



Land Use Academy

Overview

The Land Use Academy provides practical education on the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to serve effectively on a local land use commission. The Academy's basic training is offered in locations across Connecticut, allowing commissioners statewide the opportunity to participate. The Land Use Academy is recognized as the state's official certification program in basic land use education for local commissioners. Every commissioner completing the Academy receives a certificate of recognition.

While the Land Use Academy is designed for new land use commissioners and those considering becoming commissioners, it is also useful to current commissioners seeking to update or refresh their understanding of fundamental land use topics.

The Land Use Academy Basic Training program consists of a core curriculum of three courses: **Roles and Responsibilities of Local Land Use Commissions; Map Reading for Site Plan Review; and Legal Processes for Land Use Decision Making.** The basic training takes place on Saturdays at locations across the state.

In addition to our basic training, the Land Use Academy offers additional workshops on pertinent land use planning topics through both the Academy and its sister program,

CT NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials). Visit the CLEAR website for more information.

The Connecticut Land Use Academy is supported by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Office of Responsible Growth, and partners with the Planning and Zoning Law section of the Connecticut Bar Association and the

Green Valley Institute to put on the training programs.

History

In 2002, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Burdens and Smart Growth Incentives made the following recommendation on land use education:

"A training program...should be created based upon the coordination of educational



Local officials from West Hartford work on an exercise during the Map Reading for Site Plan Review portion of the Academy.



Land Use Academy

Contact the Academy

Contact Bruce Hyde, *Land Use Academy Director*
Email: bruce.hyde@uconn.edu
Phone: (860) 345-5229

The Land Use Academy Website

clear.uconn.edu/lua

Contact CLEAR

University of Connecticut, CES
P.O. Box 70
1066 Saybrook Road
Haddam, CT 06438

Phone: (860) 345-4511
Fax: (860) 345-3357
Email: clear@uconn.edu
Web Address: clear.uconn.edu



programs currently provided by the University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and the Cooperative Extension System, including the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), and incorporating the associated workshops conducted...by the Connecticut Land Use Education Partnership."

In January 2006, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) recommended CLEAR as "the most logical and most appropriate group to be responsible for the coordination of all land use training of local officials in the state of Connecticut..." Later in 2006, OPM received an appropriation to support CLEAR, and the Land Use Academy was created. While no longer funded by OPM, the Land Use Academy still provides training on a reduced schedule.

Visit the Land Use Academy website for additional online tools and resources, clear.uconn.edu/lua.

Hot Topics Conference

This one day conference is designed for local land use decision makers from Connecticut communities, as well as professional planners, designers, regulators, and others involved in the field of land use. The proceedings are intended to expose participants to a wide variety of agencies, organizations and topics relevant to community land use planning. The conference is presented by the Connecticut Land Use Academy in partnership with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Connecticut Bar Association, and Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association. The conference schedule is uncertain due to funding losses—please check the Academy website.

Beyond the Basics

CLEAR is partnering with the State of Connecticut and the Partnership for Strong Communities to provide affordable housing training in several communities in the state as well as working with a number of partners to help communities address land use issues associated with climate change.

(Above) Attendees of the Academy held in Stamford in 2008. (Right) Local leaders from the metropolitan Hartford region review maps during the Map Reading for Site Plan Review portion of the Academy.



The Land Use Academy is a program of the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). Land and Sea Grant collaborating. The Academy is supported by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Resources and associated with the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Office of Responsible Growth.

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