



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET November 2010

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases the USEPA's smart growth assistance program.

The USEPA has chosen eight communities to receive technical assistance on sustainable growth and development issues. The assistance will help local governments address infrastructure constraints, protect water quality, set development standards and create options for housing and transportation. EPA will work in collaboration with its partners at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to help communities become more environmentally and economically sustainable as part of the Agency's broader work through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

The smart growth assistance projects will focus on key topics central to the partnership's work: cross-developmental coordination of sustainability policies, cities undergoing economic transition, infrastructure financing, historic preservation as part of downtown revitalization and, incorporating climate change adaptation as part of long term plans. The assistance will help local residents protect their health and the environment and strengthen the ability to attract new businesses and jobs.

The projects are being coordinated through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which began June 2009, with the EPA, HUD and DOT meeting to facilitate federal actions on housing, transportation and environmental protection. This interagency collaboration achieves efficient federal investment in infrastructure, facilities and services that meet multiple economic, environmental and community objectives.

The projects will be based in Washington D.C.; Saginaw, Michigan; Wheat Ridge, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; Salt Lake City, Utah; Concord, New Hampshire; Cumberland and Cobb Counties in Georgia and a statewide project in Rhode Island.

The partnership has released a new publication that summarizes progress the agencies have had in the first year. The document explains how the partnership has targeted resources to help communities strengthen their economies by developing more sustainable objectives and removing regulatory and policy barriers to make it easier for state and local governments to access federal resources.

Additional information regarding the Smart Growth Assistance Program is available at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>

If you have any questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at [gardella@buffalo.edu](mailto:gardella@buffalo.edu) or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at [dsutton@city-buffalo.com](mailto:dsutton@city-buffalo.com). We look forward to any input on the monthly tip sheet.

BEMC members are willing to attend any meetings to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of each month, 8:00 AM, 920 City Hall. The web site address for the BEMC is:

[http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental\\_Management\\_Commission](http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission)