



Greenville, SC Comprehensive Plan Analysis

(By Henry Lamb, May 3, 2011)

Officials in Greenville County, South Carolina were asked by local residents to not adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan based on the United Nations' Agenda 21. Local officials were not convinced that their proposed Comprehensive Plan was related to Agenda 21, and asked for evidence to support the residents' claim. Here is an analysis of the Greenville



Comprehensive Plan as it directly relates to Agenda 21. To fully appreciate the influence of the international community on the planning activities in Greenville County, it is helpful to examine the reason such a plan is even being considered.

Greenville County has a comprehensive plan because the state legislature enacted a comprehensive planning act in 1976. Many state legislatures considered similar legislation that year, but South Carolina, Florida, and Oregon were among the few that adopted the legislation.

The early 1970s were filled with land use planning initiatives at the federal level, guided by Senators Henry Jackson and Morris K. Udall (National Land Use Planning Act, S. 3354). The Rockefeller Brothers Fund published *The Use of Land: A Citizen's Policy Guide to Urban Growth*, in 1973. It was edited by William K. Reilly, who later served as EPA Administrator under George Bush.¹



William K Reilly also signed the final report of the U.N. Commission on Human Settlements (HABITAT I) in 1976 at Vancouver, British Columbia. The Preamble of Agenda Item 10, "Land," says:

"Land...cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument

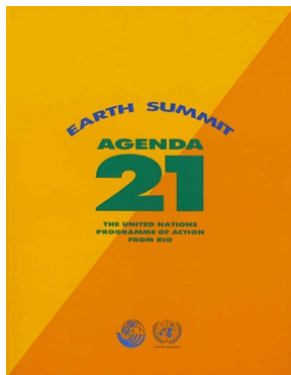
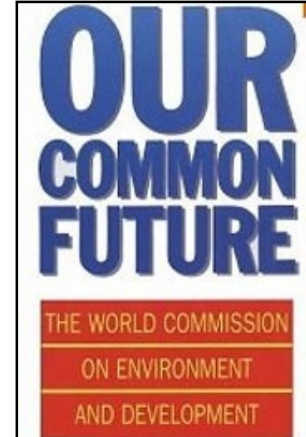
¹ <http://freedom.org/reports/fluc.htm>

of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; Public control of land use is therefore indispensable....”²

This document set forth the U.N.’s policy on land use. It was officially signed by the United States’ delegates.³ Like Agenda 21, this document was a “soft-law” policy document which needed no approval by Congress. It contains many of the recommendations that were also included in the Jackson Land Use Planning Act - that Congress refused to pass. Led by a coalition of environmental organizations, the same land use planning initiative was promoted in several states. Most states rejected the idea in the 1970s; South Carolina is one state that enacted a planning law.

The 1976 HABITAT conference document provided the concept that was later shaped into a program called “Sustainable Development,” at the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development, headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland. The final conference report, titled “Our Common Future” defined “Sustainable Development” for the first time in official documents.

Maurice Strong was a member of the Brundtland Commission and later was named by the U.N. to chair the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. At this conference, 179 nations signed



Agenda 21, a 40-chapter “soft-law” document that set forth a universal plan to transform the world into a planned community, a planned economy, and a planned culture. The 40 chapters of Agenda 21 address virtually every facet of human life.

Congress neither debated nor approved Agenda 21. Within months after taking office in 1993, President Bill Clinton created, by Executive Order, the President’s Council on Sustainable Development, with the charge to implement sustainable development throughout federal, state, and local governments.⁴

Until 1916, land use in America was determined by the land owner, period. The 38-story Equitable Building at 120 Broadway in New York City, completed in 1915, served as the perfect excuse for the growing progressive movement to declare that government, rather than the land owner, had the right to dictate the proper use of land. New York adopted the first city-wide zoning law in 1916. Zoning was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1926.⁵

Zoning was confined to larger cities until the land use control initiatives of the 1970s when a few states adopted laws that required their counties to develop land use plans. The enormity of the transition from owner-determined land use to government-determined land use is impossible to overstate. When

² <http://freedom.org/reports/human-settlements/land.html>

³ <http://freedom.org/reports/human-settlements/participants.html>

⁴ Sustainable America: A New Consensus - http://clinton5.nara.gov/PCSD/Publications/TF_Reports/amer-top.html

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1916_Zoning_Resolution

land owners decide how to use their land, the free market is the driving force and competition controls both value and price. When government decides how land is to be used, the market is manipulated, and value and price become a function of government permission.

