

II. Creating The Foundation That Moves Pennsylvania Forward: The Center's Progress Report



II. Creating The Foundation That Moves Pennsylvania Forward: The Center's Progress Report

Effective land use planning today will help to better preserve the quality of life we enjoy here.

Governor Ridge announcing the Growing Smarter Plan, February 2000

The first *Annual Report* issued by the Center in January 2000 made recommendations in four broad categories. These categories reflected the concerns of citizens, and the needs identified by local governments and the development community to address

growth management issues. First, the Center addressed changes to the MPC – not wholesale changes, but changes that focused on specific shortcomings in the law. Next the Center made recommendations to improve education and training initiatives through increased funding. Additional funding was also recommended for technical assistance and financial assistance to encourage local governments to develop multimunicipal comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. Finally, the Center recommended that state agencies continue working to identify programs and policies that affect land use and

Figure 2

The Center's Progress Report Based on Recommendations from 1st ANNUAL REPORT ON LAND USE – Issued January 2000

	1999 RECOMMENDATIONS	2000 RESULTS
	1. CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE	
✓	• Locally designated growth areas	Act 67 of 2000
✓	• Multimunicipal transferable development rights	Act 67 of 2000
✓	• Reform curative amendment process	Act 127 of 2000 (Partial relief granted)
✓	• Promote general consistency	Act 68 of 2000
	2. LAND USE EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
✓	• Develop and deliver a state-wide program	Growing Smarter courses to be offered beginning Spring 2001 by PA State Assoc. of Boroughs and PA State Assoc. of Township Supervisors
✓	• Develop an inventory of educational opportunities	Available on Center's web site
	3. PLANNING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT	
✓	• Increase funds and technical support for planning	\$2.6 million for Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) + \$1 million for technical assistance in FY 2000-2001
	4. AGENCY PROGRAM REVIEWS	
✓	• Submit Interagency Supplementary Report	Issued August 2000

planning and issue a *Supplementary Report* making additional recommendations specifically for agency program and policy development.

In this report, the Center takes an important look back at the strong foundation for responsible land use planning that the Growing Smarter Initiative has created. The four recommendations from last year provide the backdrop for the Center's Progress Report and this discussion (Figure 2). The Progress Report captures the results achieved by the Center as a whole, and provides the framework from which we begin to move forward. All of the Center's accomplishments are summarized in Appendix A.

1. Changes to the Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968

This is a uniquely Pennsylvanian plan crafted by Pennsylvanians and tailored to the unique land use needs of our 67 counties and 2,568 municipalities.

Governor Ridge on the passing of Growing Smarter Land Use Legislation, June 2000

The Legislature has been working on land use reform since the early 1990s. Various bills on land use were introduced and amended but the significant changes to the MPC came with passage of Acts 67, 68 and 127 of 2000. Together,

these Acts give statutory meaning to many of the principles of sound land use contained in the Commonwealth's land use policy set by Governor Ridge in Executive Order 1999-1.

The Legislature adopted provisions allowing for designated growth areas, for inter-municipal transfer of development rights outside of joint zoning ordinances and to strengthen the process by which general consistency among local and county comprehensive plans can be achieved.

Looking beyond local planning initiatives, the Legislature added provisions requiring state agencies to consider the impact of their actions on local planning and zoning in certain circumstances. To support these changes in the law, the role of the Center was statutorily expanded.

A. The Center

The amendments to the MPC confer statutory responsibility on the Center to further the Commonwealth's land use policy. Under these amendments, the Center is responsible for providing priority funding for planning to municipalities that strive for general consistency between their comprehensive plan, the county comprehensive plan and their zoning ordinance. The Center is required to work with municipalities, when requested to assess the impact of a state agency decision upon local planning and zoning. The Center is also required to report every five years on land use and growth management.

The first report will be delivered in 2005.

