

ABOUT SCOTie

The Successful Communities Online Toolkit information exchange (SCOTie) is a database of active model smart growth and resource protection plans and policies from rural, amenity, and urban communities across the West. The information contained within the toolkit is designed to inform planners of best practices from peer western communities to preserve local identity, stimulate a healthy economy, safeguard natural and cultural resources, and empower communities to craft policies that fit their local circumstances. View the SCOTie website at scotie.org or successfulcommunities.org for more information.

SHOWCASE YOUR COMMUNITY

Is your community accomplishing great things? We want to hear about it! We are actively looking for new case studies to highlight in SCOTie. Submit a case study or notify us of a lead at info@scotie.org.

BECOME A PARTNER

Partners play a vital role in SCOTie's success. We are looking for partners to drive users to the website and provide innovative practices. To get more information on partnering with us, please contact Erika Mahoney at [602.393.4310](tel:602.393.4310) ext. 327 or emahoney@sonoraninstitute.org.

Across the West, communities are working hard to find practical ways to be more sustainable and resilient - and succeeding! The Successful Communities Online Toolkit information exchange (SCOTie) is a repository of best practices and resources from model western communities created by Western Lands and Communities, a joint venture of Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Sonoran Institute. At its foundation, SCOTie combines years of planning experience and recognized leadership in capacity building, planning and visioning efforts of the Sonoran Institute with the expertise of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. SCOTie empowers planners and community advocates with tools to make important changes in their communities.

The West has been the fastest growing region in the United States for two decades. Rapid growth has created a need for successful growth management policies and tools across the Intermountain West. SCOTie provides western cities, towns, and counties with clear, focused, and appropriate models for planning and managing rapid growth. Successful models are based on existing plans, ordinances, and policies that have been shown to be effective and include clear steps for implementation. We recognize that not all communities are alike, and that different community types face different challenges. The case studies in SCOTie represent the full spectrum of growth management tools tailored to the unique circumstances of different western communities types.

By showcasing the lessons learned from successful communities and highlighting real life planning policies and processes, peer western communities have an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others to plan and guide growth. Each set of model policies and case studies featured in SCOTie will be targeted at and based on the successes of a particular type of community. The three community types include: urban, amenity, and rural. Each case study is searchable by category, community type, and state. Users can search for practical models based on and linked to actual regulations and implemented plans. Each best practice is accompanied by printable PDF documents and links to resource websites making research straightforward and focused for the end user.



Western Lands and Communities

A Joint Venture of the
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Sonoran Institute

Established in 2003, Western Lands and Communities, a joint venture of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Sonoran Institute, focuses on shaping growth, sustaining cities, protecting resources, and empowering communities in the Intermountain West. We address these challenges through research, tool development, demonstration projects, engaging policy makers, and education.

Western Lands and Communities works to inform policy in the western U.S. through regional land use planning that effectively improves the management of public and state lands, and integrates land-use planning with conservation values, open space networks, transportation, water, and energy infrastructure.

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TOOLKIT FRAMEWORK

SCOTie's framework is based on the Sonoran Institute's "Checklist for Successful Communities." This checklist establishes planning baselines for identifying courses of action that cities, towns, and counties can take to become more successful as well as measure project success.

Visioning

Successful Processes and Adopted Visions

Cultural and Natural Resource Assets

Identified and Mapped Cultural and/or Natural Assets; Open Space/Agricultural Land Acquisition Programs; Cluster Development Policies, Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Protection, River and Wetlands Protection; Water Conservation Policies; Minimum Agricultural/Open Space Zoning; Right-to-Farm & Ranch Ordinances; Urban Agricultural Ordinances, Heritage Protection Plans & Historic Preservation Policies; Transfer of Development Rights Programs; Water Resource Management Plans; Native Plant Ordinances

Health and Safety

Floodplain Development Standards; Hillside/Slope Development Standards; Stormwater Management; Air Quality; Wildland Urban Interface Policies; Watershed Protection Ordinances

Urban Form

Street and Trail Connectivity Standards; Multimodal Transportation Plans; Mixed Use/Compact Development Policies; Planned Unit Developments; Infill Incentives; Urban Forestry; Complete Streets; Parking

Energy

Green Building Codes; Community Energy Plans; Renewable Utility Siting; Energy Efficiency Policies; Green Business; Green Purchasing Program

Regional Cooperation and Infrastructure

Annexation Guidelines; Urban/Service Growth Boundaries/Areas; Capital Investment Plans; City/County Service Coordination Policies; Transportation Coordination Policies

Fiscal Responsibility and Social Equity

Affordable Housing Requirements/Incentives; Park/Open Space Dedications/Requirements; Cost of Services Assessments; Impact Fee Assessments and Policies

Climate Resilience Planning

Urban Heat Island Mitigation Plans; Wildfire Protection Plans; Drought Mitigation Plans; Agricultural Preservation; Risk Adaptation and Management; Climate Action Plans