Land use control is essential to a managed economy, which is the essence of Marxism. Free markets, competition, and freedom to control the use of one's own property is the essence of Capitalism. The 1976 U.N. documents from HABITAT I, signed by U.S. Delegates, declare government control of land use to be "indispensable."

The failure of the United States to enact national legislation to implement the recommendations of the 1976 HABITAT I Conference taught the United Nations and the Progressive movement, that a more subtle approach had to be used in the United States. That more-subtle approach was named "Sustainable Development" in the Brundtland Commission report, and government control of land use was disguised as protecting the environment, and described quite fully in [Our Common Future](#), the Commission's report.

The U.N.'s goal of protecting the environment was established by the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, and the plan to achieve the goal was set forth in Agenda 21. While there has been no success at enacting a national land use control law, there have been many laws enacted that result in government control of land use. The Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act, and others clearly allow agencies of the federal government to control the use of privately owned property.

Since the emergence of Agenda 21, the U.N., through not-for-profit organizations such as Earth Council⁶ and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI),⁷ and many others, have promoted the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local level. For the last three decades, the U.N., and a host of environmental organizations – many of which are accredited and partially funded by the U.N. – have convinced much of the world that the planet is on its last legs and will surely perish unless government enacts laws that force people to behave as the planners say they must.

Agenda 21 is not presented as proposed laws to control the behavior of people; it is presented as list of recommendations that, when enacted, will save the planet, and its advocates claim that the doing of it will make life better for everyone. In the United States, these plans are not presented as Agenda 21. Most local governments have no idea that the planning process that they have undertaken has any connection at all with Agenda 21 or the United Nations. Many local officials ridicule the idea. Gary Lawrence, former Director of the Center for Sustainable Communities at the University of Washington, and Chief Planner for the City of Seattle told an audience in London that:

" In the case of the U.S., our local authorities are engaged in planning processes consistent with LA21 [Local Agenda 21] but there is little interest in using the LA21 brand.... So, we call our

⁶ <http://www.earthcouncilalliance.org/en/>

⁷ <http://www.iclei.org/>

processes something else, such as comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth.”⁸

This is the context in which the Greenville County Planning Commission operated when it set out to update its comprehensive land use plan March 13, 2008, in compliance with the state law first adopted in 1976 and updated in 1994. The process used in Greenville County is precisely the process described in Chapter 7 (4) of Agenda 21:

Agenda 21 Chapter 7.4:

“The overall human settlement objective is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor. Such improvement should be based on technical cooperation activities, partnerships among the public, private and community sectors and participation in the decision-making process by community groups and special interest groups such as women, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled.”⁹



After the initial March 13, 2008 meeting at which the concept was introduced and named: “[Imagine Greenville County: Tomorrow’s Vision Today](#),” the planners scheduled a series of meetings over the summer. These meetings were designed to give the appearance of public input into the eventual plan. The strategy is to convince local elected officials that the entire community has contributed to the plan, and the entire community wants the plan adopted into law.

These meetings are typically conducted by trained facilitators who use a tightly controlled consensus process, in compliance with the President’s Council on sustainable Development Principle No. 8:

“We need a new collaborative decision process that leads to better decisions; more rapid change; and more sensible use of human, natural, and financial resources in achieving our goals.”¹⁰

This procedure assures that the final plan will be consistent with Agenda 21, regardless of what the meeting participants might say. The Greenville County Comprehensive plan is amazingly similar to virtually every other local county comprehensive plan that has been adopted in the last decade. Even the names are similar: Bradley County Vision 2035¹¹; Vision 2040: Regional Planning Project (Las

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http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&cd=1&ved=OCBoQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.unedforum.org%2Fpublications%2Fmillennium%2Fmill%2520paper2.pdf&ei=EO2uTZDIDo_AtgeV78zdAw&usg=AFQjCNFTZT4-Rb9i_FWvIRoSfNi8F1foA&sig2=bBHRD_zf9ep9OxXIGRSHnA

⁹ Agenda 21, Chapter 7: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_07.shtml

¹⁰ Sustainable America: A New Consensus - http://clinton5.nara.gov/PCSD/Publications/TF_Reports/amer-believe.html

¹¹ Bradley County, TN <http://www.bcc2035.com/>

Cruces, NM)¹²; or Imagine Glades County 2020¹³. The process for developing the “vision” is also remarkably similar.

