

Planning Ahead

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Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division

The Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division's staff assists local governments in a range of services and programs related to local and regional planning, transportation, and community and economic development on a local and regional level. Information on these services and programs are provided in greater detail on our website negrc.org.

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New Guidelines for Sustainability in Historic Preservation

Historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, economic and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability. Historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds. Since the National Trust for Historic Preservation created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fundraising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities. Due to its overwhelming popularity, in 2005, the National Trust for Historic Preservation extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to provide an even greater opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement.

It is appropriate to recognize Preservation Month 2011 by highlighting a recent publication of the U.S. Secretary of Interior's National Park Service Branch of Technical Preservation Services. *The Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (2011)*, which replaces the chapter on



Large windows provide natural illumination in a historic building



“Energy Conservation” in the original 1992 publication, begins with an overview focusing on the fact that historic buildings are themselves often inherently sustainable. Specific guidance is provided for those interested in making historic buildings more sustainable while simultaneously adhering to the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation*. Following an introduction to the guidelines and a short discussion of sustainability, the publication offers “recommended” and “not recommended” treatments and their affect on a building’s historic character. While the guidelines are general in scope, their use will provide useful support and assistance to owners, developers and contractors working with historically significant buildings.

For more information or to access a copy of *The Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, please visit www.nps.gov

Plan 2035: Northeast Georgia’s Regional Plan

All of Georgia’s Regional Commissions are required to develop and implement regional plans to accomplish state planning goals in the areas of economic development, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure and services, housing, coordinated planning of land use and transportation, and intergovernmental coordination. Regional plans consist of three sections:

1. The **Regional Assessment** is an objective and professional assessment of data and information about the region that is prepared without extensive stakeholder involvement.
2. The **Stakeholder Involvement Program** describes the RC’s strategy for ensuring successful public and stakeholder participation in further development of the plan.
3. The **Regional Agenda** presents the region’s vision for the future and a strategy to achieve this vision; this section relies heavily on public and stakeholder input.

NEGRC initiated work on Plan 2035 last fall, and has drafted a Regional Assessment and a Stakeholder Involvement Program in preparation for developing a Regional Agenda. Stakeholder meetings, informational displays, questionnaires, and other tools will help staff and the Planning Advisory Committee (the plan’s steering committee) create a vision for the future of the region. At subsequent strategic meetings, we will begin identifying and refining the methods that the Commission, member governments, and others will use to accomplish the objectives that the plan sets out to accomplish. Participation opportunities will be published in the near future.

For more information on the Regional Plan, please refer to the NEGRC’s new website, at www.negrc.org, or email John Devine at jdevine@negrc.org.



May is National Bike Month

In 1956, the League of American Wheelmen, renamed in 1994 to the League of American Bicyclists, designated May as National Bike Month. During National Bike Month, the League of American Bicyclists awards the Bicycle Friendly Community recognition to communities that actively support bicycling. This

year, Athens-Clarke County was designated as one of three such communities in Georgia (the other two are Tybee Island (2011) and Roswell (2006)). For more information on how your community might apply, visit <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/>

In partnership with the local bicycle advocacy organization in Athens-Clarke County, NEGRC has organized Bike to Work Day events since 2008. In 2011, NEGRC also developed a Bicycle Friendly Northeast Georgia awards program. This year's recipients are Oxford College of Emory University <http://oxford.emory.edu/> in Newton County and Georgia Bikes! <http://georgiabikes.org/>, the statewide bicycle advocacy organization based in Athens-Clarke County.

The League of American Bicyclists has a multitude of resources on how to plan and execute Bike Month events and educate your community on the benefits of bicycling. Access their Bike Month Guide at http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/pdf/national_bike_month_guide.pdf.



Go Green For Savings

Adopting environmentally-friendly policies for your local government can reap immediate savings and stretch each dollar of your budget further. Try some of these low cost strategies in your jurisdiction.

- Replace street and traffic lights with LED light fixtures. Some LED bulbs are 60 per-

cent more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last up to 12 years, thereby saving staff time required to replace them.

