

There are two types of free technical assistance presently being made available by EPA.

One type of assistance is made directly from EPA and is described as follows;

In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will select up to 44 communities for assistance.

Each technical assistance project in a community will include: (1) public engagement, a one-day workshop that is open to the public; (2) direct consultation with relevant decision-makers; and (3) a memo outlining specific steps the community could take to implement the ideas generated during the site visit.

Communities may apply for assistance from EPA until Oct. 26.

EPA expects to select communities by early December 2012 and provide all technical assistance by May 2013. Please see the Request for Letters of Interest for instructions on how to apply and a detailed description of the tools EPA is offering.

EPA will offer nine tools in 2013:

1. Planning Bikeshare Programs: Provides a framework for exploring the potential to establish or expand a bikeshare program in a community.
2. Supporting Equitable Development: Helps communities evaluate their needs around equitable development and identify the most effective tools and strategies.
3. Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging: Helps communities explore the role of supportive neighborhood design in creating great places for aging residents.
4. Parking Audit: Helps communities evaluate local parking policies and offers advice on parking management strategies, drawing from successful strategies in other communities.
5. Creating a Green Streets Strategy: Helps communities begin to develop strategies for greening their streets by adapting national best practices and case studies to their local context.
6. Using Smart Growth to Produce Fiscal and Economic Health: Helps communities evaluate how to get better economic results from private development and public investments.
7. Green Building Toolkit: Helps local governments identify policies that support compact development that features sustainably built homes and buildings.
8. Sustainability Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas: Offers a menu of quick fixes that rural and small-town governments can make to their zoning codes and planning documents to protect community character and quality of life.
9. Land Use Strategies to Protect Water Quality: Helps local governments examine land use approaches to green infrastructure that manage the negative impacts of stormwater.

Applications for EPA-led assistance is due Oct. 26.

For additional information about the kinds of assistance available, and to find the full application guidelines go to the EPA website: <http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>

EPA Grantees Assistance

The second type of technical assistance is being offered by three EPA grantees and is described as follows;

1. Technical assistance available from Smart Growth America: Applications Due Oct. 25.

Smart Growth America is currently accepting applications for a series of free technical assistance workshops for local communities interested in smart growth strategies.

The workshops span a wide range of topics, including transit-oriented development, walkability,

regional planning, and zoning codes for small cities.

Smart Growth America expects to select 12 communities nationally for assistance.

Applications are due by Oct. 25.

For additional information about the kinds of assistance available, and to find the full application guidelines and a digital application form, go to this Smart Growth America website:

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/technical-assistance/free-annual-workshops>.

2. Technical assistance available from Global Green:

Applications due Nov. 2.

Global Green is offering free technical assistance related to neighborhood planning and revitalization.

The Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods site assessment is based on the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system - the first national standard for neighborhood sustainability.

Local and tribal governments are eligible to apply for the three-day intensive effort that engages national experts in neighborhood planning.

Successful applicants will be able to identify a specific neighborhood where change is expected due a “catalytic” project, policy, or public investment.

Global Green staff and team review current plans and zoning, conduct a walking tour and field evaluation, meet with stakeholders, complete a LEED-ND checklist to identify strengths and opportunities, and prepare a summary report with a series of targeted and actionable recommendations.

Eight communities nationally will be selected for assistance in 2013.

Deadline for applications is Nov. 2. For more information and to apply, please visit: globalgreen.org/leedndtechassist.

3. Technical assistance available from project for public spaces:

Applications due Nov. 2.

In partnership with the members of their Livability Solutions coalition, Project for Public Spaces is offering free technical assistance workshops on a wide variety of topics, including street audits, transit-oriented development planning, green infrastructure valuation guides, and form based codes.

Project for Public Spaces expects to select 6 to 12 communities nationally for assistance. Applications are due Nov. 2.

For the full details about the kinds of assistance available and how to apply, go to this Project for Public Spaces/Livability Solutions website: <http://livabilitysolutions.org/>