The Maine Downtown Center's **Green Downtowns!** program is designed to strengthen the link between the natural and built environment in Maine's historic downtowns to make them more environmentally responsive and ecologically conscious. The program has been designed to assist towns in recognizing and achieving their own unique green potential. The overall plan can be broken down into individual projects allowing different interest groups to champion the project of their choice.

Maine Downtown Center

Green Downtowns!

August, 2010

1: Green Canopy

a. Urban forest plan
b. Green roofs + green walls
c. Green streets/Hardy Street Trees/ Tree pits
d. Riparian policies
e. Native species selection
f. Community gardens
g. Central/consolidated parking
h. Right tree, right place

Plants are a natural compliment to downtown, making the space more livable for residents, visitors and merchants.

2: Active Transportation

a. Green Ways + Multiuse Trails
b. Waterfront Trails
c. Nature Trails
d. Sidewalks + Pedestrian amenities
e. Bike Lanes
f. Cycling amenities (lockers, tools etc.)
g. Bikeshare programs
h. River + Waterfront public space.

Engaging in active transportation is choosing to ride your bike or walk, rather than drive; educating others and providing the infrastructure are preferred options.

3: Stormwater Planning

a. Daylight Stormsewers
b. Porous paving+ infiltration
c. No-net runoff site standards
d. Rain Gardens
e. Bio-Remediation
f. Stormwater wetlands
g. Watershed planning

Stormwater retention eases the load on city/town systems saving both the environment and the collective coffers.

4: Healthy Communities

a. Outdoor exercise stations
b. Green school yards
c. Greenways, trails + bike lanes
d. Open space and parks
e. Recreational facilities
f. Grow local
g. Farmer + Fish markets
h. Active living programs for seniors

Providing the infrastructure for healthy living improves the quality of our downtowns and our quality of life, which in turn strengthens the business climate.

5: Green Energy

a. LEED certification for new Buildings
b. LED Lighting
c. Dark sky compliant lighting
d. District Heating
e. Seawater/ground water heat pumps
f. Solar energy
g. Wind energy

Science is advancing at a rate such that progressive technology is readily available to the everyday consumer, making affordable green energy a viable option.

6: Urban Living

a. Mixed use downtowns
b. Increasing urban density
c. Maintain community character
d. Wi-Fi downtown
e. Smart Growth Policies
f. Downtown Revitalization
g. Connecting the downtown to its natural amenities

Smart living, working, playing and learning all within an accessible distance is what urban living is all about.

7: Transportation

a. Public Transit
b. Car-share programs
c. Outlets for electric cars
d. Small car parking stalls

Focus is shifting from auto-centric urban sprawl to revitalized downtowns with public transit connecting everyone to everything.

8: Reduce, Reuse Recycle

a. Preserving historic buildings
b. Adaptive building use
c. Recycling street furniture

Memorable downtowns with character draw people; authenticity and reverence for our built and cultural heritage pays substantial dividends.

Key Strategic Improvements:

1. Realize the potential of the waters edge for healthy living and quality of life
2. Improve the streetscapes for people and plants
3. Reallocate the rail line to people instead of cars
4. Improve the efficiency and regain the character of buildings.
5. Green the rooftops.
6. Green or infill lost or forgotten spaces.

Balancing livability, sustainability, green design, urbanism, active living and ecological development.

Augusta

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