B. State Agencies

The amendments to the MPC also give direction to state agencies when involved in reviewing applications for funding or permitting of infrastructure or facilities. Where there is general consistency between a municipal, county or multimunicipal comprehensive plan and a zoning ordinance, an agency must consider and may rely on those comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances in their decision-making process. These amendments also authorize state agencies to give priority consideration for financial or technical assistance to projects that are generally consistent with a county or multimunicipal comprehensive plan.

As the opportunities created by these amendments are realized, the Center expects municipal and multimunicipal planning to become increasingly important to residents, businesses and developers. To support this shift, the Center focuses attention on the Action Plan – a plan designed to build upon an established foundation for education, training and technical and financial assistance.

2. The Center's Growing Smarter Action Plan

In the Center's first *Annual Report*, the subjects of education and training and technical and financial assistance

were treated separately. The Center's recommendations focused first on increased funding to provide a statewide education initiative, and then increased funding and technical assistance to encourage more planning by local governments.

The outreach efforts in 2000 made clear that these two recommendations are inextricably connected. Moreover, it became clear that action on these recommendations was not possible without strong public outreach. Providing a constant source of information to the Center's constituency therefore became the cornerstone of the Center's Action Plan (Figure 3).

We have more work to do, but I am confident that by working together, we can effectively meet our land use challenges.

Governor Ridge on the passing of Growing Smarter Land Use Legislation, June 2000

Responding favorably to the specific recommendations to provide a statewide sound land use education initiative and for planning support in the Center's first *Annual Report*, Governor Ridge delivered a budget directive at more than twice the Center's original budget allocation for planning assistance. In turn, the Center's Action Plan includes four components designed to: reach out to stakeholders; provide education and training programs; provide technical assistance; and

continue to provide financial assistance for local planning initiatives that uphold the Commonwealth's land use policy. These components of the Action Plan are directly consistent with the intentions expressed in the recommendations for increased funding.

To round out the Action Plan, the Center added a fifth component – agency coordination, to bring the full complement of the Governor's Growing Smarter Initiative into the Center's fold. By including the cooperative support of the Interagency Team, and building on the work of the Interagency Team members outlined in the agency implementation plans (discussed in

section 3), the Center's programming benefits from coordinated agency efforts.

A. Outreach

Thanks to Growing Smarter, more Pennsylvania communities and businesses are talking about how to promote effective land use.

Lt. Governor Mark Schweiker at Local Government Advisory Committee meeting, December 2000

In 2000, the largest component of the Center's outreach program was the Growing Smarter Forums. Similar to the forums held in Summer 1999, these forums conducted in Fall 2000 provided an opportunity to report on the progress made by the Center, as a whole, in response to Executive Order 1999-1. Nearly 1,400 Pennsylvanians attended. These forums also allowed the Center to discuss the opportunities for planning created in the amendments to the MPC, and to explain the new Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP).

Those who attended the 2000 forums shared their thoughts, ideas and opinions about sound land use. The Center heard enthusiasm for multimunicipal planning, achieving consistency at all levels of government, and utilizing the new tools provided for in the MPC. But, farming issues still are a concern of many, as are the cost of development

Figure 3

The Center's Growing Smarter Action Plan

- **Outreach**
Pennsylvania Growing Smarter: Land Use in PA Conference
- **Education and Training**
Local Officials
State Agencies
Professional Planners
Solicitors
- **Technical Assistance and Support**
Center Planning Staff
County Planning Agencies
Peer-to-Peer Program
- **Financial Assistance: LUPTAP**
- **Agency Coordination**
Interagency Team on Land Use

and the need to improve the curative amendment process. The number of questions about impact fees and transferable development rights, the expanded forestry, agriculture, mining and public utility provisions in the MPC, and how state agencies plan to incorporate local planning and zoning into their decision making processes, emphasize the need for continued programming and outreach.



As a measured response, the Center is planning a statewide conference on land use planning. The *Pennsylvania Growing Smarter: Land Use in PA Conference* is scheduled for March 2001 and includes an important post conference training day designed to provide technical training for professional planners. This conference brings together noted speakers to talk about integrating the concepts of growth management, responsible land use planning and economic development.

