

SMART GROWTH COMMUNITY CHECKLIST

Town of Amherst



This checklist is designed to assist the Town of Amherst in implementing Valley Vision Smart Growth Strategies at the local level. As part of the Valley Vision Memorandum of Agreement, each community committed to review existing zoning and subdivision regulations to determine if they are consistent with Valley Vision, as well as consider the adoption and enforcement of land use regulations designed to promote efficient growth consistent with Valley

Vision. This checklist has been developed to assist your community in these tasks.

The checklist can also be used to assist your community in increasing its Commonwealth Capital Score. Commonwealth Capital is a policy developed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to encourage communities to implement smart growth within their land use regulations as part of the evaluation of proposals for state funding programs. The most recent Commonwealth Capital Score in the Town of Amherst was 110 points in FY10. The maximum number of points a community can score is 140. Based on recommendations in your community land use plans, implementation of key smart growth policies will also improve your community's Commonwealth Capital Application score.

The Smart Growth Strategies in Valley Vision provide a menu of smart growth options a community can select from, depending on the size and character of your community. While not every strategy fits every community, you will find that many strategies are a good match for your community. The options that are highlighted in this checklist are based on the goals and objectives Amherst residents identified in its municipal plans, such as Community Development Plan, Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and Commonwealth Capital Application. Additional recommendations have also been provided by PVPC, largely on new zoning tools that might not have been considered in previous planning efforts.

At this time, Amherst has implemented nineteen (19) Smart Growth Strategies highlighted in the regional land use plan, Valley Vision. Based on strategies identified in your community plans, as well as recommendations made by the Planning Commission based on Valley Vision, your community could consider implementing eleven (11) additional smart growth strategies in the future.

Last updated: October 2010

**TOWN OF AMHERST
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Recommend	Adopted	Valley Vision Strategy #	Building Block	Identified in / by
✓		1	Traditional Neighborhood Development	PVPC
		1	Transit Oriented Development	
✓	✓	2	Mixed Use Village Districts	Commonwealth Capital Application, Community Development Plan
✓	✓	2	Planned Unit Development	
✓	✓	3	Adaptive Reuse and Infill Development	Community Development Plan
✓	✓	3	Tax Incentive Programs and Business Improvement Districts	
✓	✓	4	Open Space Residential Development	
		4	Conservation Development	
✓	✓	5	Accessory Apartments	
✓	✓	5	Inclusionary Zoning	
		5	Home Based Business Bylaw	
✓		5	Smart Growth Zoning District (Ch. 40R)	PVPC
✓	✓	6	Brownfields Inventory	
✓	✓	6	Brownfields Redevelopment Projects	
✓	✓	7	Transfer of Development Rights	Commonwealth Capital Application
✓	✓	7	Agricultural Commissions	
✓	✓	7	Right to Farm Bylaws	Commonwealth Capital Application
		8	River Protection Overlay District	
✓	✓	8	Community Preservation Act	
✓	✓	8	Scenic Upland Overlay District	
✓	✓	9	Bike and Pedestrian Features	Community Development Plan
✓	✓	9	Traffic Calming Measures	
✓	✓	10	Water Supply Protection District	Commonwealth Capital Application, Open Space and Recreation Plan
✓		10	Low Impact Development	Commonwealth Capital Application
✓		10	Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw	PVPC
✓		10	Stormwater Utilities	PVPC
✓	✓	11	Commercial Site Plan Review	
✓		11	Commercial Performance Standards	PVPC
		12	Urban Growth Boundaries / Limits of Sewer and Water Extensions	
✓		13	Green Building/ Stretch Code	Commonwealth Capital Application, Community Development Plan
✓		13	Municipally Owned Clean Energy	PVPC
✓		13	By-Right Zoning for Clean Energy Generation	PVPC
✓		13	Green Communities Certification	PVPC
✓		13	Green Performance Standards	PVPC
✓	✓	15	Intergovernmental Compact+	
		16	Planning Board Assistance Program	

+ Protection of Mount Tom and Mount Holyoke Ranges MOA; Clean Energy Plan MOA