

**Abstract :**

Over the last twenty years urban geographers and planners have spent a considerable amount of time learning and implementing a variety of techniques to improve urban sustainability in the United States. Smart Growth efforts of the 1990s focused attention on 10 principles that communities should implement in order to become more sustainable. New Urbanism and its focus on neighborhood design and architecture emerged as a major force within the urban planning profession during the early 1990s. Green Buildings, which were originally a byproduct of the energy crisis of the late 1970s, have more recently been the focus of much attention as development attempts to be 'greener'. However, until recently these three ideologies have not been united under one banner. This has changed with the development of a LEED - Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standard. LEED-ND looks to combine Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and Green Building practices into a more holistic approach to planning and developing urban communities.

The purpose of this presentation is threefold. First, this paper will examine the major principles and criticisms of Smart Growth, New Urbanism and Green Buildings. Secondly, an overview of LEED-ND will be discussed and several case studies on LEED-ND projects will be explored. Finally, the spatial distribution and key attributes of LEED-ND projects within the United States will be analyzed in an effort to identify patterns to LEED-ND developments. Through LEED-ND sustainable urbanism may become a major factor in reducing suburban sprawl and creating a greener future for us all.

**Keywords:** sustainable urbanism, LEED-ND, green development