The goals the Center has established for the conference are important to our continuing dialogue with our stakeholders. First, the Center expects this conference to be a communication tool to further promote the importance of

and need for land use planning. Next, the conference should yield practical solutions for those municipalities and regions adopting Pennsylvania's land use policy as their own. Third, the conference will offer participants a forum for the exchange of information on planning efforts underway in Pennsylvania, and in other states. Finally, a special "Green Communities" track sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will help community leaders to incorporate environmental planning techniques into local planning.

B. Education and Training

The second component to the Center's Action Plan is the education and training program. This component builds on the recommendation for increased funding to provide a statewide land use educational initiative proposed in the first *Annual Report*.

The goal of this component is to enhance the Center's existing curriculum by offering new courses to local government officials through established partnerships with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS). The Center is proud to partner with PSAB and PSATS and draw on their understanding of planning and growth issues to develop, promote, and conduct these new courses. The Center will be offering this enhanced, quality programming to local government officials beginning in Spring 2001.



The courses to be offered by PSAB are directed primarily at economic development and downtown revitalization efforts as alternatives to sprawl. The courses PSATS will offer focus on best practices, advanced planning and preservation and conservation. Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will supplement these topics with a seminar developed to cover planning and zoning for historic preservation.

While the Center's primary audience for education and training programs is local government officials, other groups such as professional planners, municipal solicitors, elected officials and state agency personnel also benefit from Center programs. Professional planners are the target audience for the *Pennsylvania Growing Smarter: Land Use in PA* post-conference workshop. This workshop, a cooperative effort between the Center, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Natural Lands Trust, will teach planners how to conduct ordinance assessments and how to

write subdivision and land development ordinances to incorporate Growing Greener: Conservation by Design techniques. As a key component of the Center's education and training initiative, the Center will look for opportunities beyond the March conference to offer this workshop.

Next, municipal solicitors and elected officials will benefit from a comprehensive two-day training workshop being developed through the Center's partnership with PSATS and Penn State's Dickinson School of Law. When established this program will be a part of a new Land Use Institute at Dickinson School of Law. The Institute's programming is being developed to include workshops on a variety of land use issues including best practices, intergovernmental cooperation, multimunicipal planning and zoning. These workshops will provide first-hand accounts of how the MPC and certain planning tools work. The Institute's curriculum will be expanded to include one-day regional seminars.

Finally, state agency personnel will benefit from a program designed by the Center to complement agency training programs for their employees on new policies. At the request of a state agency, Center staff offer a basic training program on the MPC and planning concepts. The Center developed this program in response to recommendations in the *Supplementary Report*.

As part of the Action Plan, the Center committed to provide educational and

training programs on current topics. This commitment includes an effort by the Center to provide additional training courses on the MPC similar to those conducted in late Summer 2000.

C. Technical Assistance and Support

The Governor's response to the Center's recommendation for an increase in funding for planning staff for technical assistance programs was positive. Funding for planning assistance more than doubled in the last year allowing the Center to increase planning staff. This action is consistent with the intentions expressed in the recommendations of the first *Annual Report*.

The changes to the MPC have expanded the Center's role for providing expert technical assistance. Today, the Center's additional staff provide technical assistance to local officials and communities. The Center also offers technical assistance through our peer-to-peer program. The peer-to-peer program matches experienced municipal and county professionals with communities in need of planning assistance and expertise.

As state agencies continue to explore their new requirements under the MPC, and county planning agencies continue to develop their role to support municipal planning, requests for technical assistance are expected to increase. To respond appropriately, the Center's Action Plan contains a component focused directly on communication and collaborative partnerships.

The Center recognizes county planning agencies as a primary resource with staff, expertise and tools to provide technical assistance support to their municipalities. One facet of the Action Plan includes using the resources of county planning agencies to assist in responding to requests for technical assistance. To be successful, shared knowledge and expertise will be critical to facilitate this process.

