

## Smart Growth Checklist

One of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston's goals is to encourage the development of efficient, integrated communities that include a mixture of land uses and diverse housing types that serve people of all economic levels, cultures, and age groups. The following is a list of questions designed to inform local development decisions. The questions are meant to serve only as a checklist, and do not need to be submitted with a CDA or NEF application.

1. Describe how the development responds to the particular needs of the community and its residents.
2. Is the development part of a mixed-use community? List the shopping, cultural, recreational, educational, and health resources available within walking distance (1/2 mile) of the proposed housing. List the employment opportunities available within walking distance of the proposed housing.
3. Does the development reuse existing buildings or formerly contaminated land?
4. Will mass transportation or other transportation services be available to the residents of the development? If so, describe the type of transit available and the distance from the proposed housing development. Does the development allow for reduced parking ratios? Is the development designed to encourage walking, cycling and other alternatives to driving?
5. Does the development create or maintain green spaces? Does the development avoid fragmenting existing green space, especially natural habitats and forests? Does the development avoid converting working lands, such as farms, into development?
6. Does the development design avoid increasing the risk or negative impact of natural disasters?
7. Does the development design protect the natural watershed? Describe the treatment of waste and ground water.
8. Does the development have a waste-management and recycling plan for construction and occupancy?
9. Does the development use compact design to minimize the amount of land per dwelling unit?
10. Describe the energy-efficient elements of the development, including landscaping, and any energy-efficient ratings being sought. Has an evaluation of capital, operational, and maintenance costs been done? Describe any measures to mitigate potential housing-related health issues. Describe the "green building" experience of the development team.
11. Does the housing have Internet capabilities?
12. Describe how the design complements the environmental setting and the surrounding area's architectural features. Describe how the development enhances the desirability of the area within which it is built.
13. Describe how the development is built to last.
14. Describe any distinctive features of the design that will make the development a source of pride.