The project scheduled 9 or 11 community meetings in 2008 and/or 2009.¹⁴

Date	Location	Attendees
3/25/2008	Blue Ridge High School	- 50
4/3/2008	Eastside High School	- 25
4/7/2008	Mauldin High School	- 20
4/8/2008	Berea High School	- 65
4/10/2008	Carolina Academy	- 20
4/17/2008	Hillcrest High School	- 20
4/22/2008	Travelers Rest High School	- 55
4/24/2008	Woodmont High School	- 45
5/13/2008	Greenville County Square	- 25

Fewer than 350 people participated in the creation of Greenville County’s comprehensive land use plan that will govern a population in excess of 450,000 (.0008% of the population). This process is described as a bottom-up process that reflects the wishes of the entire community. This is, at best, an inaccurate description.

To develop a list of issues of concern to the community, the project called on its consultant, or facilitator, [LandDesign](#), Inc., to develop a survey. It is important to know the consultant which describes itself this way:

“LandDesign and Audubon Lifestyles are united for change – embracing the International Sustainability Council’s¹⁵ Principles for Sustainability that promote sustainable solutions for life and business that are reliable, practical, efficient and economically viable.”¹⁶

The function of the survey is to set the parameters of the agenda by listing the issues from which participants might choose. The list of selected issues becomes the agenda. All of the issues from which participants might choose are issues within the scope of Agenda 21. This guarantees that from this point on in the process, the group will be discussing and learning about the issues set forth in Agenda 21.

The second function of citizen participation is prioritization. Once a group had developed a list of issues from the survey, they were allowed to add concerns of their own. Then they were asked to vote for the

¹² Las Cruces, NM http://www.las-cruces.org/code/vision_2040/index.html

¹³ Glades County, FL, Sustainable Development or Sustainable Freedom, page 5
<http://www.sovereignty.net/p/sd/sdsf-1.pdf>

¹⁴ The [Imagine Greenville website](#) reports 11 meetings in 2008 and 2009. Page 22 of the [Imagine Greenville: Comprehensive Plan](#), 9 meetings in 2008 are reported.

¹⁵ Based in part upon the findings of the United Nations and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.-
<http://www.thesustainabilitycouncil.org/aboutus.php> .

¹⁶ From the LandDesign website: <http://www.landdesign.com/about/partnerships.aspx>

four most important issues or concerns. Here are the top six issues prioritized by the number of votes they received from the participants in the meeting at Blue Ridge High School on March 25, 2008:

- Protection of natural resources/water supply – 25 votes received
- Proposed Animal Shelter – 24 votes received
- Need for better land use controls – 21 votes received
- Protection of private property rights – 20 votes received
- Road improvements for most of the rural roads – 12 votes received
- Too much government – 9 votes received

When the prioritization was complete, the facilitator then rated the issues: Here is the facilitator's rating of the issues from the same meeting: ¹⁷

Clean air and water	4.77	
Preserving rural areas, farmland and open space		4.75
Maintaining natural beauty	4.75	
Historic Preservation	4.26	
Limiting development of flood prone area		4.13
Community Appearance/Design	4.09	

All the meetings had similar results. Here, for example are the top six priorities from the Eastside High School meeting on April 3, 2008:

- Water Resource Management – 9
- Impact Fees for Development - 8
- More Sidewalks – 7
- Open Space Near Residential Communities – 7
- Traffic Coping – 6
- Infill Development (mixed use) – 5

Here is the facilitator's rating: ¹⁸

Clean air and water	4.33	
Maintaining natural beauty	4.00	
Community Appearance/Design	3.80	
Limiting development of flood prone areas		3.73
Convenient access to schools from my neighborhood		3.67
Encouraging economic development	3.53	

This pattern of mismatching the participants' priorities with the facilitators' ratings is consistent throughout the meetings and assures that the list of issues to be address in the comprehensive plan are the same issues addressed in Agenda 21.

¹⁷ Community meeting at Blue Ridge High School March 25, 2008 - http://www.imaginegreenville.com/pdf/community_meeting2008_blueridge.pdf

¹⁸ Community meeting at Eastside High School April 3, 2008 - http://www.imaginegreenville.com/pdf/community_meeting2008_eastside.pdf

It is not a coincidence that the list of nine elements to be addressed in the Imagine Greenville Comprehensive Plan are quite similar to the list of eight elements addressed in Chapter 7 of Agenda 21. The bulleted elements in regular type are from the Imagine Greenville Comprehensive Plan; the elements displayed in bold italic are directly from Agenda 21, Chapter 7.5.