To generate support for this kind of program, the Center hosted a statewide meeting of all county planning directors in September 2000. Sixty of 67 counties across the Commonwealth participated in the program. The Center and county planning agencies agreed to coordinate and work together to provide technical assistance to municipalities. As a result, the Center will be better able to discern the needs of county and municipal planners and then develop the programs to meet these needs. In the end, both the Center and the county planning officials believe this collaborative effort will promote communication among municipalities and with the county planning agencies.

Given the successful dialogue initiated at this meeting, the Action Plan includes meetings twice yearly with the county planning directors.

D. Financial Assistance: Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP)

The final component of the Center's Action Plan is the Land Use Planning

and Technical Assistance Program. LUPTAP provides matching grants for municipalities preparing to develop and strengthen community planning and management capabilities. The Center included this program as part of the overall Planning Assistance and Support Recommendation in the first *Annual Report* and was specific in the recommendation: more is needed to meet the demand of those local governments willing to plan.

In July 2000 the Center published guidelines for LUPTAP. These guidelines incorporate the principles of the Land Use Executive Order and the changes to the MPC. The guidelines make clear that priority consideration for funding is given to municipalities that incorporate multimunicipal approaches into their planning efforts. Similarly, those municipalities that strive for general consistency between their comprehensive plan, the county comprehensive plan and local zoning ordinances also receive priority consideration.

LUPTAP funding is one of the Center's most important support programs. It allows municipalities to use funds to develop new or update existing comprehensive plans or individual components of a plan. It also allows municipalities to prepare strategies or special studies that will support the comprehensive planning process. LUPTAP funds can also be used to develop or update zoning or subdivision and land development ordinances, or to utilize advanced technology, such as GIS. Municipalities are permitted to use

up to \$1,000 of the funding received toward educational programs on planning issues for local officials.

The success of LUPTAP was evident in the first five months of the program. During that time, the Center received 43 requests involving 320 municipalities and totaling approximately \$1.3 million.

3. Agency Program Reviews

Executive Order 1999-1 requires the Center to assist state agencies with identifying policies which will advance the Commonwealth's land use objectives. In response, the final recommendation the Center made in the first *Annual Report* was for state agencies to review programs and policies that impact land use, and submit a *Supplementary Report* to the Center's first *Annual Report* in August 2000. With the cooperation of the Interagency Team, the Center delivered the *Interagency Land Use Team Supplementary Report to the Annual Report on Land Use* to the Governor as recommended.

The Interagency Team's comprehensive review of state programs and policies was designed to determine what, if any, impact state agency decision-making has on land use planning for local municipalities. The Interagency Team concluded that decisions made at the state level concerning funding, permitting, planning and licensing programs can impact land use. More importantly, the Interagency Team concluded that agency programs

and policies to a large extent already incorporate elements of Executive Order 1999-1, or could be easily tailored to do so.

Based on this information, the Center established four primary recommendations to these agencies. Each recommendation in the *Supplementary Report* encourages state agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to further incorporate the Commonwealth's land use policy into their programs and policies. The recommendations relate specifically to:

- managing state-owned properties;
- supporting the Center in outreach, education and technical assistance activities;
- considering local land use plans and zoning ordinances in agency decision making; and
- working toward the preservation of Pennsylvania's farmland, open space, greenways, natural areas and resources and historic areas.

The *Supplementary Report* asks state agencies to develop implementation plans to integrate the Center's recommendations into agency programming and policy. As part of these plans, each agency was to include an educational component and a process for incorporating local land use planning into agency decision-making. In November 2000, twelve agencies* submitted their implementation plans to the Center promoting sound

land use planning and practices and incorporating, where possible, the Commonwealth's land use policy and the MPC provisions into the agency decision-making processes. This is an important first step in moving state agencies toward a consistent and coordinated approach in their decision-making criteria.

A.State Agency Implementation Plans

We want all state agencies to work together to make sure that Pennsylvania – now more than ever – is Growing Smarter.

