



**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, March 1, 2013  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
New Brunswick, NJ  
[forum.njfuture.org](http://forum.njfuture.org)

### Smart Growth Awards

Thursday, June 6, 2013  
The Newark Club  
Newark, NJ  
[njfuture.org/sga](http://njfuture.org/sga)

# New Jersey Future Highlights 2012

A snapshot of accomplishments, big and small, from the past year.

## 1) New Jersey Future Celebrates Its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Five Smart-Growth Visionaries Honored

Almost 200 attendees came to [New Jersey Future's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration](#) to see leadership honors conferred on John Heldrich of Johnson & Johnson for his commitment to revitalizing New Brunswick; Feather O'Connor Houstoun for her support of state planning as State Treasurer and as head of the William Penn Foundation; David Moore for his role in preserving critical lands and promoting sustainability planning during his time at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation; John Sheridan of Cooper Health Systems for his commitment to revitalizing the organization's Camden neighborhood; and Rutgers history professor Clement Price for his research, writing and activism on the importance of culture and heritage in urban revitalization.



## 2) Special Conference on Rebuilding the Jersey Shore Hosted

New Jersey Future co-hosted a [half-day conference](#) focused on how best to rebuild the New Jersey Shore after Hurricane Sandy so that it could return to its former vibrancy while at the same time better prepare itself for future severe weather events. National and state speakers addressed the need for resiliency planning, examined best practices from other coastal states, and discussed how federal, state and local governments could work together most effectively. More than 400 people attended.

## 3) New State Strategic Plan Reflects Smart Growth Values, Adoption Close

After months of advocacy by New Jersey Future, the draft [State Strategic Plan](#) has been amended to incorporate important smart-growth concerns. The plan was scheduled to be voted on by the State Planning Commission in November, but in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy that vote has been postponed so that consideration can be given to how to address rebuilding in a post-Sandy context – a move [New Jersey Future supported](#).

## 4) Comprehensive Inventory of Transit Station Assets Released

In September New Jersey Future released [Targeting Transit: Assessing Development Opportunities Around New Jersey's Transit Stations](#), a comprehensive inventory of assets and demographic features of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the state's transit facilities. Such an inventory helps highlight where the greatest potential is for various kinds of development, and what kinds of public investments and private development should be prioritized in each location. New Jersey Future is generating corporate membership donations by charging non-members for customized station-area reports.

## 5) Updated County Sewer Service Maps Submitted, Balancing Responsible Development and Water Protection

New Jersey Future has worked with counties and the DEP for four years and is pleased to report that all 21 counties have now [submitted Sewer Service Area \(SSA\) plans](#). The proposed new SSAs remove a total of over 200,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands from sewer service, as well as adding in new growth areas in centers such as New Egypt and Roosevelt City in Ocean County. The maps will provide key guidance for the State Strategic Plan and other responsible blueprints for economic growth at county and municipal levels.

## 6) City of Trenton Commits to Making Roadways Safer for Pedestrians and Cyclists

New Jersey Future has spent the last year building a coalition of stakeholders in support of Complete Streets, a policy that encourages municipalities to make provisions for all users of their roads, including cyclists and pedestrians. Working with officials from the city of Trenton and its city council and the Partnership for Healthy Kids-Trenton, the coalition advocated for passage of a local Complete Streets policy, which the City Council voted unanimously in March to support. The coalition continues work on implementation.

## **7) Analysis Released Highlighting Redevelopment as Sustainable Growth Strategy for New Jersey**

A New Jersey Future [examination of the most recent Census data](#) shows that, in contrast to earlier growth patterns, New Jersey is seeing a resurgence of its cities and older, inner-ring suburbs. While those places are growing, few have returned to the size they were at their peak before mass outward migration began, which means there is still plenty of room for future growth investments in these places.

## **8) Webinar Series Launch a Success**

New Jersey Future conducted its first webinar, a primer on the nuts and bolts of non-contiguous clustering based on the organization's [report](#) on the topic. Three experts and local officials reviewed how non-contiguous clustering ordinances were adopted in their towns and how they have been implemented. More than 80 people attended the webinar, for which AICP CM credit was available. At least three future webinars are planned on topical issues.

