The nation’s largest smart growth and sustainability event, New Partners 2016 will focus on “Practical Tools and Innovative Strategies for Creating Great Communities,” underscoring this year’s stronger emphasis on implementation tools, strategies and new technologies that will help communities NOW.

New Partners 2016 is an ideal gathering place for leaders from across the country to share and learn about successes for implementing smart-growth principles and techniques in tackling many of the most crucial social, health, economic and development priorities in our communities.

Conference details: NewPartners.org

Each year, we assemble national and local speakers to help you navigate the myriad of policies and strategies and develop a plan to fit your community’s needs. Learn more about solving the issues that affect your community:

+ Fund Projects in Your Community.
+ Remove Barriers to Good Development.
+ Create and Manage Open Space and Parks.
+ Build an Effective and “Complete” Transportation Network.
+ Design for Sustainable Infrastructure.
+ Address Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.
+ Ensure Equitable Development and Environmental Justice.
+ Encourage Better Public Health.
+ Improve Mobility for Everybody.

“There are a lot of success stories from across the nation and the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference provides the perfect opportunity for communities to come together to share these success stories, envision future strategies to tackle today and tomorrow’s toughest problems, and learn from each other’s creativity, hard work and enthusiasm.”

— Mayor Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City

“You find out that there really are kindred spirit of people trying and wanting and desiring to make their communities a better place for all of us to live and work and that’s why this conference is so important.”

— Mayor Bob Dixson, Greensburg, KS
Why Local Policymakers Like New Partners

There are many great reasons to attend the 15th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Portland, especially if you are a local elected official or a local government official.

Local elected officials are charged with making some of the most difficult and important decisions about how cities and counties grow and change. Faced with the challenge of addressing critical issues such as shrinking budgets and scarce resources, public health and safety, access to transit and affordable housing, climate-change impacts, and so much more — you need access to practical tools, strategies and resources that can help you make the right decisions for your community.

Because the majority of decision-making about land use and transportation planning occurs at the local level, elected officials and staff play an essential role in creating more livable and equitable communities.

Smart growth offers local policymakers a way to look comprehensively at shaping communities that are built for everyone. This premier smart-growth event will provide you with the latest research, strategies, tools, best practices and information on how you can be more successful in tackling the many challenges you face, and help you make the best choices for your community.

New Partners for Smart Growth provided a well-balanced conference with plenty of seminars to educate everyone from a newly elected to a seasoned government official. As our world changes, local legislators are faced with new challenges in sustainability and this conference provides both a forum for discussion as well as resources for cities.

— Councilmember Victoria Martinez, El Monte, CA

I was blown away by the numerous multi-disciplinary sessions dedicated to helping economically struggling communities from across the nation reinvigorate their communities by implementing smart growth techniques.

— Dean Katerndahl, Government Innovations Forum Director, Mid-America Regional Council

2016 Program and Agenda

- The conference spans three full days from Thursday, February 11, through Saturday afternoon, February 13.
- The program will include a dynamic mix of over 300 speakers and more than 80 plenary keynotes, implementation sessions, breakouts, workshops and networking opportunities.
- Our popular Indoor Parklets and innovative Technology Fair for public engagement and scenario-planning tools are back!
- Pre-conference events and a food systems workshop will also be offered, along with 14 exciting tours of local model projects around the Portland region on Thursday, Friday and Sunday.
- The agenda will be infused with several sessions and case studies that focus on equity and environmental justice issues.
- 2-Day Pre-Conference Tour (February 9-10): Experience a transformative discovery of walkability, transit-oriented design and vibrant placemaking in the Portland area — with lots of bike-riding this year!

Conference Location

Conference sessions and hotel accommodations will be at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in downtown Portland. The group rate until January 18, 2016, is $151 single/double occupancy. Call (800) 445-8667 to make a reservation and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

Online registration is now open

NewPartners.org