

**Center for the Use of Sustainable Practices (CUSP)**  
**University of Maryland**

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St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Urban Design Training Program

St. Mary's County, Maryland is located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and is a primarily rural coastal community. However, the location of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station brings with it high-tech aviation and technology businesses, which provide economic development and population growth. The County is interested in preserving their rural character, while promoting development within key development areas including Lexington Park, California and much of Great Mills.

As part of the Growth Area Initiative, CUSP in collaboration with MD SeaGrant and the Environmental Finance Center, has developed a monthly training program to educate the planning commissioners on smart growth and good urban design principles. Using the expertise found at the University of Maryland, these sessions will provide valuable information to St. Mary's County to best inform their development process and insure that a quality built environment serves as an amenity for years to come.

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### **Urban Design Training Sessions**

Note: Sessions will meet from 10:00 – 11:00 on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise notified) at 23150 Leonard Hall Drive in Leonardtown, MD 20650

February 3, 2010: **Smart Growth in Maryland**

**Gerrit Knaap, PhD**

Director, National Center for Smart Growth Research & Education

Professor Gerrit Knaap will discuss the fundamental principles of Smart Growth. This session will cover the way those principles have evolved in reaction to traditional land use regulation and capital facilities planning that have resulted in the predominantly sprawling settlement patterns during the second half of the 20th century. Focus will be on smart growth's benefits and its implementation challenges that already have been and are likely to be experienced in the foreseeable future.

March 3, 2010: **The DNA of Livable Places**

**Matthew Bell, AIA**

Professor, School of Architecture

The initial series of sessions focuses upon the things necessary for a community to be a place worth living in, from smaller scale environments to larger and more complex patterns of settlement like towns and cities. The session will provide a framework for understanding how regional patterns of settlement have historically evolved and how the problems of today might find their solutions by looking more closely at places that work. The discussions will provide an overview of urban design theory, provide national and regional examples and look initially at how the regulatory environment gives us the world we have.



April 7, 2010: **LEEDing by Example: Alternatives for Managing Growth**  
**Vicky Carrasco**

Coastal Communities Specialist, Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program

This session is a more in-depth look at how communities are implementing comprehensive plans, by looking at different ways for managing growth. Rather than focusing on traditional zoning and growth management, information will be provided and case studies presented on alternative methods for growth management that take into account a 'sustainable' approach, with efforts to balance growth and impacts to natural environment. Session will look at the following, including details and/or hands on activity showcasing the US Green Building Council's new LEED certification Neighborhood Development (LEED ND). This session will cover Low Impact Development, Cluster Development, Smart Growth, Traditional Neighborhood Development, Visual Preferences and LEED Neighborhood Development .

May 5, 2010: **Financing Green Building Practices**  
**Jennifer Cotting**

Program Manager, Environmental Finance Center

Local governments throughout the region are seeking to make their communities more efficient and sustainable. Green building can be an effective tool to assist communities in reaching their sustainability goals, as these practices address multiple community priorities including improvements in human health, air and water quality, as well as more efficient waste management and energy and natural resource use. This session will introduce some of the regulatory and market-based approaches communities have successfully used to implement green building practices.



June 2, 2010: **Sustainable Development with Public-Private Partnerships**  
**Margaret McFarland, JD**

Director, Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development

Targeted development, smarter development, sustainable development are goals that are more attainable using legal and financial tools of public/private partnerships than if solely relying on economic development incentives or regulatory planning and zoning. The legal and financing mechanisms that are available can be used to find and/or harness market knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector to the environmental and community goals of a community to grow smarter.

July 7, 2010: **Coastal and Waterfront Smart Growth**  
**Vicky Carrasco**

Coastal Communities Specialist, Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program

Coastal and waterfront communities have a distinctive sense of place created by their history, as well as by their characteristic sights, sounds, and smells. These communities face many unique challenges, including potential sea-level rise, hurricanes, flooding, other weather and climate-related hazards, vulnerable ecosystems, and limited land. How can smart growth strategies help coastal and waterfront communities manage growth and

development while balancing environmental, economic and quality of life issues. Focus will be placed on a recent guide, which looks at various smart growth principles but applied specifically to reflect the challenges and opportunities characterizing the waterfront, be it on a coast, a river, or a lake. These elements provide guidance for communities to grow in ways that are compatible with their natural assets, creating great places for residents, visitors. Participants will engage in discussions on how communities can integrate smart growth, hazard resiliency, and climate change into community planning. <http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/>

August 4, 2010: **Approaches for Improving and Protecting Shorelines**

**Jackie Takacs**

Watershed Restoration Specialist, Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program

Why living shorelines? We will describe the 'living shorelines' concept, which is a tool to enhance ecological habitat and improve aesthetic quality of shoreline areas. What are natural and artificial shorelines, and what are some ecological, planning, permitting, and financial considerations when developing a project idea to help buffer the land during storm events and to protect water quality. This session will also provide information on the role of land use decision-makers in shoreline management, to better understand regulation implications and also to encourage good practices.

September 1, 2010: **Good Housing and Community Design**

**Ralph Bennett, AIA**

Professor Emeritus, School of Architecture

This session will focus on ten key concepts of successful housing and successful community design.

October 6, 2010: **An Introduction to Stormwater Financing**

**Megan Hughes**

Project Manager, Environmental Finance Center

Stormwater management is one of the most pressing issues facing communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. What were once essentially flood control efforts have evolved into sophisticated local programs designed to protect water and stream quality. With more aggressive enforcement of state and federal pollutant discharge laws, local governments are forced to implement potentially expensive Best Management Practices (BMPs) with limited fiscal resources. This, coupled with dwindling state and federal resources available for implementing MS4 permit requirements, has resulted in costly unfunded local mandates. This session will present an overview of the cost-reducing measures, potential revenue generators, and market-based opportunities available for financing stormwater management programs, with the end goal of improving local program efficiencies and maximizing the return on community investment.



November 3, 2010: **Climate Change Planning and Design**

**David Myers, PhD., ASLA**

Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

**Vicky Carrasco**

Coastal Communities Specialist, Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program

This session will address planning for climate change in Maryland, in the context of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Communities often face impacts from climate-influenced changes in offshore systems, such as sea level rise, shoreline erosion, hurricanes, and associated tidal surges and flooding. In inland systems, impacts can include, for example, increased rainfall from intense storms. Changes to landscapes as a result of development can exacerbate the effects of climate-related changes. Infrastructure planning and retrofits will also be examined in the context of climate change in coastal and inland communities in Maryland.