

# Smart Growth ENews



1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT

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February 2008

## Governor's Smart Growth Agenda for 2008

*Governor M. Jodi Rell announced her Responsible Growth agenda today in the State of the State Address. In it, the Governor recommends:*

- ◇ separating the Department of Transportation into a Department of Highways and a Department of Transit, Aviation and Ports;
- ◇ tweaks to the tax structure;
- ◇ putting a ceiling on town's taxes;
- ◇ targeting a portion of state-funded projects for non-motorized transportation improvements;
- ◇ \$5mil in Regional Incentive Grants; and
- ◇ a set of statutory changes to facilitate responsible growth.

## Task Force Defines Responsible Growth and More!

The Responsible Growth Task Force defined "responsible growth". It establish principles to guide state investments, policies and programs, and it made nine recommendations for further action in a report submitted to Governor M. Jodi Rell on February 4, 2008 .

The report of the Task Force, codified by the General Assembly in Public Act 07-239, establishes a lens by which government actors can more clearly see and respond to not just the immediate demands of the business cycle or the short-term demands of the political cycle, but the

long-term best interests of the state and its people.

The report establishes these principles: Focus on Redevelopment, Be Fair, Expand Housing Opportunities, Concentrate Development, Provide Transportation Choice, Conserve Natural Resources, Plan Regionally, and Increase Job Opportunities in Appropriate Places.

Among its recommendations to the Governor are: the Executive and the Legislative branches use its definition and principles of Responsible

Growth; create a group like the Task Force to advise on Responsible Growth going forward; measure the State's Responsible Growth progress; create model zoning; support regional coordination and planning consistency; promote unified development codes; allow voluntary development agreements; and encourage regional review of significant projects.

The report in its entirety is available at [www.1000friends-ct.org/policy](http://www.1000friends-ct.org/policy).

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## 2008 Legislative Priorities

**Responsible Growth** – 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut encourages the Governor and the Legislature to adopt the definition and principles of “responsible growth” unanimously approved by the Responsible Growth Task Force. We encourage the Governor and the Legislature to adopt all nine recommendations in the report.

**Property Tax Reform** – 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut recommends shifting our reliance from the property tax to a progressive mix of taxes, including increasing the progressivity of the income tax, collecting the user fee on internet purchases, and conducting a systematic review of corporate taxes. We encourage the Governor and the Legislature to make an ongoing commitment to increase aid to municipalities – suggested recommendations include: increase education cost share grants, raise special education reimbursements to between 40 and 75 percent, and fully-fund payments in lieu of taxes. 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut supports a one-time, dollar-for-dollar cap on municipal spending in the year of the shift from the property tax to state taxes.

## NPR Smart Growth Series

**National Public Radio will debut a new series on land use issues. It will include stories on changes in the American landscape and what compels them, including population shifts, grass roots movements like 1000 Friends of Connecticut and novel forms of zoning like Hamden’s Smart Code.**

**The series will also explore how abstract policies result in real change.**

**Stories in the Shifting Ground series will be broadcast on All Things Considered, Morning Edition, and Weekend Edition.**

**For more: [www.shifting-ground.com/](http://www.shifting-ground.com/)**

**THE 2008  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
SESSION HAS  
STARTED.  
DO YOU KNOW  
WHERE YOUR  
LEGISLATOR  
STANDS ON  
SMART  
GROWTH?**

## Is It Easy Being Green?

A conference on Sustainable Development and the Law will take place February 29th from 8:30 to 3:30 at the University of Connecticut School of Law, William F. Starr Hall.

The keynote speaker will be Doug Foy, founder of Serrafix and former Massachusetts smart growth leader.

Please register at:  
[www.gallivan\\_conference2008@law.uconn.edu](http://www.gallivan_conference2008@law.uconn.edu)

### **Smart Growth Veteran Geoffrey Anderson Selected to Serve as President and CEO of Smart Growth America**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – After an extensive nationwide search, the SGA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Geoffrey Anderson as President and CEO of Smart Growth America.

Anderson, who has headed the smart growth program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 2000, will succeed founding executive director and CEO Don Chen, who is leaving at the end of January to join the Ford Foundation. Anderson will begin work at SGA on January 21.

“Geoff Anderson is a natural choice to lead Smart Growth America,” said Michael Woo, chairman of SGA’s board of directors and a former Los Angeles city councilman. “In the course of a very competitive interview process, Geoff earned the confidence of the board. He is the right person to build on the growing national momentum of the smart growth movement.”

In 13 years at EPA, Anderson has been a key innovator in establishing the links among environmental protection, quality of life and the growth and development of our communities. Over the last seven years he has built the smart growth program into a critical resource for local communities grappling with planning and development issues, reinterpreting environmental protection not as regulatory interference, but as a partnership that helps communities achieve a vision for current and future generations.

Anderson helped conceive and implement their highly successful technical assistance program and has authored numerous publications and seminal reports that have proved indispensable in building the knowledge base and expertise for smart growth over the last 10 years.

[Read More at www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

5 Things you can do Today to Grow Connecticut Smart?

1. Host a party.
2. Send a candidate a post card.
3. Write a letter to the newspaper, the Governor or your representatives.
4. Call a call-in radio show.
5. Tell a friend!

### **June 7th is National Trails Day**

**Got a spot in mind that’s a terrific example of stupid growth?**

**Is there a compact, mixed use area where you love to stroll?**

**Call Heidi at 860/523-0003 if you’d like to lead a walk.**

### **New Urbanism Film Festival**

The New Haven Museum & Historical Society is showing three more films on development, people and place.