Imagine Greenville Plan Elements:¹⁹ *Agenda 21, Chapter 7.5 Program Elements:*²⁰

- Economic Development
 - *(g) Promoting sustainable construction industry activities;*
- Population
 - *(b) Improving human settlement management;*
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
 - *(h) Promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development.*
- Community Facilities
 - *(d) Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management;*
- Housing
 - *(a) Providing adequate shelter for all;*
- Land Use
 - *(c) Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management;*
 - *(f) Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas;*
- Transportation
 - *(e) Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements;*
- Priority Investment Area

The Greenville plan says: “The citizen comments were reviewed and the most frequently mentioned issues were identified as follows:

- better regulation options
- economic development
- funding for required infrastructure
- infill development
- mixed-use development
- natural resource protection
- private property rights
- reuse of vacant buildings
- sustainable development
- transportation options

¹⁹ Imagine Greenville Comprehensive Plan – page xiii,
http://www.greenvillegov.com/gcpc/pdf/comprehensive_plan.pdf

²⁰ Agenda 21, Chapter 7.5 - http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_07.shtml

A review of the citizens' comments from all nine of the citizen meetings reveals that the term "Better regulation options" did not appear at all in any of the citizen comments. The term "code enforcement" did appear in the comments from two meetings. At Berea High School, "Code enforcement" was listed as the fourth priority by 18 people; at Carolina High School it was listed as the tenth priority by three people.

The second highest priority in Agenda 21's Chapter 7 is: "Improving Human Settlement Management," which can be accomplished most easily through "Better regulation options."

Agenda 21, Chapter 7.15 says the objective of this priority is:

"...to ensure sustainable management of all urban settlements... thereby contributing to the achievement of national economic development goals."

This can be achieved, according to Agenda 21, Chapter 7.16(a), by:

"Adopting and applying urban management guidelines in the areas of land management, urban environmental management, infrastructure management and municipal finance and administration;"

Virtually every issue identified in the Greenville Comprehensive Plan is also identified in Agenda 21, whether or not the issues were even mentioned in the actual citizens' comments. Typically, the primary function of the facilitator of the process is to ensure that the final plan is consistent with the goals of Agenda 21.

Page xv of the Comprehensive Plan says "From the start, the issues identified by citizens drove this visioning process." The fact is that very few citizens even knew the visioning process was underway, even fewer participated (.0008%), and the issues they identified were consistently transformed into issues identified in Agenda 21.

Land use control

Land use controlled by government is the absolute opposite of the Founders' belief as expressed through the Fifth Amendment's Constitutional guarantee that "... nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

Until 1954, the term "public use" meant that property taken by the government had to be *used* by government for a building, road, bridge, or similar purpose. This practice began to change when Congress gave the power of eminent domain to the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency in 1945, to remove slums and rebuild the District of Columbia – a city for which Congress alone is authorized by the Constitution to manage.

In the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Berman v. Parker*, the court ruled that there is no difference between "public use" and "public benefit." Specifically: "In a unanimous opinion authored by Justice William O. Douglas, [appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939] the Court found that the Fifth Amendment does not limit Congress' power to seize private property with just compensation to any specific purpose."²¹

²¹ Chicago-Kent College of Law- http://www.oyez.org/cases/1950-1959/1954/1954_22

This decision became the foundation upon which federal, state, and local governments claimed that a wide variety of government activities constitute a public benefit. This evolutionary erosion and transformation of the term “public use” into the term, “public benefit” is the legal basis on which professional planners and local governments now claim the right to dictate how private owners may or may not use their own private property.

The most recent challenge to this decision was the 2005 five-to-four decision in *Kelo v. New London*. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s scathing dissent said: “...Under the banner of economic development, all private property is now vulnerable to being taken and transferred to another private owner, so long as it might be upgraded...”²² Consequently, professional planners feel perfectly free to design communities without regard for the wishes of the people who own the land.

