

**Central District Health Department  
Boise, Idaho**

**Environmental Health**

**I. Title:** Smart Growth and Sustainable Development

**Policy No: LD-07-01**

**II. Objective:** To support land development and building decisions that promote improved public health.

**III. Scope:** This document establishes a policy to be conveyed by Central District Health Department (CDHD) staff when providing comment on transportation and land use plans and development projects.

**IV. Policy Statement:** CDHD acknowledges that the built environment has an impact on public health. Several health concerns and chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and asthma, are influenced by environmental conditions. Decisions about zoning, transportation, land use and community design influence the distances people travel to work, the convenience of purchasing healthy foods, and the safety and attractiveness of neighborhoods for walking. Therefore, it is the policy of CDHD to:

- A. Promote consideration of the ten smart growth principles (Environmental Protection Agency, [http://www.epa.gov/dced/about\\_sg.htm](http://www.epa.gov/dced/about_sg.htm), accessed July 2007) in development decisions. They are:
1. Mix land uses
  2. Take advantage of compact building design
  3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
  4. Create walkable neighborhoods
  5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a sense of place
  6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
  7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
  8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
  9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
  10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions
- B. Develop policies for the use of decentralized (onsite) wastewater treatment systems that (1) protect water quality and (2) support smart growth strategies such as clustered residential development. In developing these policies, CDHD recognizes the following positive characteristics of decentralized wastewater treatment systems:

1. They serve approximately 25% of the population of the United States and are used in about one-third of all new housing and commercial development nationwide.
  2. They can recharge local aquifers and provide other water reuse opportunities close to the points of wastewater generation.
  3. They can represent the most cost-effective wastewater treatment option for small communities with low population densities.
- C. Support building design technologies and materials that lessen the dependence on fossil fuels, minimize site disruption, lower water consumption, and reduce the amount of pollutants released during construction and occupation.
- D. Participate in land use and transportation planning throughout the district in order to promote this policy.

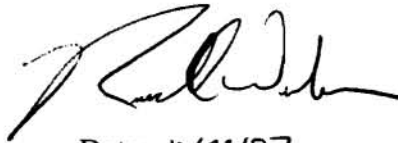
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