



## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

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### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN ECONOMY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL AND SMALL TO MID-SIZED MUNICIPALITIES

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Sustainable Community Development Group's (SCDG) green economy technical assistance project builds the capacity of mayors to deploy sustainability programs, tools and investments as a driver for economic development. Technical assistance tackles environmental cleanup; sustainable economic development; land use and property re-use planning; green infrastructure; funding and financing; job creation; and coaching mayors towards community wealth-building in the emerging new, green economy. The special emphasis is **rural and small-to-medium sized municipalities**; low income communities; and African American mayors and Tribes whose communities often possess the least resources. The project is co-funded by a partnership with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SCDG's technical assistance project addresses the unique complexities of economic and community development in smaller municipalities. **The challenges of transitioning to the new more energy efficient economy, achieving smart growth and sustainable development take on different dimensions in rural and smaller municipalities due to smaller economies.** The transition is complicated by tax base limitations, the difficulty of attracting and retaining employers and the scale of rural and small town unemployment.

Environmental cleanup is a proven economic development driver and catalyst for job creation, generating tax revenues and renewable energy production. Since 2009, SCDG has delivered over 2 dozen capacity building technical assistance workshops, issue forums and educational sessions on these topics for mayors and Tribes in the South, mainly the States of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina. We promote **public private sustainable development partnerships** and green projects and facilitate inter-governmental collaboration on them.

Long-term national prosperity is enhanced by ensuring that rural and small communities have the basic infrastructure to become self-sustaining with the ability to work in partnership and compete in the global economy. SCDG is working to boost access to critical inter-agency partners whose programs and **resources are indispensable to sustainability** including a broad cross-section of state agencies and such federal agencies as EPA and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, Labor, Defense and Commerce. The project has educated approximately 1500 municipal and Tribal officials and over 350 mayors more than half of whom are African American.

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Together with capacity building, SCDG positions mayors who are engaged in our technical assistance project to participate in strategic meetings and events which provide opportunities at the federal level to promote **problem solving and resource allocation on the distinctive issues facing smaller economies**. Local policy makers have the power to effect real, substantive change in their communities. It is crucial for elected leaders to participate in major meetings and events so that they can connect with the education and best practices, network with peers and experts, interact with policy makers and learn how others from across the country are surmounting barriers to creating safer, healthier, economically vibrant and equitable communities.

Since 2009, we have organized, staffed and managed conference sessions and the engagement of multi-state mayors delegations in 7 premier national gatherings of sustainable brownfields redevelopment, economic development and smart growth decision makers and resources in New Orleans, LA, Charlotte, NC, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, CA, Kansas City, MO and Atlanta, GA. SCDG delegations support communities whose leaders would otherwise not be able to participate and benefit.

SCDG's **green economy technical assistance** delivery strategy is twofold:

- (1) Facilitating access to federal and state programs, resources and funding including support to participate in activities where critical multi-stakeholder dialogue is occurring on model projects, best practices, and public policy; and
- (2) Promoting inclusion and diversity of perspectives in the national policy dialogue about sustainability, resource allocation and green municipal and regional investments.

The project is a model technical assistance and leadership development initiative that:

- ✓ Builds **public-private-academic partnerships** at the local, state and regional levels that can help assist mayors with implementing development projects and inform federal public policy;
- ✓ Facilitates **access to governmental and private sector** economic development decision makers through technical assistance workshops, meetings and events;
- ✓ Delivers **peer learning and targeted, tailored technical assistance**, from basic to advanced, through seminars, workshops, briefings and educational forums; and
- ✓ Distributes **information and materials** via, e.g., electronic newsletter with updates on available resources, tools, grants and funding, and major events.

SCDG is a not-for-profit leader in sustainable community and economic development technical assistance, project management, training and public policy. Our objective is community revitalization through equitable development. We deliver expertise that advances the mission of elected officials, governmental agencies, public interest organizations, communities, institutions, companies, foundations and grantees.

## CONTACT US

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