The third priority of Agenda 21, Chapter 7, is: “Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management.” The objective of this priority is:

“...to provide for the land requirements of human settlement development through environmentally sound physical planning and land use so as to ensure access to land to all households and, where appropriate, the encouragement of communally and collectively owned and managed land.”²³

The first activity recommended by Agenda 21 under this priority is:

“...undertaking a comprehensive...inventory of their land resources in order to establish a land information system in which land resources will be classified according to their most appropriate uses and environmentally fragile or disaster-prone areas will be identified for special protection measures.” (Agenda 21, Chapter 7.29)

This recommendation is satisfied in Appendix B.²⁴

Agenda 21, Chapter 7.30 recommends:

“Developing...land-resource management plans to guide land-resource development and utilization and, to that end, should:

- Establish...legislation to guide the implementation of public policies for environmentally sound urban development, land utilization, housing and for the improved management of urban expansion;
- Create...efficient and accessible land markets that meet community development needs by...improving land registry systems and streamlining procedures in land transactions;
- Develop fiscal incentives and land-use control measures, including land-use planning solutions for a more rational and environmentally sound use of limited land resources;
- Encourage partnerships among the public, private and community sectors in managing land resources for human settlements development;

²² Cornell University Law School - <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/04-108.ZD.html>

²³ Agenda 21, Chapter 7.28 http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_07.shtml

²⁴ Appendices A-H http://www.greenvillecounty.org/gcpc/pdf/comprehensive_plan_appendices.pdf

- Strengthen community-based land-resource protection practices in existing urban and rural settlements;

The Greenville Comprehensive land use plan includes a map that was, again, said to be developed by the community in – “two countywide, multijurisdictional meetings” that drew a total of 300 people, .0007% of the county’s population. Through a sophisticated, technological process of elimination, a county wide plan was identified.

This plan is different from the comprehensive land use plans in many communities in that it is not legally binding. The plan says:

“The Future Land Use Map does not possess the force of law (see *South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling of 1994*, § 6-29-510) and does not require any of its suggested uses to be applied.”²⁵

This provision eliminates one of the primary obstacles to the “visioning process” – community resistance. By making the plan non-binding, the advocates can say:

“The adoption of the Future Land Use Map does not indicate the expansion of zoning regulations into those areas that are currently unzoned and does not reduce private property rights.” (p 51)

What is not discussed in the plan is the fact that the County’s Zoning Map is legally binding.

“The boundaries of each zoning district are shown on a map entitled Official Zoning Map, Greenville County, South Carolina, which is hereby adopted and declared to be a part of this Ordinance.”²⁶

The non-binding Comprehensive Land Use Plan map may be compared to the legally-binding Official Zoning Map by examining the map options at the Greenville County GIS website.²⁷ Many communities incorporate into their Comprehensive Plan a set of International Building Codes, which are rarely reviewed or even discussed. These codes do not need to be incorporated into Greenville’s Comprehensive Plan because many of the International Codes have already been adopted.

Current Building Codes:²⁸

(ICC) International Building Code	2006
(ICC) International Existing Building Code	2006
(ICC) International Plumbing Code & International Private Sewage Disposal Code	2006

²⁵ Greenville Comprehensive Plan, page 47.

http://www.greenvillegov.org/gcpc/pdf/comprehensive_plan.pdf

²⁶ Greenville County Official Zoning Map, Section 1.4

http://www.greenvillegov.org/gcpc/current_planning/pdf/zoning_ordinance.pdf

²⁷ Greenville County GIS website - <http://www.gcgis.org/webmappub/>

²⁸ Current building codes in Greenville, South Carolina.

http://greenvillegov.org/Codes_Enforcement/Inspection.asp

(ICC) International Mechanical Code	2006
(ICC) International Fuel Gas Code	2006
(ICC) International Fire Code	2006
(NEC) National Electrical Code, NFPA 70	2008
SC Barrier Free Building Design Standard (SC Code of Regulations § 19-400 as established by SC Law § 10-5-210 with Reference to and including ANSI - A117.1 (ICC-ANSI))	2003
(ICC) International Energy Conservation Code	2006
(ICC) International Property Maintenance Code	2006
(ICC) International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings	2006

These codes are mandatory, required by the South Carolina Building Codes Council.²⁹

The International Codes Council has now developed additional codes that are even more consistent with the recommendations of Agenda 21. They include:³⁰

- International Wildland-Urban Interface Code
- ICC Performance Code
- International Zoning Code
- International Green Construction Code

These codes are legally binding and are, in fact, the “legislation” called for in Chapter 7.30 of Agenda 21.