- Operate government offices four days a week, ten hours per day. The state of Utah is expected to save over \$3 million annually on utility bills with their four day work week. As an added benefit, extended hours allow citizens to access government services earlier in the morning and later in the afternoon.
- Save 30-35 percent on electric costs by requiring "Energy Star" certified electronics through your purchasing and procurement process.
- Adopt a "Green Fleet" policy that gives preference to purchasing the most fuel efficient vehicle available.
- For landscaping, use only native and drought resistant plants. You will spend less on water and also ensure your landscaping thrives for years without replacement.
- Require high efficiency plumbing when it is time to replace fixtures.

For more tips on going green, please see <http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/view/page.basic/class/tag.topic/energy;jsessionid=9A3282A51AA4413D201208827B365265>.

Sustainable Agriculture and Local Food Systems Workshop

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in its continuing efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and provide economic – development opportunities is proving a workshop in Unicoi, Tennessee, on May 26, 2011 from 10:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This workshop is the fourth workshop in the series and includes presentations for organizations engaged in sustainable agriculture including:

- Johnny and Pat Lynch, Farmhouse Gallery and Gardens, Unicoi, Tennessee
- Larry Fisher, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), Athens, Ohio
- Mary Lou Surgi, Blue Ridge Food Ventures, Asheville, North Carolina
- Tess Lloyd, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
- Kathlyn Terry, Appalachian Sustainable Development, Abingdon, Virginia

Cost for the workshop is \$20. To register, send an email to events@arc.gov with the following information: Participant name, email

address, and phone number. Workshop participants are asked to contribute the \$20 via check or money order payable to the First Tennessee Development District, or FTDD, to defray the cost of lunch and refreshments. Please bring the check/money order to the workshop.

Questions on the workshop series or on ARC programs in northeast Georgia? Contact the NEGRC's Burke Walker, email: bwalker@negrc.org.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

May 19, 2011

Bike to Work Day Rally (NEGRC), 4:00-7:00pm

Earth Fare Athens (1689 Lumpkin Street)

For more information, email Nina at nkelly@negrc.org

May 22-25, 2011

National Main Streets Conference

Des Moines, Iowa

Register at <http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/training/conference/2011-des-moines/>

May 24, 2011

ULI Atlanta – Infrastructure Summit: A Region at the Crossroads

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA

Register at <https://netforum.uli.org/iWeb/upload/AT1154reg.pdf>

May 26, 2011

Safe Routes to School Workshop (Georgia SRTS Resource Center & NEGRC)

Alps Road Elementary (205 Alps Road, Athens)

For more information, email Nina at nkelly@negrc.org

May 26, 2011

Strengthening Local Food Networks across Appalachia (Appalachian Regional Commission)

Farmhouse Gallery and Gardens, Unicoi, TN

Register at [http://www.arc.gov/program_areas/](http://www.arc.gov/program_areas/StrengtheningLocalFoodNetworksacrossAppalachia.asp)

[StrengtheningLocalFoodNetworksacrossAppalachia.asp](http://www.arc.gov/program_areas/StrengtheningLocalFoodNetworksacrossAppalachia.asp)

June 3, 2011

FREE webinar (APA Virginia)

“Livable Communities, Sustainable Regions: How Transportation Investments Shape our Development Patterns”

Register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/874409690>

June 10, 2011

FREE webinar (APA Economic Development Division)

“Real Estate Finance from Simple to Complex”

Register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/560860403>

June 24, 2011

FREE webinar

“Introduction to the H+T Affordability Index and Applications in Planning (APA Technology Division)

Register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/803691043>

July 15, 2011

FREE webinar

“Community Erosion: How traffic flows like water” (APA Ohio)

Register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/478131202>

October 19-22, 2011

National Preservation Conference

Buffalo, New York

Register at <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/>

September 28-30, 2011

Georgia Downtown Conference

Rome, Georgia

Register at <http://www.georgiadowntownassociation.org/conference.asp>