

## Chapter 1 : Small Town and Rural Planning

*Town of Davidson Planning Department - Davidson, North Carolina (): The small community of Davidson created healthy and vibrant neighborhoods in a historic setting. The town revitalized its existing buildings, and its new neighborhoods incorporated a variety of lot sizes and housing types and neighborhood parks within a five-minute walk.*

I find myself wondering, where the heck do these people live? In order to reach more than just the local customers in their small towns, rural businesses are selling via their own websites, platforms like Amazon or Etsy, custom apps, automated deliveries and monthly subscription boxes. Independent Workforce Contingent workers, independent professionals, freelancers, and the gig economy are all converging as more people make their own way while staying rural, rather than moving to the big city for jobs. Because rural independent workers have a lower cost of living than urban ones, they are better able to compete in digital talent marketplaces. Innovative Rural Business Models Small town businesses are not just the mom-and-pop retail store downtown. We just talked about how those mom-and-pop retailers are going rural omni-local and how the independent workers are creating their own gigs. Other innovations are also taking hold. Smaller business experiments are replacing all-in bets on a full-size business, maybe filling only a couple of hundred square feet instead of 5, square feet. Temporary businesses pop-up for a day, a week or a season to test the waters. Mobile businesses gather up market share by moving from small town to small town. Local Stores Beat Big Boxes Big box stores are tipping into a scale implosion of their own making, as they close stores, shed square footage and generally try to adjust to a retail future that is splitting around them. Their special skill used to be the huge selection and low price. All of that business will go to online retail giants. The other side is the return to customer service, curated selections and the enjoyment of shopping. That is where local retail eats their lunch. Sales at small retailers have increased faster than sales at big retail stores since Watch for local stores to copy their experiments from below. Travel Motivations Favor Rural Small towns excel at offering authentic experiences. Visitors can easily connect with culture, history and a sense of place all in a walkable-sized package in a small town. International travelers are starting to make rural regions like the Deep South their first destination in the US, skipping traditional big city visits. Small towns already have compact, walkable cores in their downtowns. They have walkable distances in their historic development, and they already have built public spaces waiting for revitalizing activity. Today, everyone in town has the communication tools to organize themselves and create their own future. Smaller creative projects are emerging from the ground up, as people simply decide to start something and end up shaping a better future for their town. The Next 30 Years € These trends are either just now emerging or are already in full swing. What will the next 30 years bring? Deb Brown and I will explore these trends in more depth and look to the next 30 years in a live broadcast on Jan 18, The recording will be available on-demand throughout the year.

## Chapter 2 : Bringing Sustainability to Small-Town America | HuffPost

*The Small Town and Rural Planning Division of APA is a forum for the exchange of ideas and information of interest to professional and citizen planners in our smaller communities and rural areas.*

Athens was a city with no design guidelines of any kind, and partnered with Designing Local and MKSK to help the community create a locally "Essence of Athens" inspired design culture. The Awards Committee was incredibly impressed with this plan, and felt it embodies the best of small town planning. The project was selected for an award due to its innovative approach to creating a uniquely Athens esthetic and design language. The plan is user-friendly and highlights efforts everyone in the community not just the development community can do to implement Athens-based design. The stakeholder engagement process was clearly targeted to ensure representation of all members of the community. STaR is excited to share this plan with other communities as an example of how to build on unique community assets and employ community-based design as an economic development tool. It has a rich agricultural tradition, and sought to preserve that tradition, as well as connect the more urbanized areas of the county to its rural roots. The plan provides a good example of how rural character can be preserved in the face of rapid urbanization. The project was selected for an award due to its forward thinking and innovative approach to preserving natural areas and connecting urban areas with more rural areas of the county. The plan strikes a balance between different urban and rural community values, and adapts the open space and parks program to the present and future needs of the changing population. STaR is excited to share this plan with other communities as an example of how rural communities can identify corridors and other protectable areas that will preserve their agricultural heritage. The case study provides local officials and citizens with a clear framework for implementing projects that strategically build upon and strengthen quality of life in Huntsville. The primary goal of the case study was to foster the development of strong, stable neighborhoods within the City of Huntsville while tying this effort to positive branding and the promotion of expanding businesses and development within the city. This project was chosen for a Merit Award because of its unique case study approach. The committee was impressed with the breadth of strategies outlined in the plan, as well as the extensive business involvement. The plan is well laid-out and the images help make the plan user-friendly. A team of seven graduate students with the Institute led a public input process which included a public survey, numerous stakeholder interviews, and "hands on" public meetings to help the community develop a creative and achievable comprehensive plan. The Awards Committee was impressed with the professionalism of the plan and the planning process. The plan not only includes extensive analysis, but is based on broad citizen input, something that is not often seen in student projects. The document is well organized, and includes helpful graphics, making the document appealing to a wide audience. This plan demonstrates that students can play an important role in planning for small towns. Knowlton School of Architecture. The plan was a smart growth project. The jury was impressed by its innovative approach and its transferability to other areas facing the same issues. Best Practices and Recommendations for Zoning Virginia. Michael Gurnee, AICP, of Dodge City, Kansas for assisting other small town planners, serving as a mentor, and for helping the City of Greensburg, Kansas through its disaster recovery phase and into the rebuilding phase as a sustainable community. The plan seeks to balance the competing interests of expanding wind energy while protecting agricultural lands and natural resources. The students, led by Professor Jennifer Evans-Cowley, assisted Pineville in its first planning effort to incorporate citizen input, and this following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Kelley of Eastern State University for his role in assisting small towns in the Pacific Northwest while developing future planners to serve in these same communities and others.

