



New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together concerned citizens and leaders to promote responsible land-use policies. We employ original research, analysis and advocacy to build coalitions and drive land-use policies that help revitalize cities and towns, protect natural lands and farms, provide more transportation choices beyond cars, expand access to safe and affordable neighborhoods and fuel a prosperous economy.

SAVE THE DATE!

Be sure to put New Jersey Future's two premier events on your calendar today!

Redevelopment Forum
Friday, February 26, 2010
Hyatt Hotel
New Brunswick, NJ

Smart Growth Awards
Thursday, June 3, 2010
Newark Club
Newark, NJ

Top Highlights from 2009

1) State Planning Thrust into the Spotlight

On Oct. 16, New Jersey Future unveiled a proposal for restructuring and re-energizing the state planning process to increase its transparency and effectiveness. The proposal was introduced to an overflow crowd of more than 300 people at a symposium, titled "Where Are We Growing? Planning for NJ's Next 20 Years." State planning has the potential to coordinate state rule-making and spending to rationalize and improve land-use decision-making in New Jersey.

2) Smart Housing Zones Incentive Program Pushes the Envelope

Smart Housing Zones is a program that, if enacted, would encourage the development of green, mixed-income housing in walkable communities. After significant outreach and education efforts, the Smart Housing Incentives Act was introduced in the Senate in January and unanimously approved by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee in May. While fiscal constraints stalled further movement in the 2008-2009 legislative session, New Jersey Future continues to work with lawmakers toward its reintroduction and passage in the 2010-2011 session.

3) Governor-Elect Christie Embraces Smart Growth

New Jersey Future issued a Smart Growth Questionnaire to the three gubernatorial candidates. The responses were posted on our website, distributed through our electronic mailing and made available at the October 16 symposium. In a series of "Future Facts" after the election, we reviewed the positions taken by Governor-elect Christie during the campaign and highlighted his answers regarding elevating state planning and using it as a tool for coordination.

4) Municipalities Given New Guidelines for Sustainability

Municipalities make the final decisions about land use and how well land-use decisions promote a sustainable community. New Jersey Future has been working as a partner in the successful Sustainable Jersey initiative, developing tools and guidelines to help communities establish sustainable land-use and transportation policies. Under development now is a Municipal Self-Assessment Tool, which will help towns evaluate their plans and ordinances in accordance with smart growth principles.

5) Sixteen Non-Profit Groups Work to Find Common Ground around Land Use

Land-use issues touch on areas of interest to many different advocacy organizations, but sometimes not all groups agree on specific policies or strategies. New Jersey Future is actively participating in the "Common Ground" effort that pulls together 16 of the state's leading planning, environmental, transportation and housing nonprofit organizations to forge common policy "ground" around critical land-use issues and build trust and stronger working relationships. The group was convened by the Fund for New Jersey, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and William Penn Foundation. One of the group's earliest efforts was to establish key principles for how the state and federal governments should target economic stimulus infrastructure spending.

6) Push for NJ's Transportation Funding to be Coupled with Smart Growth

New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund will be broke within a year and a half. New Jersey Future has partnered with Tri-State Transportation Campaign to coordinate a campaign to responsibly re-fund the trust fund and better align transportation funding with smart land-use practices. The new campaign has already received national support and is building its New Jersey base.

7) Land Use Gains Importance in National Transportation Policy

The Transportation for America coalition is leading the effort to re-imagine our national transportation policy with an integrated approach to land use and transportation. New Jersey Future is the state campaign partner in New Jersey working to educate the public and key decision-makers. As part of this effort, New Jersey Future hosted "Take your Legislator to Work Day" with Rep. Rush Holt on Aug. 28, which culminated with a press conference at the Trenton train station.

8) State Advances Land-Use Solutions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The state's Global Warming Response Act report spearheaded by the Department of Environmental Protection makes the important connection between carbon emissions and how we develop our landscape. New Jersey Future convened a diverse coalition of organizations that advocated for the inclusion of land-use issues in the report, and co-sponsored a workshop on July 20 titled "DEP Grants: Planning and Designing Livable Communities." The workshop attracted 150 local officials, planners and developers to learn about DEP's new planning grant program for local governments that want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through progressive planning.

