Guiding Principles – Resources, Tools & Model Programs

Principle: Economic Vitality

Economic Development & Financing Corporation: EDFC is a non-profit, tax-exempt Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) founded in 1995 that engages in economic development activity in Mendocino and Lake Counties. EDFC obtained official certification as a CDFI in September 2013. EDFC focuses on providing gap financing and acting as a lender-of-last-resort for small business, incubating economic development projects, and coordinating economic development activity for Mendocino County.
Link: http://edfc.org/

Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) Program. A program that provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses and helps fund distance learning networks and employment related adult education programs.   Grants are in the amount of $10,000 to $50,000 (higher priority for smaller projects).
Link: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_redlg.html

Sustainable Northwest: Forest-Based Sustainable Rural Development in the Dry Forest Zone. A **model** program to create multiple value streams that support sustainable forest stewardship by developing integrated woody biomass utilization and renewable energy infrastructure, building community, business, and organizational capacity to grow and replicate results, and influencing policy to create the conditions for success.
 Link: http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/what-we-do/programs/dry-forest-zone-restoration

Principle: Natural Resource Conservation

King County (WA) Forestry Services -Technical Assistance Program. A **model** program that provides free assistance to forestland property owners and other interested individuals on growing a healthy forest, timber enhancement, improvement of wildlife habitat, and protection of water resources.
Link: http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/forestry/landownerhelp.aspx

Sustainable Forestry Revolving Loan Fund. A **model** program that provides loans primarily for bridge financing to enable the expansion of small businesses. The financing mechanism has recently become a valuable tool for implementing environmental objectives like land conservation and non-point source pollution control. The interest and principal payments on old loans are used to issue new loans.
Link: http://www.pinchot.org/gp/SFRLF

Principle: Focused Development

National Association of Realtors Community Preference Survey. The 2013 Community Preference Survey explores Americans' wants regarding neighborhood characteristics such as proximity to parks and shopping, walkability, and commuting time, and the trade-offs in home type and size that people may be willing to accept in order to obtain those neighborhood preferences.
Link: http://www.realtor.org/reports/nar-2013-community-preference-survey

Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Rural Planning, Zoning, and Development Codes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has published a guide for local governments who want to implement critical changes to their code to allow and encourage smart growth development. It identifies the most common code and ordinance barriers and suggests implementation steps to overcome these barriers. It is organized around ten strategies that address key issues faced by rural communities. It emphasizes smart growth policy options that can be implemented by rural communities with limited resources.
Link: http://www.epa.gov/dced/pdf/rural_essential_fixes_508_030612.pdf

Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities, Smart Growth Network. This publication focuses on how smart growth strategies can be applied in rural areas to guide growth, protect land and preserving the rural character of existing communities. These strategies are based around three goals: 1) create an economy that protects working lands and conserves natural lands; 2) help existing places to thrive by taking care of assets and investments such as downtowns, Main Streets and existing infrastructure; and 3) create great new places by building vibrant, enduring neighborhoods and communities.
Link:
http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/301483/Putting_Smart_Growth_to_Work_in_Rural_Communities

Principle: Transportation Choices

Local Government Commission Training. LGC, a non-profit organization, offers a number of services, including presentations, trainings for elected officials and staff, and public forum facilitation on multiple topics, including several related to transportation choices such as safe routes to schools and bicycle and pedestrian safety and design.
Link: http://www.lgc.org/what-we-do/services

National Complete Streets Coalition: Complete Streets A-Z. In response to frequent requests from Complete Streets supporters, the Coalition has developed materials for communities at every stage in the Complete Streets process. Resources include presentations, fact sheets, policy workbooks, model legislation, and recommended implementation steps.
Link: http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets/a-to-z

Principle: Adequate Housing Supply

California Department of Housing and Community Development: Local Housing Trust Fund. A program to help finance local housing trust funds dedicated to the creation or preservation of affordable housing.
Link: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/ahif/lhtf.html

California Department of Housing and Community Development: Building Blocks for Effective Housing Elements. Technical assistance resources to assist local governments in adopting housing elements that effectively address housing needs, the specific requirements of State law and in furtherance of local goals and objectives.
Link: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/housing_element2/index.php

Environmental Protection Agency: Smart Growth & Affordable Housing. Information and resources on smart growth and affordable housing. Resource topics include location efficiency, green building practices, and transportation and housing connection.
Link: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/topics/ah.htm

Principle: Community Character and Design

Local Government Commission Training. LGC, a non-profit organization, offers a number of services related to community character, including community design charrettes, policy development assistance and tours of livable communities. Topics include infill development and compact mixed use development.
Link: http://www.lgc.org/what-we-do/services

Institute for Local Government: Land Use & Community Design. A resource for sustainability best practices and case studies in the area of land use and community design.
Link: http://www.ca-ilg.org/land-use-community-design

The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (HUD, DOT, EPA, and USDA) – Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities works to coordinate federal housing, transportation, water, and other infrastructure investments to make neighborhoods more prosperous, allow people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce pollution. They provide tools and resources for local communities. Periodic grant programs are also available through the individual partner agencies.
Link: http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/grants.html

Principle: Plan for Future Infrastructure

Institute for Local Government: Water & Wastewater Systems. A resource for sustainability best practices and case studies in the area of water and wastewater systems.
Link: http://www.ca-ilg.org/water-wastewater-systems

Institute for Local Government: Renewable Energy & Low Carbon Fuels. A resource for sustainability best practices and case studies in the area of renewable energy infrastructure, including zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and wastewater systems.
Link: http://www.ca-ilg.org/RenewableResources

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County: The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County was founded by Mendocino County government, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, the Economic Development & Financing Corporation of Mendocino County, and the Mendocino Coast Broadband Alliance. The Alliance has been endorsed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office, Planning & Building Services, Office of Emergency Services, Office of Education, and Library District. The mission of the alliance is to ensure that the county's citizens have affordable universal broadband access to support economic vitality, ensure health and safety and access educational opportunities.
Link: http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/

The Technology Transfer Program. The Technology Transfer Program, a division of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, is the California transportation community's source for professional training, expert assistance, and information resources. Trainings are offered for local agency personnel both in person and online. Topics range from pavement construction, bicycle facility design, and traffic flow to air quality conformance.
Link: http://www.techtransfer.berkeley.edu/

Principle: Local Food System

Mendocino County Food Policy Council. The Mendocino County Food Policy Council's mission is to collaborate with farmers, food producers, institutions, businesses, and the public at large to create a sustainable local food system that reduces hunger, increases health and expands economic vitality. The Council has produced the Mendocino County Food Action Plan which lays out goals and actions to enhance the local food systems.
Link: www.mendocinofood.org

Mendocino Gardens Project: The Gardens Project of North Coast Opportunities' Community Action Agency is the coordinating agency for The Gardens Network and facilitates the development of community-supported gardens throughout Mendocino County. They facilitate the development of community supported and school gardens based on a community ownership model and coordinate a continuously expanding network of community and school gardens throughout Mendocino County.
Link: http://www.gardensproject.org/

Mendocino County's Local Food Guide: A virtual guide to Mendocino County's locally grown, crafted, traded and sold food. Find information on about local food efforts like community gardens, food banks, and farmers markets. The site also provides helpful gardening guides for growing your own food.
Link: http://www.mendocinolocalfood.org/