

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley in North Carolina. The foreground shows a small settlement with several buildings and a winding road. The middle ground is dominated by rolling green hills and a river. The background features a range of blue mountains under a dramatic, cloudy sky with sunlight breaking through. The text "Western North Carolina Livable Community Initiative" is overlaid in a semi-transparent dark box across the top half of the image.

# Western North Carolina Livable Community Initiative

Photo from <[wncrealestate.info/wnc-real-estate-broker](http://wncrealestate.info/wnc-real-estate-broker)>

***Thinking Globally, Assessing  
Regionally, Acting Locally***  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Asheville  
North Carolina**

**You are invited to attend The Western North Carolina Livable Communities Initiative Information and Visioning Meeting.**

**Where:** Seven Star Factory in Asheville's River Arts District

**When:** June 9, 2010 9 am to 5 pm.

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** Email to [jdack@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:jdack@ashevillenc.gov)

**Who Should Attend:** People who shape our communities in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties

**Why:** The purpose of the **LIVABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE is to develop a regional commitment to sustainability.** The WNC Livable Community Initiative (LCI) is not an organization; it is intended to be a dynamic and growing commitment by the region's leaders (including government, academic, non-profit, private and institutional partners) to work together to achieve a sustainable regional vision.

This meeting is an invitation to community action.

In this meeting, community stakeholders will:

- Gain an understanding of the principles of regional sustainability as defined by the WNC Livable Communities Initiative;
- Better see the whole system they are a part of and the impact of their contributions;
- Become inspired for the work ahead (through the exploration of model projects);
- Network with local, state and federal agencies about the immediate opportunities for action, including funding.

The meeting focus areas are:

- Creation of jobs
- Access and use of natural resources
- Housing options
- Clean, and efficient transportation
- Local renewable resources

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**Elected officials in Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania County joined together on April 28, 2010 and unanimously voted to support the Livable Communities Initiative Vision.**

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Visit [www.landofsky.org](http://www.landofsky.org) to view the WNC Livable Communities Vision Presentation

# June 9<sup>th</sup> WNC Livable Communities Initiative Program Agenda

Both morning and afternoon are interactive educational sessions

Graphic recording provided by Breah Parker;

Facilitation by Doc Klein; LCI network and community systems mapping by Michael Leahey.

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## • Session I, 9:00 am until 11:30 am: ***WNC Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) 101***

Part 1- Overview of the LCI initiative:

- Definition of our region
- Its key defining issues
- Discussion on the federal Sustainable Communities Partnership and how it applies to our region.

Presenters are: Jim Fox from National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center/Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI); Ron Townley from Land of Sky Regional Council of Governments; Jeff Staudinger and Stephanie Monson from the City of Asheville, Bob Wagner from the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

Part 2- Discussion:

- Developing clarity regarding our desired future (where do we want to be five, ten, and fifteen years from now?)
- Identifying places to intervene in the regional system in order to maximize our investments of time and resources
- How to support collaboration with partners in order to achieve quality of life impacts
- Innovations to move the LCI forward.

## • Session II, 1 pm until 5 pm: ***Model Projects***

- Presentation of Model projects illustrating the diversity of existing regional efforts that align with both the [Federal Sustainable Community Partnership](#) and the WNC Livable Communities Initiative.  
Model projects from the following communities will be presented: Madison County; Asheville; Buncombe County; Fletcher; and Transylvania County. Opportunities and challenges will be discussed for each project.
- A facilitated discussion about
  - how the featured model projects could be optimized using the LCI principles;
  - Identification and discussion regarding other exemplary projects within the region (including identifying where they fit into the LCI system)

**By the end of this meeting, attendees/presenters will have developed a clear understanding of actions and next steps required to implement projects (not just the featured projects) that exemplify the Livable Community Initiative Vision.**

For more information on the event or the initiative call Stephanie Monson at (828) 232 4502 or email [smonson@ashevilleenc.gov](mailto:smonson@ashevilleenc.gov)