicy.pdf>

**State Electronics Challenge (SEC)** is a voluntary partnership program that encourages state, regional, and local governments to purchase greener electronic products, reduce the impact of electronic products during use, and manage obsolete electronics -- which often contain toxic materials -- in an environmentally safe way. Any state agency, county, town, public school or university, or other public sector entity can become a partner. Now in its pilot phase, SEC is currently open to public entities in on of the 10 Northeast states.

EXIT Disclaimer <http://stateelectronicschallenge.net/>

**Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).** This online assessment tool can help government agencies, businesses, and consumers identify and buy desktop and laptop computers and monitors that have fewer toxics, save energy, last longer, and are easier to recycle. EXIT Disclaimer <http://www.epeat.net/>

## 6. Sustainable Infrastructure

### 6a. Sustainable Water Infrastructure: EPA/Federal Web Sites

*Sustaining Our Nation's Water Infrastructure* highlights work being done to support sustainable practices that can help reduce the potential gap between funding needs and spending for infrastructure at the local and national level. It explains the Four Pillar approach, which includes: (1) better management of water and wastewater utilities; (2) rates that reflect the full cost pricing of services; (3) efficient water use, and (4) watershed approaches to protection. <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/index.html>

*Water Infrastructure: Successful Strategies for Local Leadership -- Video.* EPA's Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) developed a DVD that highlights how local governments are addressing aging sewer and water systems to meet current and future challenges facing our communities. The DVD features five local officials telling how they successfully met the needs of their communities for sustainable water infrastructure. The DVD can be viewed on this Web site, which also includes fact sheets about the five communities featured in the video: Braman, OK; Columbia, MO; Freeport, IL; Gloucester, MA; and Salem, OR. [http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/lgac\\_video/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/lgac_video/index.html)

*Green Infrastructure - Municipal Case Studies.* Green infrastructure programs and demonstration projects are currently underway in cities across the country. By limiting the amount of stormwater runoff entering our sewer systems, these projects have verified that green roofs, porous pavements, vegetated swales and other forms of green infrastructure can serve as cost effective, environmentally preferable alternatives to conventional stormwater conveyance and treatment structures. The list of cities with well-established green infrastructure programs includes: Chicago, IL; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; and Seattle, WA. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/municipalities.cfm>

*Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS).* This computer-based, free software program assists owners and operators of small drinking water and wastewater systems in developing and using plans for maintaining their systems and providing service to their customers. <http://www.epa.gov/cupss/index.html>

**Green Infrastructure - Technologies and Approaches.** This site links to information on common green infrastructure approaches including development patterns with better environmental performance, downspout disconnection, green parking, green roofs, green streets and highways, land protection, riparian buffers, permeable pavements, planter boxes, pocket wetlands, rain gardens, rain harvesting, trees and urban forestry, and vegetated swales. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/technology.cfm>

**Water Infrastructure Toolkit.** This site contains links to information, publications, and other resources related to sustainable water and waste water infrastructure, including better management, full cost pricing, water efficiency, and watershed approaches.

<http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/toolkit.html>

**Growing Toward More Efficient Water Use: Linking Development, Infrastructure, and Drinking Water Policies.** Applying smart growth principles can significantly reduce the costs of water provided by communities and the quantity of water demanded by their residents. State and local governments and utilities can adopt water policies that conserve water and reduce demand for it, while indirectly supporting smarter growth patterns. Policy choices include focusing on fixing and upgrading existing infrastructure, setting prices for water that reflect its full cost, better coordinating water and land use planning, using innovative water financing mechanisms, and encouraging water-saving landscaping. This report includes examples of places that have tried these policies, which can further inform the choices of other areas. [http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water\\_density.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/water_density.htm)

**Low Impact Development/Stormwater Management.** Low-impact development (LID) practices can be used to supplement traditional control-and-treatment strategies that aim to limit peak flows of stormwater and reduce concentrations of silt and other suspended solids. EPA conducted 17 case studies across the country, examining strategies that include limiting road widths, designing more compact residential lots and creating rain gardens. Changing development practices to improve stormwater management could help curb water pollution and lower developers' costs. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/>

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## **6b. Sustainable Water Infrastructure: External Web Sites**

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**Low Impact Development Center** provides guidance and assistance to local governments, planners, and engineers for developing, administering, and incorporating Low Impact Development (LID) into their aquatic resource protection programs. LID technology is an alternative comprehensive approach to stormwater management and can be used to address a wide range of Wet Weather Flow (WWF) issues.