## **9) New Jersey Future Awards Program Highlights the Best in Smart-Growth Development**

From a struggling shopping mall re-envisioned as a mixed-use community anchor in Somerdale to a plan for a greenway spanning six municipalities along a historic Passaic County canal to an innovative form-based code adopted to guide development in Hammonton, the New Jersey Future [2012 Smart Growth Awards](#) honored the best examples of smart-growth planning and development. Additional honorees came from Newark, Jersey City and New Brunswick. Joseph Taylor, the chairman and chief executive officer of Panasonic North America, was presented with the Cary Edwards Leadership Award for his commitment to move the company's headquarters to Newark.

## **10) New Jersey Future's Annual Redevelopment Forum Enjoyed Record Attendance, Exposure**

[Redevelopment Forum 2012](#) drew more than 500 attendees, and for the first time had a separate dedicated website and liveblog in order to increase exposure and engagement. Keynote speaker Chris Leinberger of LOCUS Real Estate Developers stressed the potential for New Jersey's older, walkable cities and suburbs to capitalize on [growing market demand for compact mixed-use communities well served by transit](#).

## **11) Study Examines Planning Opportunities, Limitations for New Jersey Counties**

County planning has been an option for counties in New Jersey for more than 75 years, with each county implementing the requirements with little visibility. Citizens are likely to be served very differently depending on the county in which they live, because staff, responsibilities and relationships with municipalities all vary among the 21 counties. New Jersey Future founding trustee and senior fellow Ingrid Reed prepared a [report](#) that examined what kinds of planning counties are required or permitted to do, and where improvements could be made to strengthen their role. A follow-up report is planned.

## **12) DOT Re-Funds Transit Village Program; Two New Towns Receive Designation**

New Jersey Future advocated successfully for restoration of Transit Village funds in the DOT's 2012 capital plan after having been eliminated from the prior year's plan. The program requires municipal applicants to have done transit-oriented development planning and zoning, and provides seed funding for public-realm improvements in the immediate station area. This year [Dunellen and Brick Church in E. Orange were added to the list of Transit Village designations](#), taking the total to 26.

## **13) Report on Innovation Districts as an Economic Growth Tool Released**

A [report](#) by one of New Jersey Future's interns examines "innovation districts" in several U.S. cities as well as in Barcelona, noting some of the critical elements that have made them successful. The new State Strategic Plan highlights industry sectors of statewide and regional significance and encourages the growth of regional innovation clusters, and this report will help inform that effort.

## **14) NJ Transit's Parking Privatization Proposal Halted, Transit-Oriented Development No Longer Threatened**

New Jersey Future first uncovered NJ Transit's damaging proposal to privatize parking at train and bus stations across New Jersey in 2011. New Jersey Future and other advocates raised concerns that the initiative posed a threat to redevelopment of these prime locations into future jobs and housing opportunities, and advocates worked diligently to prevent it from advancing in its original form. This year NJ Transit tabled the proposal and New Jersey Future is encouraging it to take a more proactive redevelopment role with its assets.

## **15) New Jersey Future Is Key Project Partner in HUD-Funded Regional Planning Initiative in North Jersey**

New Jersey Future is one of 10 partner organizations awarded a \$5-million, three-year Sustainable Communities Planning Grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In its role as the communications lead, New Jersey Future recruited, secured and worked with a branding consulting firm that helped develop the [Together North Jersey](#) identity and graphic design elements for the project. The website launched in November. New Jersey Future also established the standing committee on Livability and Environment and led its first meeting to identify priority outcomes and strategic opportunities and threats.

## **16) New Jersey Future's Ford Foundation Partnership On Equitable Development Receives National Attention**

The Ford-funded partnership with the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey and Fair Share Housing Center to promote equitable transit-oriented development in New Jersey has garnered national attention. New Jersey Future presented its work as part of this unconventional collaboration at two national conferences, in San Diego and New Orleans.