

# SMART GROWTH COMMUNITY CHECKLIST

## Town of Belchertown



This checklist is designed to assist the Town of Belchertown in implementing Valley Vision Smart Growth Strategies at the local level. As part 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 Belchertown was 81 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 Belchertown 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, Belchertown has implemented sixteen (16) 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 eight (8) additional smart growth strategies in the future.

*Last updated: October 2010*

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
SMART GROWTH COMMUNITY CHECKLIST**

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

+ Valley Vision MOA; Clean Energy Plan MOA