 <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>

***Using Rainwater to Grow Livable Communities.*** The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) developed this comprehensive resource site to encourage sustainable stormwater practices that caters to several distinct audiences of decision makers, engineers and landscape designers. The site includes case studies, an educational toolbox and resource links. [EXIT Disclaimer](#) <http://www.werf.org/livablecommunities/>

***Green Values Stormwater Toolbox.*** This site, hosted by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, features a green values stormwater calculator and other resources related to green infrastructure. It also provides online access to their pocket guide, Water: From Trouble to Treasure. [EXIT Disclaimer](#) <http://greenvalues.cnt.org/>

***Southeast Watershed Forum*** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing local watershed initiatives through education, training and regional dialogue. The Forum strives to be a regional clearinghouse for successful case studies in watershed protection, restoration, and management. The Forum's ***Southeast Watershed Assistance Network*** is an online resource center on land and resource conservation strategies, watershed and stormwater management resources, quality growth news and case studies, sustainable building techniques and fact sheets, and community training and education tools. [EXIT Disclaimer](#) <http://swan.southeastwaterforum.org/>

***Financially Sustainable Water Infrastructure Initiative.*** A joint initiative by members of the Environmental Finance Center Network helps local governments determine whether their community water/wastewater system is financially sustainable. The purpose of this initiative is to equip system managers, operators and staff with the tools to evaluate system financial health; educate the utility board and the public; and overcome political barriers to making the system financially sustainable. Includes topics such as evaluating sustainability, affordability, conservation pricing, setting rates, and operation and maintenance. [EXIT Disclaimer](#) <http://efc.boisestate.edu/efc/SI/tabid/149/Default.aspx>

## 7. Water Conservation

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### 7a. Water Conservation: EPA/Federal Web Sites

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*WaterSense* is a partnership program sponsored by EPA that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs, and practices. EPA is partnering with manufacturers, retailers and distributors, local and state governments, utilities, water districts, trade associations, nonprofits, irrigation professionals, and professional certifying organizations to bring water-efficient products to market.

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm>

*Using Water Wisely: Ideas for Communities.* Communities work to develop and implement sustainable water management programs to meet the present and future water needs of residents and businesses. By promoting water-efficient practices and services through incentive programs and educating residents and businesses about water efficiency, communities can help protect water resources for future generations.

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/pubs/community.htm>

*Water Conservation Plan Guidelines* for public water systems contain step-by-step approaches and conservation measures that can be used by water system planners to develop and implement plans for water conservation. Strategic use of water conservation can help extend the value and life of infrastructure assets used in both water supply and wastewater treatment, while also extending the beneficial investment of public funds through the SRF and other programs.

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/tips/summ.htm>

*Conservation Pricing.* Pricing water to accurately reflect the true costs of providing high quality water and wastewater services to consumers is needed to both maintain infrastructure and encourage conservation. This Web site provides information on the role of prices in piped water services. <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/pricing/>

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### 7b. Water Conservation: External Web Sites

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*WaterWiser*® is a comprehensive clearinghouse of resources on water conservation, efficiency, and demand management. Launched in 1994 by the American Water Works Association, the site links to discussion groups; newsletters; educational programs; case studies; topic-based online resources; and electronic tools including WaterWiser Drip Calculator, free water audit software, and a unit conversion tool. [EXIT Disclaimer](#)

<http://www.awwa.org/Resources/Waterwiser.cfm?ItemNumber=29269&navItemNumber=156>

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## 8. Waste Management/Recycling

### 8a. Waste Management/Recycling: EPA/Federal Web Sites

**WasteWise** is a free, voluntary, EPA program through which organizations eliminate costly municipal solid waste and select industrial wastes, benefiting their bottom line and the environment. Large and small businesses, hospitals and universities, non-profits, and other organizations, as well as state, local, and tribal governments, are eligible to participate. WasteWise provides free technical assistance to help participants implement and measure their waste reduction activities. WasteWise offers publicity to organizations that are successful in reducing waste through EPA publications, case studies, and national and regional events. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

**Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC)** is a national effort to conserve natural resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently. The goals are to prevent pollution and promote reuse and recycling; reduce priority and toxic chemicals in products and waste; and conserve energy and materials. The effort focuses on municipal solid waste recycling, industrial materials recycling including construction and demolition materials recycling, priority and toxic chemicals reductions, and green electronics. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/index.htm>

**Recycle on the Go** is an EPA initiative to encourage recycling in public places where large numbers of people gather -- such as parks, stadiums, convention centers, bus stations, airports, other transportation hubs, and, shopping centers, as well as at special events such as community festivals. This Web site has information on developing recycling programs at a range of public places, success stories, and other resources. <http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/rogo/>

**Managing Organic Wastes.** Organic materials— yard trimmings, food scraps, wood waste, and paper and paperboard products—are the largest component of our trash and make up more than two-thirds of the solid waste stream. Reducing, reusing, recycling, and rebuying are key to diverting organic materials from landfills or incinerators and protecting human health and our land, air, and water. This Web site provides information and links to resources on managing organic wastes. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/organics/resource.htm>

***Pay-As-You-Throw: Throw Away Less and Save.*** This fact sheet explains to the general public the pay-as-you-throw approach to waste collection, in which residents are asked to pay for waste collection directly-based on the amount of garbage they actually generate. The system motivates people to recycle more and to think about ways to generate less waste in the first place. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/payt/tools/public.htm>

***Plug-In to eCycling.*** The majority of the responsibility for dealing with old, end-of-life consumer electronics lies in the hands of state and local governments, which must find the resources to fund collection and public education efforts as well as locate vendors to safely recycle the unwanted products. Plug-In to eCycling fosters partnerships between electronics manufacturers and retailers, and provides governments with the tools and resources needed to build successful electronics recycling programs. <http://www.epa.gov/rcc/plugin/>

***Guide for Feeding the Hungry and Reducing Solid Waste through Food Recovery.*** More than one quarter of America's food, or about 96 billion pounds of food a year, goes to waste--in fields, commercial kitchens, manufacturing plants, markets, schools, and restaurants. This guide helps explain how any state or municipality, as well as any private business that deals with food, can reduce its solid waste by facilitating the donation of wholesome surplus food according to the food waste reduction hierarchy -- feeding people first, then animals, then recycling, then composting. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

***GreenScapes.*** Designed to help preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution, GreenScapes encourages companies, government agencies, other entities, and homeowners to make more holistic decisions regarding waste generation and disposal and the associated impacts on land, water, air, and energy use. The program aims to influence the reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste materials in landscaping such as roadside landscaping, brown fields land revitalization, and the beautification and maintenance of office complexes, golf courses, and parks. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/allies.htm>

***Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Composting Options: Lessons from 30 Communities.*** Case studies illustrate topics including how to set up programs for recycling oil and collecting household hazardous waste. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

***Recycling Measurement.*** EPA developed a voluntary, standard methodology for measuring recycling rates to help state and local governments accurately evaluate the success of their recycling programs. The Web site has links to information materials as well as a guidance document that contains detailed instructions, worksheets, and sample survey forms along with 'real life' examples, planning checklists, and standard volume-to-weight conversion factors. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/recmeas/>

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## **8b. Waste Management/Recycling: External Web Sites**

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*Curbside Value Partnership* helps communities grow and sustain curbside recycling programs. A free online *Recycling Communicator's Toolbox*, based on best practices of many communities, covers topics including education, branding, public relations, harnessing social marketing, making recycling multilingual, reaching youth, and measuring success. [EXIT Disclaimer](#) <http://www.recyclecurbside.org/>

## 9. Land Revitalization

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### 9a. Land Revitalization -- EPA/Federal Web Sites

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***Brightfields--Renewable Energy at Brownfields Sites.*** The Brightfields technology demonstration program (U.S. Department of Energy) addresses urban revitalization, toxic waste cleanup, and climate change by bringing pollution-free solar energy and high-tech solar manufacturing jobs to brownfields. Brightfields can help put hundreds of thousands of brownfields back into productive use and at the same time create high-tech jobs in blighted urban neighborhoods, improve air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/html-doc/brightfd.htm>

***Incorporating Sustainable Environmental Practices into Remediation of Contaminated Sites.*** This primer outlines the principles of green remediation and describes opportunities to reduce the footprint of remediation activities throughout the entire life of a project. The primer is a product of the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center (EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Argonne Laboratory) which provides technical support to federal, state, local, and tribal officials for questions related to the use of innovative technologies and strategies for site assessment and cleanup.  
<http://www.brownfieldstsc.org/>

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### 9b. Land Revitalization -- External Web Sites

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***Sustainable Management Approaches and Revitalization Tools -- SMARTe.*** SMARTe is a free, Web-based tool that helps users decide how to bring land contaminated with environmentally toxic or hazardous material back to life with new and vital uses. Developed by EPA and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, SMARTe helps users identify, apply, and integrate tools and technologies to facilitate the revitalization of sites -- covering planning, environment, economic, and social considerations. [EXIT Disclaimer http://www.smarte.org](http://www.smarte.org)

## 10. Healthy Schools

### 10a. Healthy Schools: EPA/Federal Web Sites

***Healthy School Environment Resources*** is a gateway to online resources to help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents, teachers, and staff address environmental health issues in schools. Topics include chemical use and management; design, construction, and renovation; energy efficiency; environmental education; facility operation and maintenance; indoor air quality; outdoor air quality; portable classrooms; safety preparedness; school facility assessment tools; waste reduction; and water. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm>

***Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool*** (HealthySEATv2) is a unique software tool to help school districts evaluate and manage their school facilities for key environmental, safety, and health issues. HealthySEAT is designed to be customized and used by district-level staff to conduct completely voluntary self-assessments of their school (and other) facilities and to track and manage information on environmental conditions school by school. <http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/index.html>

***Smart Growth and Schools.*** School construction offers an unprecedented opportunity to improve the quality of schools and communities together, by applying the principles of smart growth to educational facility planning. This site has links to useful publications to help local officials incorporate smart growth into their plans for schools -- *Schools for Successful Communities: An Element of Smart Growth* and *Travel and Environmental Implications of School Siting*. <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/schools.htm>

***Build Green Schools.*** A green school building or facility creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money. The US Green Building Council promotes the design and construction of green schools to make an impact on student health, test scores, teacher retention, school operational costs, and the environment. <http://www.buildgreenschools.org/>

***Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit*** helps schools carry out a practical plan of action to improve indoor air problems at little or no cost using straightforward activities and in-house staff. The Kit provides best practices, industry guidelines, sample policies, and a sample indoor air quality management plan. Other materials available include videos, fact sheets, planning tools, and educational funbooks for children. [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/index.html)

***Indoor Air Quality Design Tools for Schools*** is a Web-based resource designed to help in designing the next generation of learning environments. This resource provides voluntary guidance on key school construction and renovation issues such as commissioning school building systems to ensure they are operating according to design; controlling pollutants and their sources; selecting and designing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; controlling moisture to prevent mold; mold remediation; and renovating existing schools. [www.epa.gov/iaq/schooldesign](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schooldesign)

***Energy Star for K-12 School Districts***. The annual energy bill to run America's primary and secondary schools is a staggering \$6 billion — more than is spent on textbooks and computers combined. The least efficient schools use three times more energy than the best energy performers, and top performing Energy Star schools cost forty cents per square foot less to operate than the average performers. This Web site provides tools, training, and other resources to help school districts increase energy efficiency and includes several school district Energy Star success stories. [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12\\_schools.bus\\_schoolsk12](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12_schools.bus_schoolsk12)

***Clean School Bus USA*** is a program to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses. Clean School Bus USA brings together partners from business, education, transportation, and public-health organizations to eliminate; upgrade (“retrofit”) buses that will remain in the fleet with better emission-control technologies and/or fueling them with cleaner fuels; and replace the oldest buses in the fleet with new, less-polluting buses. <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/>

***Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign*** (SC3) aims to ensure that all schools are free from hazards associated with mismanaged chemicals. The EPA's web-based SC-3 tool kit helps schools start chemical management programs that will improve their chemical management practices by removing inappropriate, outdated, unknown and unnecessary chemicals from schools; preventing future chemical mismanagement issues in schools through training, curriculum and policy change, and long-term management solutions; and raising awareness of chemical issues in schools and promoting sustainable solutions. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserveschools/toolkit.htm>

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### Highlights

- [EPA's Response to the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant Fly Ash Release](#)
- Holiday parties and other activities present many opportunities to reduce

waste through reuse and recycling. See [Tips for Reducing Holiday Waste](#) and [More Tips for Holidays and Parties](#).

- [RCC Web Academy](#)
  - [Stadium Recycling, January 15, 2009](#)

## [Newsroom](#)

- [Cherry Hill Showing the Way on America Recycles Day](#)
- [Construction Industry Building a Greener Future](#)
- [Property Management Giant is Greening Offices](#)
- [Rock 'n' Roll 'n' Recycle](#)

## **Resource Conservation Challenge / Partnerships**

[Resource Conservation Challenge](#)

[Coal Combustion Products Partnership](#)

[GreenScapes](#)

[National Partnerships for Environmental Priorities](#)

[Plug-In to eCycling](#)

[Product Stewardship](#)

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## [WasteWise](#)

### **Find an Answer / Ask a Question**

### [Our Frequent Questions Database](#)

has answers to over 1,000 common questions about hazardous and non-hazardous wastes and materials, as well as resource conservation activities like recycling.



## [What You Can Do](#)

Each year, Americans generate millions of tons of waste in our homes and communities. EPA is challenging all citizens to conserve our natural resources by committing to reduce, reuse, and recycle at home, in your community, and at the office. Learn what you can do to make a difference.



## [Resource Conservation](#)

Conserving resources and managing materials and waste are national priorities. Learn the fundamentals of reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling specific wastes, and access a variety of tools to promote these practices.



## Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste is defined as liquid, solid, contained gas, or sludge wastes that contain properties that are dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. Learn how to properly manage and dispose of hazardous waste.



## Non-Hazardous Waste

Nearly everything we do leaves behind some kind of waste. Learn about reduction, management, and disposal of municipal solid waste and non-hazardous industrial waste.

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