



## Plan NH Merit Awards of Excellence Program 2013

Plan NH believes that what we build, where we build, and how we build have an influence on the health and vibrancy of a community

Our mission is to raise awareness of that link – within those professionals in the building industries, and within the communities themselves.

We do so by championing Smart Growth and Livability Principles, Social Responsibility, and creative approaches to collaboration and cooperation.

One way we do that is by showcasing **outstanding** projects that reflect the mission and spirit of Plan New Hampshire.

**Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 Merit Awards of Excellence Program.**

Do you know of, or have you worked on yourself, a project here in New Hampshire (completed since 2008) that embodies Smart Growth/Livability Principles, Social Responsibility, and/or creative approaches to cooperation and collaboration?

Has this project had a positive impact on the social, economic or environmental (including health) fabric of the community?

Is this an *exceptional* project that merits recognition?

If so, we invite you to submit a nomination.

Projects must be located in NH and have been completed since 2008. Although design is important, selection will be based on the project's fulfillment of the Mission of Plan NH and how it addresses the questions listed above.

### ***Selection and Awards***

Award selection is made by a jury comprised of Plan NH members representing the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, planning, construction and/or others.

**Nominations are due March 4, 2013.** Awardees will be notified shortly thereafter, and recognized at an Awards dinner to be held at the end of March or beginning of April. OWNERS will receive an award; key team members will receive certificates of recognition.



## **2013 Merit Awards Nomination Information**

*Thank you for nominating a project for consideration for the 2013 Merit Awards.*

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This is not a contest with a set number of winners or a competition to showcase architectural / site design. We will recognize the outstanding projects which best address the questions below.

***This year, we will experiment with electronic submissions only.***

***Please submit your application materials (except photos) in a one-file, PDF format.***

***Please submit photos (no more than 5) at the same time in 300 dpi jpg format.***

***You may use Drop Box or You Send It.***

***Send to [info@plannh.org](mailto:info@plannh.org).***

***Nomination submission fees may be paid by check (payable to Plan NH), to arrive also no later than March 4,  
at  
Plan NH 56 Middle Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Portsmouth NH 03801***

***Nominations whose submission fees are not received by March 4 may be ineligible for consideration.***

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Questions? Call the Plan NH offices at 603-452-7526 OR email [info@plannh.org](mailto:info@plannh.org).

Thank you for your interest and support for Plan NH's mission.

## 2013 Merit Awards Nomination

*Please include:*

- Project information sheet as first page inside cover (see form below)

In narrative form, please address/submit:

- Brief overview of project, including a full description of the initial project or challenge and solutions to address the challenge.
- Projects must be located within New Hampshire and completed no earlier than 2008.
- What principles of Smart Growth and/or Livability does this project exemplify? (see page, below)
- In the past, exemplary projects have embodied several of these.
- How does this project demonstrate Social Responsibility and/or creative approaches to collaboration and cooperation?
- What principles / elements of Sustainability or Green Building does the project incorporate?
- The Merit Awards look at projects in terms of Smart Growth/Livability Principles, Social Responsibility / or and creative collaborative approaches – as well as its impact on the social, economic and/or environmental fabric of the community.

Please describe how the building materials were chosen and the construction process carried out in a way that supports the integrity of the overall project in any or all of these considerations.

- What impact has this project had on the social, economic, and/or environmental fabric of the community?
- What makes this project **stand out**?

*Please also include the following::*

- As applicable: site plans, architectural plans, maps, drawings, renderings (as they relate to the criteria above)  
*Reminder: to be included in PDF format, inserted with narrative so that it is all one file.*
- Photographs showing before, during and after project development*  
*No more than 5 - to be submitted as 300 dpi jpgs. Please also note that by doing so, Plan NH has permission to use these and publish them in Press Releases and as part of stories on the Vibrant Villages NH website. Please provide any credits you wish us to include.*
- An application fee of \$200 per submission (\$100 for Plan NH members).  
*Checks may be payable to Plan New Hampshire and sent to*

*Plan NH ~ 56 Middle Street 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ~ Portsmouth NH 03801*

***Must be received no later than March 4, 2013.***



## **2013 Merit Awards Project Information**

*Please complete this page thoroughly and insert it as the first page of your submission. Should your project be chosen to receive a Merit Award, this information will be used for Awards and Press Releases.*

**Your name, company name, address, phone number, email, and relation / role to the project:**

**What is the *official* name of your project?**

**Where is the project located?**

**Who is/are the Owners? (Company name, address, phone number & email)**

**Please list other key team players, their companies, and their roles in the project.**

**In the event the project receives a Merit Award, the *owner* will receive an award and all individuals listed as key team players will receive certificates of recognition.**

### Smart Growth Principles for New Hampshire

(From: New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning)

Smart Growth Principles for New Hampshire can help guide developers and citizens as they work together to create development patterns consistent with community goals and values.

- Principle #1 - [Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns](#) efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure;
- Principle #2 - [Foster the traditional character of New Hampshire](#) downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging a human scale of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life;
- Principle #3 - [Incorporate a mix of uses](#) to provide a variety of housing, employment, shopping, services, and social opportunities for all members of the community;
- Principle #4 - [Preserve New Hampshire's working landscape](#) by sustaining farm and forest land and other rural resource lands to maintain contiguous tracts of open land and to minimize land use conflicts;
- Principle #5 - [Provide choices and safety in transportation](#) to create livable, walkable communities that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motor vehicles;
- Principle #6 - [Protect environmental quality](#) by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in New Hampshire;
- Principle #7 - [Involve the community](#) in planning and implementation to ensure that development retains and enhances the sense of place, traditions, goals, and values of the local community; and
- Principle #8 - [Manage growth locally](#) in the New Hampshire tradition, but work with neighboring towns to achieve common goals and address common problems more effectively.

### Livability Principles

(adapted from those developed by the Granite State Future project)

- **Provide transportation and travel choices**  
Develop safe, reliable and economical means of travel for all to access jobs, education, food, medical services and social connections – in order to equitably decrease household transportation costs, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve our air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improve public health and well-being.
- **Promote equitable, affordable places to live**  
Expand location- and energy-efficient choices of where to live for people of all ages, incomes and levels of mobility – in order to lower the combined costs of where one lives with how one travels as well as to increase access to jobs, education, healthy food, medical services and more.
- **Enhance economic vitality**  
Improve access to employment and education opportunities, services and other basic needs of the workforce as well as expanded resources for businesses including key technology and communications infrastructures, freight options, appealing communities for workers to live in, more.

- **Support existing communities**  
Fund existing communities and their revitalization through strategies such as transit-oriented development, mixed-use projects and land recycling – in order to improve infrastructure investments and to safeguard rural landscapes.
- **Coordinate policies and leverage investment**  
Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration in order to leverage funding and increase accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for growth, especially in infrastructure and energy-related issues.
- **Value communities and neighborhoods**  
No matter the size of the community, its town center, or a specific neighborhood, preserve and enhance its unique identity by investing in making them safe to get around in (whether by foot, bike, in a car) and appealing for all who live, work and/or play there.