

Successful Communities Online Toolkit



Western Lands
and Communities

————— *A Joint Venture of the* —————
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Sonoran Institute



A Decade of Working with Local Governments...



- Western Community Stewardship Forum program
- Western Leadership Institute
- Community Energy Futures Institute
- Technical assistance and capacity building

Hallmarks of Successful Communities

- **Develop a broadly shared vision** of future through an inclusive process that engages the diverse interests of the community to foster constructive informed dialogue.
- **Understand their local economy** within the context of the regional, national, and global economies.
- **Understand natural and cultural assets** influence and are affected by population growth and development.
- **Effectively manage growth and change** by using a wide variety of both regulatory and non-regulatory strategies and tools to protect or enhance local assets promoting more sustainable patterns of growth.
- **Value leadership** and cultivate local leaders who can help realize their vision by participation in local civic affairs.

Successful Communities Checklist

- Provide a baseline review for communities that received targeted technical assistance
- Periodic reviews to track progress on meeting a suite of goals related to natural & cultural resource protection and smart growth

Sonoran Institute Successful Communities Check List

Instructions: Complete this survey for both the pre (initial) or post (follow up) interview with each county. Use Y (yes) for policies/ordinances the county has already adopted. Use N (no) when no such policy/ordinance exists. Use IP (in progress) if currently working on. In the Specifics column, include information that describes the policy (e.g. Infill incentives - Y - density bonuses vs to B dual). Also clarify whether the component is associated with policy/plan or ordinance (e.g. Infill incentives - Y - goal in policy, no ordinance). Also include a comment if the county is working on the policy (e.g. Infill incentives - Y - goal in policy, drafting ordinance). If a policy change has been made since Sonoran began working with the county, indicate this by using an asterisk * (e.g. Cultural and NIT values identified and mapped - Y*). Add additional clarifying comments below.

County Name			
Person surveyed			
Contact Information			
Name of Surveyor			
Date of Survey			
	Pre		Post
	Y/N	Specifics	Y/N
Successful Communities Components			
Community Vision			
Community vision adopted that included broad public involvement			
Comprehensive plan land use policies explicitly tied to vision (e.g. policies implemented through development code updates)			
Cultural and Natural Resource Assets			
Cultural and natural resource values identified and mapped within an appropriate regional context			
Open space/ag. land acquisition program (e.g. PDR and full fee)			
TDR district established (pending and receiving)			
Wildlife/endangered species development/subdivision standards (e.g. review ordinance, mitigation standards, cluster ordinance)			
River and wetlands development/subdivision standards (e.g. setbacks, mitigation standards, no build areas)			
Water conservation development/subdivision standards (e.g. landscape standards, water catchment, water use limitations)			
Minimum acre ag/open space zoning (160 acre minimum optimal)			
Right-To-Farm ordinance			
Health & Safety			
Food/drink development standards (e.g. buffer width, no build zone)			
Hillslope development standards (e.g. no build on percent slope, geological study)			
Sewer & water district			
Water quality development standards (e.g. private water system, minimum acreage/cutoff)			
Wildland-urban interface development standards (e.g. design guidelines, water requirements, vegetation treatment)			
Urban Form			
Road connectivity standards (e.g. no cul de sac)			
Multimodal policies (e.g. trails dedications, sidewalks, TOD)			
Mixed use/compact development policies (e.g. PUD's, zoning districts, incentives, design guidelines)			
Fiscal Responsibility			
Infill incentives (e.g. density bonuses)			
Annexation guidelines			
Urban services/growth boundaries			
Capital facilities plan			
City/County coordination (e.g. joint CIP/Annexation agreements)			
Impact fees (e.g. roads, schools, fire)			
Administrative fees (e.g. building and subdivision permit fees)			
Social Equity			
Affordable housing requirements/incentives (e.g. Inclusionary zoning, downpayment assistance, density bonuses, etc.)			

Additional Notes/Comments:

2009 – Survey of Planning Officials in the West



- Sustainability, smart growth, and adaptation & mitigation for climate change – what do planners need?
 - Case studies – from peer communities in the Intermountain West that are relevant to their environmental, capacity, and political challenges

SCOTie

- Organized by “typology”
 - Urban
 - Amenity
 - Rural
- Primarily examples from the Intermountain West
- Category search
- State/regional search
- Community search



SCOTie Test Drive...



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Photo by Colin Gregory Palmer Grey

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