

sustainabilityprogram

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PRESERVATION GREEN LAB PARTNER CITY SELECTION CRITERIA

The National Trust for Historic Preservation Green Lab, located in Seattle, develops strategic policies for integrating the recycling and retrofitting of older and historic buildings into city and state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Preservation Green Lab (PGL) will work with selected cities and states around the nation to create innovative sustainable development policy, showcase energy-efficient rehabilitation projects that test and inform policy development, and highlight the significant role that preservation can play in fighting climate change. Cities and states are leading the way on sustainability policy, and the PGL's partnership with selected communities on cutting-edge policy projects to serve as national models will ensure a significant nation-wide impact on building reuse and retrofit.

The PGL's first two policy partnerships are with the cities of Seattle and Dubuque. The City of Seattle is partnering with the PGL on creating a new long-term framework for energy codes that will be based on measured outcomes and flexible approaches to retrofits, rather than rigid prescriptive measures that can be inappropriate and ineffective for older buildings. Dubuque, Iowa is partnering with the PGL to create a policy framework for integrating new district energy systems into neighborhoods of existing and historic buildings with multiple owners. Additional partner cities are currently being evaluated in the context of a number of high-priority policy areas, ranging from green building codes to water issues to smart-growth policies that balance density with preservation of urban neighborhood character.

Future partner cities will be selected according to the following criteria:

- That the PGL and the city are jointly able to identify a **unique, cutting-edge and potentially "game changing" policy initiative** that we wish to collaborate on
- That the policy is one of our (PGL's) top-ranked priorities, based on:
 - relevance and potential long-term impact to building reuse and retrofit outcomes
 - likelihood of success
 - replicability and potential to serve as a national model
- That the city is willing to commit staffing resources to the effort
- That the city is willing to contribute financially to the PGL, and/or help to secure PGL funding from other funding sources such as local non-profits.

In addition to the core criteria above, the PGL will also seek to achieve diversity across its portfolio of selected partner cities by taking the following factors into consideration:

- The desire to have at least one partnership in each NTHP region
- Diversity of geographic/climatic regions
- Diversity of historic/existing resources in terms of architectural styles and prevalent building typologies
- Economic diversity, recognizing that the preservation challenges of rapidly growing and densifying cities (mostly west and east coast) are different from the challenges of some less robust or shrinking economies, such as those in the Northeast and Midwest.
- Diversity in terms of size of community, with particular consideration given to Main Street communities

Partner cities will benefit from resources of the PGL, including assistance with policy formulation and technical consultation for one or more “bricks-and-mortar” demonstration projects that will be selected to challenge and test the new policy initiatives. Partner cities and demonstration projects alike will benefit from the visibility of the PGL’s efforts at the national level and among the NTHP’s extensive network of statewide and local partners. Lessons learned and policies developed with partner cities will be shared with the NTHP’s national network of over 200 local, state and federal partner organizations and the general public.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/green-lab/>

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