Unless a private citizen purchases a code book and devotes substantial time to study, it’s almost impossible to know what these codes mean, or how they may impact private property rights. For example, the International Green Construction Code, which Greenville County has not yet adopted, defines and requires these two elements, among many others:³¹

DAYLIGHT SATURATION. The percentage of daytime hours throughout the year when not less than 28 foot-candles (300 lux) of natural light is provided at a height of 30 inches (762

²⁹ South Carolina Building Codes Council

³⁰ International Codes Council.

<http://www.iccsafe.org/Store/Pages/Category.aspx?cat=ICCSafe&category=330&parentcategory=Store%20Products>

³¹ International Green Building Code Synopsis, page 8.

http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Documents/PublicVersion/IGCC_PV2_Synopsis.pdf

mm) above the floor.

DEMAND RESPONSE, AUTOMATED (AUTO-DR). Fully Automated Demand Response initiated by a signal from a utility or other appropriate entity, providing fully-automated connectivity to customer energy end-use control strategies.

When code requirements force these kinds of requirements upon individual property owners, government moves well beyond public safety and into the arena of behavior modification. Rarely do individual citizens know that these regulations exist, until they have been caught in a violation.

Few private citizens object to safety requirements and most, if not all, citizens expect and appreciate procedures that ensure these safety standards during the building process. When behavior modification requirements, however, having nothing to do with public safety, are included in the building requirements, private citizens have no way to object, or opt out.

Building contractors are required to obtain a license which obligates them to comply with state and local building regulations. When a building permit is secured, the contractor must meet critical inspection points during the process. If a county, or state, has adopted the International Green Construction Code, a house would be required to incorporate all the elements included in the code, whether related to safety or not.

The recommendations contained in Agenda21 have little to do with public safety, and everything to do with forcing citizens to behave in ways that the writers of Agenda 21 think is best for the environment and that will achieve “social justice,” a euphemism for equalization of resource distribution.

This analysis touches only on a few major elements of the Greenville Comprehensive Plan, but it should be sufficient to demonstrate that the plan is quite consistent with the objectives and recommendations contained in Agenda 21. Greenville’s plan is not as intrusive as comprehensive land use plans adopted by many other counties. It does presume to “plan” or attempt to “manage” the activities and behavior of Greenville county citizens.

The idea of government-planned communities and government-planned economies arises directly from the work of Carl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and has advanced in America through the political philosophy called “Progressivism.” This philosophy is directly opposite from “Capitalism,” and the ideas advanced by John Locke and Adam Smith, who taught that free a society in which people are free to create, buy and sell the products of their labor, is the most efficient and expeditious route to prosperity.

Since the 1970s, advocates of government-planned communities have tried to justify using the power of government to force modification of human behavior, by claiming that growing populations and excessive consumption of resources are destroying the planet. There is abundant evidence that Capitalism has elevated prosperity and life expectancy wherever it is practiced. Moreover, where Capitalism is practiced, the environment is usually far better than in locations where there is no electricity, no clean water, and no sanitation.

Conclusion

If cities and counties are to engage in comprehensive land use planning, the first question that should be asked is: Why?

Do the elected officials of the city or county really believe that free people should not choose where they want to live, and decide what materials to use in their home? Is it not presumptuous for elected officials to believe that their collective wisdom is superior to the wisdom of thousands of individual citizens who must bear the responsibility of paying construction costs, and providing a safe home for their family?

Do cities engage in comprehensive planning because it is politically correct? Has the federal government offered grant money that will be “wasted” if it is not used for the visioning process and the development of a comprehensive land use plan?

Are local elected officials reacting to political pressure applied by politically Progressive groups such as those listed in the Environment Directory?³²

If local elected official really believe it is their responsibility to create a comprehensive land use plan, then by all means, they must develop a procedure that adequately informs all the citizens about the process, the goals, and the requirements for participation in the process. Assure that all segments of the community are represented in the process, especially land owners, building contractors, and developers - the people most affected by the plan.

Finally, make sure that any plan addresses valid public safety needs, not behavior modification to accommodate political agendas.

These observations document only a few of the most obvious similarities between the Greenville County Comprehensive Plan and Agenda 21. Perhaps the plan will now be seen in a new light.

This document was prepared by [Henry Lamb](#), Executive Vice President of [Freedom21, Inc.](#), Chairman of [Sovereignty International, Inc.](#) and author of [The Rise of Global Governance](#), [A Short Course in Global Governance](#); [Sustainable Development or Sustainable Freedom](#), and other publications.

³² Web Directory for Sustainable Development - http://www.webdirectory.com/Sustainable_Development/