

RealsSMART

The League for Real Smart Growth

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Individual Membership: \$10 Family Membership: \$25

68 S. Main St. Phillipsburg, NJ Phone & Fax: 908-454-4141



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THE PROBLEM

The loss of topsoil/farmland due to erosion and development ranks among the world's most serious environmental problems. Many people have heard of global warming and overpopulation but not enough about the ever worsening environmental challenge of the loss of top soil, often due to unwise land use practices. Around the world, topsoil, vital to life on earth, is allowed to blow away in the wind or flow away as it rains. Too often agricultural lands are not being managed to sustain an ever growing population of humans in New Jersey and around the world that must be fed or threatened with starvation.

ACT LOCALLY

Recognizing the high quality soils on our area farms and taking steps towards keeping these acres available for agriculture is something we must do to counter the global loss of top soils and agricultural lands. Viable alternatives exist to save our New Jersey farms.

Let's consider, that in the global economy, farmland is key to niche market agribusiness and economic success. It can create many jobs in the agricultural industry. Consider the Champagne region of France or the Parmigiana area of Italy which derives a good part of its wealth from niche markets which its agricultural lands make possible (i.e., the champagne beverage, and parmigiana cheese).

The loss of farmland in our area to development results in the permanent loss of the economic potential of the land and replaces it with ugly, wasteful sprawl. The "quality of life" enhancements that emerge from RealSMART growth in our cities (or on already developed lands) and not on our farms are:

- Reduce greenhouse gases which cause Global Warming
- Pedestrian-friendly centers
- Readily available and reliable mass transit
- No expansions of infrastructure (sewer, water, and roads) onto agricultural lands
- Greater neighborhood density so those that choose can thrive without a car

This alternative plan avoids the crippling costs we pay as taxpayers to provide more roads and other infrastructure to larger lot subdivisions (e.g., 1-5 acre lots) built out of the city core. Public costs consequently are lower overall and public spending can be redirected to "quality of life" enhancements such as education, art and parks. This is why we formed RealSMART.

WHAT IS RealSMART?

No more houses on farmland. No more developments where a car is required. Builders and developers have captured and manipulated the "smart growth" language with concepts such as "clustering" of houses on just a part of the farmland. RealSMART wants to recapture and redefine "smart growth."

JOIN US

Our mission is to form a league of like-minded individuals and organizations that agree new growth should occur only on previously developed lands, not on our farmland. We ask that you consider joining RealSMART, the League for Real Smart Growth.

Humankind — despite its artistic pretensions, its sophistication, and its many accomplishments — owes its existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.

Source unknown