



## SMART GROWTH PRIMER E-COURSE: Funded by NRCan

The Smart Growth Canada Network (SGCN) has received generous funding from Natural Resources Canada to create one Pilot Primer E-Course for the SGCN Tier One series of e-courses (see sidebar on pg 2 for more info).

The Tier One series are self-paced and posted online with free access. The Tier One series will take Canadian case studies and precedents on implemented smart growth solutions and show case them in plain language and enhanced graphics. The target audience is decision makers, cross disciplinary professionals and the public.

The Pilot Primer on Smart Growth will introduce the main principles and showcase some related Canadian case studies. It is currently in the research phase.

Expertise will be drawn from the Steering Committee members and the Advisory Board which represent national stakeholder organizations.

## ONLINE CONFERENCE 2006- SG Primer E-Course Review

In keeping with the leading edge e-learning technology linking peers across Canada, the Smart Growth Canada Network has also received funding from Natural Resources Canada to host an Online or Electronic Conference focussing on reviewing the Pilot Smart Growth Primer E-Course.

It is in the planning stages. There will be three online plenary sessions and three online workshop break out sessions, similar to the in-person Conferences that SGCN has hosted in the past.

The Online Conference will be as easy to use as the email. The date is set tentatively for early spring. More information to come.

We would like to hear ideas for guest speakers for the plenaries. The deadline for submitting a speaker from your organization showcasing your work in sustainability and the built environment is March 15, 2006. Please email us at [info@smartgrowth.ca](mailto:info@smartgrowth.ca).

Edited by Gloria Venczel, BES, BArch, MRAIC, Executive Director, Urban Designer, SGCN

### Contained in this Newsletter

1. Funding for the Smart Growth Primer e-course from Natural Resources Canada.
2. Online Conference 2006
3. Launch of the SGCN National Listserve
4. Launch of the Municipal Executives Resource Group (MERG)
5. Launch of the National Events Calendar.
6. Recap of the SGCN E-Course Strategy & *One Stop Learning Portal*
7. SGCN Advisory Board, Steering Committee, Steering Committee Co-Chairs, MERG

### Interest Areas

1. If your sustainability oriented organization is interested in acting as an advisor to the SGCN in general and the SG Pilot E-Course, please get in touch with us at [info@smartgrowth.ca](mailto:info@smartgrowth.ca).
2. **Online Conference 2006 -Guest Speakers:** Deadline for suggestions March 15th, 2006.
3. If you would like to become a "virtual peer mentor" in sustainability on the **Municipal Executives Resource Group**, please see [www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca).





## LAUNCH OF SGCN NATIONAL LISTSERVE

The Smart Growth Canada Network's National Listserve is operational! **Please sign up** for it under "Home" on [www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca).

The SGCN National Listserve will have postings on sustainability and smart growth related topics from all across the country.

By signing up for the SGCN National Listserve, as a bonus, you will receive future SGCN newsletters. Or you can check on our website to download future newsletters. SGCN will not be using the email mailout any longer as the National Listserve is now in use.

## LAUNCH OF **MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVES' RESOURCE GROUP (MERG)**

To provide additional peer to peer support to municipalities, the SGCN has created an opportunity for connecting practitioners who have experience working on smart growth projects with those peers who are interested in smart growth solutions.

It is called the Municipal Executives' Resource Group (MERG). It is made up of current and former senior municipal staff, like planners, engineers, urban designers, city administrators etc., and elected politicians who have contributed to the implementation of smart growth solutions.

Those who put their names forward for MERG will act as "virtual peer mentors" through the use of e-mail and the telephone. Please see "Municipal Executives' Resource Group" to register at [www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca)

MERG is a sub-group of the Advisory Board and MERG "virtual peer mentors" are full members of the Advisory Board.

## LAUNCH OF NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

The Smart Growth Canada Network's National Events Calendar is operational! Please submit your event and it will be posted.

It is an opportunity to link sustainability events all across Canada and it will be accessible at the click of a mouse. Check "Newsflash" at [www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca).

