

**Feedback Session 2: Sustainable Growth**  
**September 7, 8:30-10:00 a.m., Ballroom 2**

**Facilitator:** Kelly Rimer, U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

**Discussion Topic:** What types of technical and policy support would encourage States and others to include land use planning, smart growth and other sustainable practices in their air quality plans?

**Background:**

A growing number of communities are using the principles of sustainable development in helping to develop in ways that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The 1987 report of the United Nation's World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled "Our Common Future" helped to define sustainability in terms that are today referred to as the three legs of the sustainability stool, or the "triple bottom line": ecology/environment, economy/employment, equity/equality. Activities and measures, such as planning for walkable communities, the use of high-density, mixed-use development, increased use of public transit, industrial ecology, energy management and conservation, all fall under the umbrella of "sustainable development". These measures will help improve our air quality, and yield other environmental, economic and social benefits as well; yet the benefits are difficult to quantify, and some may take a long time to occur. It is difficult to factor these efforts into air quality plans with near-term deadlines.

**Specific Questions for Discussion:**

1. How can EPA better enable local communities or States to incorporate sustainable development measures into air quality management planning?
2. What new air quality policies or changes to existing policies are needed in order to facilitate more sustainable development efforts? Would this provide sufficient motivation for communities to take on sustainable development efforts?
3. What kind of support or tools could EPA provide to facilitate your agency adopting sustainability programs (e.g., visioning, education, outreach, permitting streamlining, benefits projections, model ordinances, emission credit schemas)?
4. Those of you with integrated "sustainability," "smart growth," or other programs—what kind of advice do you have for other communities considering such programs?