Governor Ridge directing all state programs and policies to support Growing Smarter, August 2000

Although the Agency Implementation Plans have many common threads, the approach of each agency's plan is as diverse as the agencies themselves. The agencies' plans included educational components as well as processes for

* Implementation plans were received from the following agencies: Department of Agriculture, Department of Community and Economic Development, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Education, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of General Services, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Public Utility Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The Governor's Center also received letters from the Departments of Revenue and Labor and Industry acknowledging the importance of the Commonwealth's land use policy contained in Executive Order 1999-1 while maintaining their review of policies and procedures showed no or minimal impact on land use.

incorporating local land use planning into agency decision-making. Many of the agencies have or will modify program guidelines for permitting or funding decisions that involve facilities or infrastructure.

The amendments to the MPC capture the importance of this effort requiring agencies to consider land use planning in their permitting and funding decisions, under certain circumstances. After the amendments to the MPC were enacted, several agencies moved quickly to modify their decision-making process to incorporate considerations of local land use planning and zoning into permitting and funding decisions. The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and DEP were among the first to modify their decision-making processes.

PENNVEST will only approve projects that are consistent with local planning or zoning. Its review process has been modified to include consultation with local planning agencies and county agricultural land preservation agencies in the project planning stages. DEP developed two new policies for considering local land use plans and zoning in its permitting and funding decisions where infrastructure and facilities are involved. DEP is working to finalize those policies after a period of public comment.

Other agencies that made notable process changes include the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). PHFA supplemented its comprehensive process for considering local land use issues by

requiring additional review of projects by senior management when inconsistencies with local land use plans are identified. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is modifying its transportation and planning processes to find transportation solutions that incorporate and support local land use planning and zoning, when possible. DCNR has modified its Community Conservation Partnership Program application to require certification that a project is consistent with local planning. The Department of General Services (DGS) will continue to consider local planning and zoning in its decision-making, and promote this practice acting as a real estate agent for most other state agencies.

A few agencies by their very nature incorporate the principles of sound land use into their activities. The mission statements of the Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) are all consistent with Executive Order 1999-1 on Land Use Planning. Finally, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), though not under the Governor's jurisdiction, has adopted a Statement of Policy to formally consider the impact of its decisions upon local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.

Each agency implementation plan clearly recognizes the importance of including considerations of local planning into the decision-making process. The Center

encourages agencies to continue to find ways to further incorporate the principles of Executive Order 1999-1 and Executive Order 1997-6 on Agricultural Lands Preservation in their decision-making and implementation plans.



In the Agricultural Land Preservation Executive Order, the Governor sets forth important land use considerations establishing the preservation of primary agricultural land as the Commonwealth's policy, and prohibits using state funds to convert primary agricultural land to other planned uses when workable alternatives are available. In Executive Order 1999-1 this policy is reiterated and incorporated into the concepts of responsible land use planning. Copies of each Executive Order appear in Appendix B.

Pennsylvania's state agencies have demonstrated their commitment to the Executive Orders. For example, the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and DCNR may grant preferred consideration to projects that are located in areas covered by multimunicipal plans,

designated growth areas, KOZs and brownfields. DEP is incorporating land use into the Growing Greener grants program to support joint watershed and land use planning. DGS has developed draft guidelines to implement provisions in Act 32 of 2000 that encourage state agencies to locate office space in downtown areas. DGS will also conduct customer workshops to educate state agencies and stakeholders on the new requirements, as well as other sound land use practices.

Beyond the important considerations in agency decision-making, the *Supplementary Report* also asks agencies to support the Center by providing strategies for educating staff and stakeholders. These agency education plans are deemed critical to the success of the Growing Smarter Initiative. The Center firmly believes that well-informed state employees are critical if state agencies are to make the best decisions affecting land use in the Commonwealth.

Most agency education plans incorporate workshops, forums and Internet access to information in their educational plans. Programming is aimed primarily at regional staff, policymakers and the personnel who make the initial decisions on permits and funding. These programs, however, are balanced with outreach to stakeholders, including local governments, regional and county planning commissions, attorneys, engineers, developers, business and industry and the public. The Center is encouraged by the commitment expressed in these plans.

