

Best Practices Report

What is it?

PURPOSE

- Describes innovative programs and policies implemented by public and private entities throughout the nation.
- The programs address several topic areas, including:
 - Economic Development
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Environment
 - Community Health
 - Coastal Resiliency
- Some of the innovative projects studied include:
 - Louisville, Kentucky's *Wholesome Wave* program, which supplies high-need public schools with fresh produce from local farms.
 - The *Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast*, which outlines strategies that will protect and restore the economic and environmental health of the state's coastal lands.
 - The Atlanta BeltLine, a 22-mile rails-to-trails project that links 45 city neighborhoods.
 - Harris County's Low-Impact Development (LID) Design Guidelines, which encourage developers to use environmentally-sensitive stormwater techniques to manage stormwater runoff.
- Model programs are described in detail within the report and summarized within the Best Practices Report
 - The Best Practices Report lists:
 - Possible solutions to important local issues;
 - Exemplary programs from other areas; and
 - Lessons that can be learned from communities already implementing these programs.

How will it be used?

- Provides stakeholders with model policies that can be used to address local issues that are negatively impacting residents' quality-of-life.
- These model policies may be adapted to:
 - Meet local needs and preferences; and
 - Achieve the goals of *Our Great Region 2040*
- Many of the programs can be implemented by public agencies or private organizations.

Best Practices Report

- Local decision makers can learn from the accomplishments and shortcomings of existing policies to build successful programs.

How does it relate to Our Great Region 2040?

- The strategies recommended by *Our Great Region 2040* may not address every issue a community may face. This report is an additional resource decision makers may use to confront issues not addressed by strategies within the plan, but related to local sustainability and quality-of-life.

How was the document developed?

- Over several months, H-GAC staff researched programs that have been successfully implemented in other areas to address issues faced by rural, suburban, urban, and coastal communities.