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SIX CITIES SELECTED TO RECEIVE FREE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIONS UNDER SECOND YEAR OF US EPA GRANT TO GLOBAL GREEN, USA

Sustainability Experts from Global Green USA to Visit Towns Across the Country in 2013

Los Angeles, CA (December 19, 2012)—Six American communities will receive free neighborhood design consultation in 2013 from Global Green USA with the help of a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. Over the next ten months, four sustainability experts will conduct three-day visits to communities and provide comprehensive recommendations for infrastructure and policy changes aimed at helping the communities build a future that is more resource-efficient, livable, healthy, and environmentally responsible.

Winners Announced

Montgomery, Alabama; Camden, New Jersey; Cary, North Carolina; Toledo, Ohio; Burlington, Vermont; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin were competitively selected for the free consultations based on several criteria, including need for assistance, urgency, substantial upcoming projects and community engagement.

“Cities are responsible for up to seventy percent of global warming pollution, but they can also be the laboratories for climate friendly solutions that save money, improve health and quality of life,” said Walker Wells, Director of Global Green USA's Green Urbanism Program. “For nearly two decades Global Green has been helping cities create sustainable plans for the future and we are excited to be able to bring our expertise to these six deserving communities.”

Starting in February, the Global Green sustainability team will visit each of the communities with other planning and sustainability experts from around the country— including Raimi+Associates, Farr Associates, and Agora Group. During the site assessment, the team will identify a neighborhood's positive qualities, consult with community stakeholders in meetings and public workshops, and identify major opportunities to improve the sustainability of each neighborhood.

At the conclusion of the visit, the team will present recommendations for both physical and policy changes that may include streetscape improvements, ecological restoration, integrated energy and water infrastructure, new standards for in-fill and transit-oriented development, or zoning code revisions to allow for urban agriculture or mixed-use development.

The sustainability experts evaluating the communities will use the LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standard, a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable, resource-efficient, and equitable. Benefits of LEED-ND neighborhoods can include lower municipal operations costs, reduced infrastructure costs, increased use of alternate transportation, improvements to public health, and environmental protection. LEED-ND was developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The assistance to the six communities is made possible by a grant to [Global Green USA](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under their [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program](#). Global Green and three other nonprofit organizations—[Forterra](#) (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy), [Smart Growth America](#) and [Project for Public Spaces](#)—received these competitively awarded grants to help protect the environment and improve overall quality of life for communities.

In the first year of the grant, Global Green USA visited eight cities across the country. Previous cities receiving assistance in 2012 included Oakland, California; Lakewood, Colorado; Lafayette, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Dearborn, Michigan; Eden Prairie, Minnesota; Greensboro, North Carolina; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Recommendation reports for these cities can be found by visiting: www.globalgreen.org/articles/global/59

For more information about LEED-ND visit:

www.nrdc.org/cities/smartgrowth/files/citizens_guide_LEED-ND.pdf

A guide for how LEED-ND can be used by local governments is available here:

www.usgbc.org/ndgovguide

More about US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program is available here: www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm

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About Global Green USA

Global Green USA is the American affiliate of Green Cross International, founded by President Gorbachev, to foster a global value shift toward a sustainable and secure future. Since 2003, Global Green USA has been a national leader in advocating for smart solutions to global warming including green building for affordable housing, schools and communities that save money, improve health, and create green jobs. Global Green USA has influenced more than \$20 billion dollars for green building projects and educates millions of people about climate friendly solutions through its Citizen Entrepreneur campaigns. Global Green is also leading efforts to help rebuild a green New Orleans through its sustainable green village and energy efficiency retrofit initiatives.