The *Supplementary Report* calls for agencies to revise and update their implementation plans on a yearly basis. For 2001, the Center recommends that implementation plans focus on agency actions that support farmland and open space preservation, development in previously developed areas, multimunicipal planning and technical support to local governments. The Center requests that each agency identify the actions the agency is taking to:

- support and promote the preservation of Pennsylvania's farmland, open space, greenways, natural areas and resources and historic areas;
- support development in previously developed areas, such as boroughs and cities, and designated growth areas including brownfields and KOZs;
- support multimunicipal planning; and
- support outreach, education and technical assistance to local governments and other stakeholders.

Agencies should report on the number and type of education efforts undertaken and, whether these efforts will change in 2002. Agencies should also report on how their new land use policies are working and what, if any, modifications have been made to their decision-making process for considering local planning and zoning. The Center will work with the Interagency Team to develop a template for the revised implementation

plans. The revised implementation plans should be delivered to the Center by October 1, 2001.

B. Improving Agency Communication and Coordination

The *Supplementary Report* sets an ambitious agenda for the Interagency Team by making a number of additional recommendations to improve agency communication and coordination. A statewide Planning Assistance Matrix has been created as part of that report's recommendation for tracking planning assistance. All programs providing financial or technical assistance for planning are included in the matrix and can be found in Appendix C. The matrix will be reviewed to determine where improvements can be made. From there, a mechanism to track state planning assistance will be developed by the Interagency Team.

4. Growing Smarter: Agency Activities

While the Center has been developing and promoting our Growing Smarter Action Plan across the Commonwealth, a number of state agencies have been working on initiatives which fall under the umbrella of the Governor's Growing Smarter Initiative and conform to the principles in Executive Order 1999-1. In this section the Center acknowledges the work of the agencies, highlights program successes and commits to continued cooperation in these programs

as part of the Center's Action Plan. A collection of growing smarter examples is found in Appendix D. Each example highlights a different program success by Interagency Team members.

A. Growing Greener

Pennsylvania's Growing Greener legislation was signed into law by Governor Ridge in December 1999 implementing sound land use practices at the state level. This legislation provides nearly \$650 million over five years to the newly-created Environmental Stewardship Fund. This funding directs money to four agencies (DEP, the Department of Agriculture, DCNR and PENNVEST) to protect watersheds, preserve farmland and open space, invest in state parks and community parks and recreation, implement clean water initiatives and reclaim abandoned mines and wells.

Since enacted, Growing Greener has invested \$119 million to bring environmental benefits to every county in the Commonwealth. In addition, by saving nearly 300 farms from development, more than 33,000 acres of open space have been preserved. Growing Greener also supports a \$125 million effort to make state parks even better, and nearly \$80 million in watershed restoration, mine reclamation and well plugging projects. PENNVEST has used Growing Greener funding to provide incentives to communities to develop soundly planned infrastructure projects, and to help economically disadvantaged communities.

With the help of DEP's Growing Greener funds, 4,079 acres of wetlands and 137 miles of riparian buffers are being restored. In addition, 389 miles of streams impacted by acid mine drainage are being cleaned up and 108 miles of stream improvement structures are being built. The program is also supporting 45 new watershed specialist positions at county conservation districts, and reclamation of 3,005 acres of abandoned mine land and the plugging of 472 abandoned oil and gas wells. Growing Greener continues to provide funding for these types of projects and the Center looks forward to promoting these efforts through the Action Plan.

B. Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission

The Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission was established by Executive Order 1998-3 to promote the development of greenways throughout Pennsylvania. The Greenways Partnership Commission advocates greenways as an important asset and land use strategy that can achieve many benefits associated with economic development, resource conservation and quality of life and place. The Commission, co-chaired by the secretaries of DCNR and PennDOT, is made up of 22 members appointed by the Governor, including the Secretary of DEP, and is supported by liaisons from 11 other state agencies and an Advisory Committee of over 120 groups and individuals. Involved in the work of the Commission, the Center helps incorporate the recommendations of the Greenways

Partnership Commission into the work of the Action Plan.

