

Green Downtowns!

2011 Downtown Revitalization Conference
Skowhegan, Maine

Presenter:
Jonathan Edgerton P.E.

WRIGHT-PIERCE 
Engineering a Better Environment

Outline

- What constitutes “green”, and why should it happen downtown?
- Elements of green downtowns
- How do we move in that direction?



What is “Green”?

There are many different definitions. For the purposes of this discussion:

“Green is an adjective used to describe elements that might be considered sustainable, in that they promote reduced dependency on fossil fuels, encourage healthy lifestyles and/or tend to reduce waste of our other natural resources”.

Why **Green** Downtowns?

- Limited dependency on vehicular travel
- Reuse of buildings
- More efficient delivery of municipal services
 - emergency services
 - school busing
 - utilities
- Opportunities for a high quality of life

Elements of Green Downtowns

- Reduce dependence on vehicular travel
 - walkable commercial districts
 - ADA compliance
 - safety (CPTED)



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Provide infrastructure to support multiple modes of travel
 - bicycle racks
 - transit stops
 - kayaks?



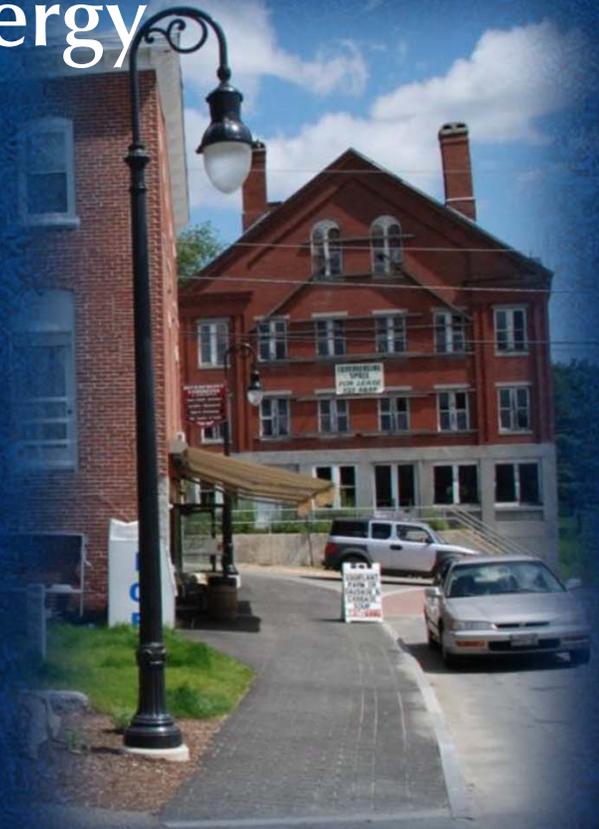
Elements of Green Downtowns

- Seek to understand the proximity of residential and commercial properties
- Ensure that there is a range of quality housing opportunities
 - renovations
 - infill / new buildings



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Provide attractive and sufficient lighting and consider the use of energy efficient LED's



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Make sure the streetscape includes street trees - they add shade & color and soften the streetscape



Elements of **Green** Downtowns

- Consider elements that cover all four seasons
- Merchants depend on winter foot traffic



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Create public spaces suitable for performances
- Include utility service



Elements of Green Downtowns

- “Dress up” unused spaces with plantings and seating, and other interesting features



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Don't forget the arts!
- Consider "loaned" art, as well as purchased



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Consider LID technologies for stormwater management (such as rain gardens and permeable pavement that take advantage of the filtering capacity of the soil)



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Community waterfronts are special places
- Provide opportunities for a variety of users



Elements of Green Downtowns

Collaborate with adjacent communities



Elements of Green Downtowns

- Provide opportunities for recycling
- Pay attention to location, convenience, appearance and maintenance...



Support for **Green** Elements

- Infrastructure to support Multiple Modes of Travel - MeDOT Quality Community Program
- Maine Active Communities Conference – June 21 @ Bowdoin College
- Energy Efficient Lighting - Efficiency Maine
- Street Trees – DOC/MFS Project Canopy
- Public Arts - Maine Arts Commission
- CDBG Program / CMF - Maine DECD
- Contaminated Sites - EPA Brownfields Program

Green Downtowns