5:30 to 7:30 all dates. Free.

Please pre-register at 203 562 4183

2/7 Suburbia: The Good Life in CT?

2/21 Independent America

2/28 Save Our Land/Save Our Towns

## Brownfields 2008

### Roadmap to Revitalization

The 12th National Brownfields Conference will feature networking, education, business development and deal-making.

Registration is free at [www.brownfields2008.org](http://www.brownfields2008.org).

Cobo Center, Detroit, MI

May 5 to 7

Sponsored by: EPA, ICMA and GM

***Successful smart growth in Connecticut requires a vision for where we want to be and investments, policies and programs that reinforce that vision.***

***Our vision is robust cities with compact, walkable, transit-accessible communities, viable agricultural lands and a healthy natural environment.***

## Global Warming & You - individuals and citizens

Roger Smith, CT Climate Change Coordinator, will share ways each of us can make a difference. Acting as Individuals and Citizens: Global Warming in Connecticut, Feb. 12 from 7 to 8:30 PM will include an update on current State and Federal initiatives.

The Program is hosted by the Mercy Center in Madison.

The event is free, but registration is requested. Mercy Center, a spiritual retreat and conference center, offers programs to help strengthen their connection to the natural world. Please contact Betty Orosz at 203/245-0401 or register online at [www.mercybythesea.org](http://www.mercybythesea.org).

Connecticut Convention Center

March 28 to 30.

100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford

Connecticut's Premier Showcase of Eco-Friendly products and services to help create a greener future.

**Connecticut Living Green Expo**



## Green Lecture Series

The Yale School of Forestry has a lecture series this spring on creating green buildings. It uses the new Kroon Building as a case study.

Topics include Reconciling Green Design with the University's Operations and Facilities; Making Green Design an Administrative Reality; and The Challenges of Going Green: Other University Experiences.

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Lecture Series

February to April,

## Roosevelt Institute Policy Conference

*The Roosevelt Institution  
Yale Chapter*

*Second Annual  
Policy Exposition  
Winter 2008*

*We warmly invite you to  
join the Roosevelt Institution  
at Yale, the nation's  
first student think tank, on  
the evening of Wednesday,  
February 6th, 2008  
in Luce Hall, as our policy  
centers present on their lat-  
est research.*

*Address and Policy Presentations*

*8.30pm -9.00pm: Policy  
discussion break out ses-  
sions*

*9.00pm Reception to meet  
Roosevelt Fellows*

*Wednesday  
February 6th, 2008*

*Luce Hall  
34 Hillhouse Avenue*

*To RSVP:  
[www.rooseveltinstitution.org/yale/events](http://www.rooseveltinstitution.org/yale/events)*

*Schedule of Events:*

*7.30pm -8.30pm: Keynote*

## Lincoln Lecture Series

The Annual lecture series of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy highlights the work of scholars and practitioners who are involved in research and education programs sponsored by the Lincoln Institute. The lectures are presented at Lincoln House, 113 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA. Most lectures begin at noon.

2/6 Property Tax Responses to State Aid Cuts: Lessons from the Post-2001 State Fiscal Crisis  
*Andrew Reschovsky*

4/23 The Resilience of New Orleans: Urban and Coastal Adaptation to Disasters and Climate Change  
*Doug Meffert*

5/28 Global Universities and Urban Development  
*Wim Wiewel and David C. Perry*

6/12 Understanding the Performance of Taxes on Property in Latin American Countries: A Preliminary Analysis  
*Claudio De Cesare*

## Smart Growth ENews

### It Takes a City Region:

#### Economic Development and Political Governance in Greater Hartford

March 7, 3 to 5 PM, the Center for Urban and Global Studies at Trinity College will sponsor a two-stage research seminar with Trinity and non-Trinity faculty, policy analysts, community representatives, and students. It will feature Heidi Green, 1000 Friends of Connecticut; John Shemo, MetroHartford Alliance; Lyle Wray, CRCOG, and Clyde McKee, Professor of Political Science and will be moderated by Tom Condon, Hartford Courant. The location is the Washington Room in Mather Hall. For more information, email:

### Shaping Our Future

2008 Tri-State Brownfields Best Practices Conference

Organized by the NBA in association with the CT, NY, and NJ chapters

February 22, 8:30 to 4 PM

New York Information Technology Center - 55 Broad Street, New York, NY

# Visualizing Density

See development in a new way at one of two events featuring Julie Campo, author of **Visualizing Density**.

March 11, 2 to 4 PM at the Lyceum in Hartford.

March 12, 9 to 11:30 AM at Fairfield University

\$25 to register. Space is limited.

For more information: [domonique@ctpartnershiphousing.com](mailto:domonique@ctpartnershiphousing.com).



Preserving, Conserving and Growing Smart

1 0 0 0 F R I E N D S O F C O N N E C T I C U T

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***We can** rebalance our state/local tax structure to encourage development and sustainable land use!*

***We can** link jobs, housing and transit and stop destructive sprawl!*

***We can** reward cities and towns for working together and end the counter-productive competition for grand list growth!*

*We can, with **your help!** Join the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart.*

<http://www.1000friends-ct.org/events/2007conference/JoinCampaign.pdf>

# *Save Saturday, April 5th!*

1000 FRIENDS is  
hosting its Inaugural  
Smart Growth Citizen  
Activist Conference

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**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.1000friends-ct.org](http://www.1000friends-ct.org)**

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11 to 4 PM  
April 5, 2008

Stay-tuned for  
details!