9) Kicking Off a New Era for Transfer of Development Rights

Transfer of development rights (TDR) is a tool to encourage both preservation and center-based development, but it is not structured to be effective in New Jersey. With the support of the William Penn Foundation and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), New Jersey Future has convened a task force to develop recommendations about how the state can make TDR a more viable, attractive tool for local governments. The first meeting of the 40-member task force was held Dec 2.

10) Route 1 Corridor One Step Closer to Regional Planning

The Department of Transportation is finalizing its Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy, an effort to identify optimal land-use patterns that will maximize transportation efficiency, livability and economic growth. New Jersey Future has joined the cause by preparing a research report that reviewed the rich history of regional planning along the corridor, analyzed best practices in regional governance nationally and within New Jersey and recommended possible next steps. New Jersey Future continues to work with the municipal, county and state participants to move toward acceptance and ownership of a regional plan.

11) Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) a Tool for County-Wide, Resource-Based Planning

The WQMP process will dictate where sewers can go and ultimately where growth will be directed. New Jersey Future has been working with the DEP and other stakeholders to discuss how to reconcile the State Plan map with the emerging county-based Water Quality Management Plans. Using Somerset County as an example, New Jersey Future convened a meeting with DEP and county officials to illustrate how the process of delineating sewer service areas can create mapping conflicts between DEP data and local development patterns.

12) Trenton Community Engages in Transit-Oriented Redevelopment

The Trenton Train Station redevelopment area is a prime candidate for state-of-the-art transit-oriented redevelopment. New Jersey Future was selected to serve as a facilitator for the Trenton Train Station Citizen's Advisory Committee. At its first public meeting on Sept. 22, attended by more than 50 area residents, the committee

gathered input and provided information regarding the train station area redevelopment process. The second meeting is scheduled for January 2010.

13) 2009 Redevelopment Forum Attracts Hundreds

The 2009 Redevelopment Forum on Feb. 27 offered 22 workshops, attracted more than 550 attendees and 24 exhibitors, and featured an outstanding keynote speaker, Robert Liberty. The Forum covered topics ranging from redevelopment law and sustainable design to community workshops and brownfields remediation. Title sponsors were PSE&G and Bank of America.

14) 2009 Smart Growth Awards Honor the Best Smart Growth Projects in New Jersey

From a field of 30-plus nominees, New Jersey Future honored seven projects with Smart Growth Awards at the June 3 celebration at the Newark Club. The event was a success on several fronts, attracting approximately 300 attendees and 73 sponsors. Title sponsors were New Jersey Natural Gas and SJP Properties. The winners were: 14 Maple Avenue, Morristown; Bloomfield Center Redevelopment Plan, Bloomfield; Broad Street Station and the Living Downtown Redevelopment Plans, Newark; Fairview Village, Camden; The Avenue Development and The Marketplace at Eden, South Orange; North Camden Neighborhood and Waterfront Park Plan, Camden; and Rowan Boulevard, Glassboro.

15) Media Broadcast the Smart Growth Message

New Jersey Future issued 16 news releases during the year. Among those that drew particular attention were a release that called on Gov. Corzine to ensure that the State Planning Commission and the Office of Smart Growth be given the resources they need to continue essential functions; another urging the governor to enact a "complete streets" policy; and a third that recommended the governor and Legislature apply federal stimulus funds to projects that advance, rather than undermine, smart growth principles and the State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Four opinion pieces prepared by New Jersey Future ran on the op-ed pages of many of the state's leading newspapers, including the *Star-Ledger*, *Bergen Record*, *Morristown Daily Record*, *Trenton Times*, and *Camden Courier-Post*. Subjects ranged from transportation funding to affordable housing to property taxes.

New Jersey Future also received frequent, prominent mention in *NJBiz* and Executive Director Peter Kasabach was a featured guest on the popular Brian Lehrer call-in show on WNYC-FM.

16) New Jersey Future Launches Blog

New Jersey Future launched its first blog—Garden State Smart Growth—at www.njfuture.wordpress.com. The blog features the latest in smart growth news and analysis from across New Jersey.

For more information about New Jersey Future, please visit www.njfuture.org.