Restoring Prosperity

State, Regional and Municipal
Growth Policies, Practices & Trends
March 2008
Responsible Growth is economic, social and environmental development that uses land and resources in ways that enhance the long-term quality of life for Connecticut’s current and future generations. Responsible growth supports a vibrant and resilient economy and preserves the natural resources upon both of which that quality of life depends. Responsible growth maximizes previous investments in existing infrastructure while preserving distinctive landscapes, historic structures, landmarks and villages.

Responsible growth requires leadership and governance of the highest caliber to prioritize public decisions in a manner that maximizes the long-term benefits to the state’s residents and communities. It demands a collaborative approach to analysis, decision-making and evaluation between and among all levels of government to ensure consistency with integrated local, regional and state-wide vision, plans, and strategies.

Where we’ve developed, historically

Percent developed land, 2002, by town

Source: Center for Land Use Education and Research
Where we’ve developed, recently ("hot spots")

Percent increase in developed land, 1985 – 2002, by town
Every gallon of gasoline we burn produces 20 pounds of CO2.
CONNECUT TAXPAYER'S DOLLAR IN 2006-07

PROPERTY TAXES 39%
PERSONAL INCOME TAX 33%
SALES TAXES 18%
CORPORATION INCOME TAX 4%
OTHER TAXES 6%

Sources: The State Office of Policy and Management and State Comptroller
It’s time to end the futile competition between towns.
What can we do?

1. Cooperate across town boundaries.

2. Reduce our reliance on property taxes for government services.

3. Coordinate economic development, housing, and transportation programs.
Two Policy Streams

1. Give towns incentives to encourage smart growth.

2. Reduce our reliance on the property tax.
Goals

• Reduce inter-municipal competition for growth;
• Increase consistency of local, regional and state plans for conservation and development;
• Align zoning regulations with plans;
• Encourage mixed use, compact, affordable communities;
• Encourage cities and towns to adopt best practices in planning and decision making.
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