### Recap of SGCN E-Course Capacity Building Strategy

#### 1. Tier One E-Courses: Self-Paced

**Target Audience:**

- general public
- decision makers
- cross disciplinary professionals

**Communication:**

- plain language
- great graphics
- easy to use
- precedent case studies
- 5-6 modules

**Fees:**

- free
- possible regional person to person workshops

#### 2. Tier Two E-Courses: Facilitated with Peers Online

**Target Audience:**

- same as above
- mid level professionals

**Communication:**

- same as above plus
- in depth precedent case studies

**Fees:**

- yes
- certificate program
- possible regional person to person workshops

#### 3. Tier Three E-Courses: Peer to Peer Facilitated

**Target Audience:**

- specialized audience
- practitioner peer to peer
- NGO training
- mandatory professional development training courses

**Communication:**

- audience specific language
- customized

**Fees:**

- yes



## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Kenneth Church  
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*Natural Resources Canada*

Douglas B. Pollard  
Senior Researcher  
*Canadian Housing and  
Mortgage Corporation*

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Senior Project Manager  
*Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting Engineers*

## Recap of SGCN One Stop Learning Portal

- 1. Tier One E-Courses:**  
*Self-Paced*  
-Pilot E-Course in progress -
- 2. Tier Two E-Courses:**  
*Facilitated with  
Peers Online*  
- not yet ready-
- 3. Tier Three E-Courses:**  
*Peer to Peer  
Facilitated*  
-not yet ready-
- 4. National Listserve**  
-ready to use  
([www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca))
- 5. National Events  
Calendar**  
-ready to use  
([www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca))
- 6. Municipal Executives  
Resource Group**  
-ready for registrations  
( [www.smartgrowth.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.ca))
- 7. E-Course Alumni  
Chat Rooms**  
-not yet ready-
- 8. Self-Posting  
Research Pages  
Online with  
Topic Editors**  
-not yet ready-



# Smart Growth Canada Network

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## MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVES' RESOURCE GROUP (MERG)

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Karen Farbridge, M.S., Ph.D.,  
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*Former Mayor and City Councillor*  
*City of Guelph, Ontario*

### SGCN

#### Executive Team

##### Executive Director

*Gloria Venczel* BES, BArch, MRAIC  
*Urban Designer*

##### Steering Committee Co-Chairs

*Don Alexander, PhD.*  
*Senior smart growth  
researcher*

*Ray Tomalty, PhD.,*  
*Senior smart growth  
researcher*

##### Assistant Coordinator

*Alex Tang, B.S., M.A.,*  
*Urban Planner*

## STEERING COMMITTEE

### Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Don Alexander, PhD.,  
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Senior smart growth researcher

Ray Tomalty, PhD.,  
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Smart Growth  
On the Ground,  
Outreach Coordinator  
*Smart Growth BC*

Lyle Walker  
Urban Planner  
*Connecting Environmental Professionals*



## 10 PRINCIPLES OF SMART GROWTH

These are the principles that are being used to create the Smart Growth Canada Network Primer E-Course:

### **1. Housing Choice**

Principle: Create a range of Affordable, Quality Housing Choices.

### **2. Vibrant, Walkable Complete Communities**

Principle: Foster development that creates vibrant, unique, walkable complete communities where uses like residential and commercial are mixed to create attractive places to live, work and play.

### **3. Smart Building Design**

Principle: Encourage building designs that contribute to the context of a pedestrian-oriented neighbourhood *and* use green building technologies.

### **4. Renew Existing Communities**

Principle: Direct development away from unsettled areas and encourage growth and renewal in existing communities.

### **5. Green Infrastructure**

Principle: Utilize green infrastructure to save money and protect the environment.

### **6. Green Space, Farmland and Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

Principle: Preserve and enhance green space, farm land and environmentally sensitive areas.

### **7. Broad-Scale, Integrated Planning**

Principle: Undertake broad-scale planning for cities and towns in adjacent regions and towns in a way that integrates land-use and transportation planning for the entire region.

### **8. Transportation Options**

Principle: Provide varied transportation options and infrastructure for walking, biking, car pooling, car sharing, scooters, public transit and others.

### **9. Community Involvement**

Principle: Encourage effective community involvement early in the process to find unique solutions that fit with the community's vision of itself.

### **10. Focus on Implementation**

Principle: Utilize planning processes, tools and incentives to facilitate private sector investment and ease of navigation in achieving smart growth solutions.