Since 1998, the Commission has conducted extensive outreach to gather input on greenways development. With this information, the Commission reports that it will develop an action plan to provide cohesive and coordinated greenways development in Pennsylvania. The Commission expects to deliver its action plan to the Governor in the Spring of 2001. Once accepted by the Governor, the Center will work to coordinate the Commission's action plan with the Center's programming.

C. Geographic Information System

Executive Order 1999-1 contains a clear directive that DEP develop a statewide geospatial data clearinghouse. In response, the Pennsylvania Geospatial Information Council (PAGIC), of which DEP is a member, has partnered with the Pennsylvania State University to establish a statewide geospatial data clearinghouse called PASDA. The clearinghouse provides for the sharing of common geospatial data among state agencies and local governments.

Now chaired by the Lt. Governor's office, PAGIC's membership is more than 20 strong, including state agency representatives, trade and interest organizations, PSAB, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PaMAGIC). PAGIC and PaMAGIC have been working to

develop standards for county and municipal governments to use in developing consistent local GIS data.

Beyond these efforts, state agencies are working to make the GIS data sets available to aid in land use decision-making at all levels. For example, DEP is purchasing high resolution satellite imagery of Pennsylvania to enhance its existing land cover data. DEP has also made its permitting and compliance information available on the Internet through its eFACTS mapping application. In addition, to facilitate the use of GIS at the local level, DEP is providing GIS software and training grants worth \$30,000 to a number of local groups to enhance planning efforts.

PennDOT uses GIS for planning and maintaining its roadways and bridges and for traffic analysis. PennDOT data can be used by local governments to aid in municipal and multimunicipal land use decisions. PEMA is collecting data to facilitate comprehensive planning for hazard mitigation for all levels of government.

5. Technology

The *Supplementary Report* calls for the Center to develop an information, communication and coordination strategy to coordinate state agency efforts on land use. This strategy will be integrated with the Center's overall efforts to increase local government use of technology and the Internet by concentrating on three tools: a Growing Smarter Web Site, an electronic communication tool and the

development of an Electronic Land Use Resource Library.

A. Growing Smarter Web Site

In order to provide better resources to the public, county and local governments, the Sound Land Use Advisory Committee, other stakeholders and state agencies, the Center is revising and expanding our land use Web Site. This Web Site is intended to be the land use communication center for the Center and provide immediate access to information related to the Center, our land use programs and resources. When made public in the Spring of 2001, the Web Site will have its own address (URL) and identity, and will be accessible from the state's Web Site at www.state.pa.us or DCED's home page at www.dced.state.pa.us.

B. Electronic Communication Tool

The Interagency Team, the Sound Land Use Advisory Committee and county planning directors communicate frequently with the Center to collaborate and to provide assistance, advice and input on the Center's land use activities. As the Center's need to communicate and coordinate with these groups continues to evolve, an electronic means of communicating with these groups could enhance the rapid exchange of ideas on projects, or support the process for review and comment on materials for publication. The Center is exploring electronic options for improving our communication process.

C. Land Use Electronic Resource Library

The *Supplementary Report* recommends an electronic information tool be developed to provide agencies access to local planning and land use documents. With the amendments to the MPC and the new statutory requirements for state agency action, the development of an electronic information tool to house that information may be appropriate at this time.

An electronic resource library, designed specifically to provide access to local planning information, will assist agencies in meeting the requirements of the MPC. This type of information is not currently available on PASDA or through other state agencies' GIS databases. The electronic resource library may be linked to PASDA and the other GIS data sets maintained by other state agencies. This kind of information also has the potential to support activities related to economic development, the development of model ordinances, and the development of the land use and growth management report.



The Center's efforts to develop an electronic resource library will be

coordinated with PAGIC. A study is being conducted by the Center to determine the feasibility and cost for the development and implementation of an electronic resource library. The study will report the most efficient means of gathering municipal and county comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances and how to make that information accessible to state agencies and stakeholders alike. ■