## Chapter 3 : 8 Rural and Small Town Trends for - Small Business Trends

*Search the history of over billion web pages on the Internet.*

Email this Article Print This Article When planning a startup, entrepreneurs may be tempted by the innovative atmosphere of the Silicon Valley or other large urban landscapes. But plenty of opportunities for entrepreneurs exist in small town America too. There are whole new sets of challenges, trends and other factors for small town entrepreneurs to consider. But there are advantages as well like lower costs and lower competition. And with the internet there is, of course, the option of reaching those larger markets while you and your staff enjoy a lower standard of living where your money goes further – especially in the lean years. Here are 50 different business ideas that you can start in a small town. So you could potentially fill a gap in the market with your own small town coffee shop. But especially if you have enough space to grow food on your property, you can build a lucrative business by selling those items at your own stand. So you can set up your own smaller store selling a variety of food products. Specialty Restaurant In addition, your town might not have quite as much variety in the way of restaurants. So if you have a specialty, like making Thai food for instance, you could start your own restaurant in that niche. Food Delivery Service Or you could focus on providing food to consumers in a different way. Ice Cream Shop Ice cream is another food niche that could be popular in many small towns. Roadside Food Stand Or you could sell products or homemade food items at your own roadside stand, as long as you have a place along a main thoroughfare. Flea Market Seller Flea markets can also be great venues for small town entrepreneurs to sell their goods. You can make your own handmade items or even resell products at your own flea market stand. Handmade Artisan You could also set up your own shop for handmade goods on a site like Etsy. And living in a rural area or small town could potentially give you access to some really unique supplies. Furniture Upcycler Additionally, you can sometimes find great vintage furniture pieces in small towns and then give them new life before reselling them. T-shirt Designer There are plenty of online platforms like Redbubble and Society6 that you can use to design your own t-shirts and similar goods no matter where you live. Clothing Alterations If you have the ability to sew and alter clothing, you could start your own clothing alterations business and have people send or bring you their items for alteration. Firewood Seller Or you could collect firewood and then sell it to nearby customers for use in their fireplaces. So you can start your own freelance writing business and save money on a variety of different expenses. Independent Blogger Or you could start your own blog and make money from ads, affiliate links or selling products again taking advantage of the lower standard living and services – so long as you have adequate internet access. Virtual Assistant Virtual assistants are also largely location-independent. So that can be another great opportunity for entrepreneurs to work from home in a small town and with a much lower standard of living. Graphic Designer Or you could offer a variety of different graphic design services for clients, including logos, branding and other elements. But you could potentially start your own mobile retail store in a camper or similar vehicle and then sell items at fairs or events in the area. Bookshop Bookshops can also be popular in a variety of different markets. So you can start your own store either in a physical location or online. Secondhand Store Or you might open a store that sells a variety of different secondhand products. This might especially appeal to those in small towns with a lower standard of living who are looking for a way to make their money go further. Bed and Breakfast Small towns also afford entrepreneurs the ability to invest in fairly large homes, like the kind you can use to start your own bed and breakfast. Tour Guide If your small town offers some charm or history that could attract tourists, then you could potentially start your own tour guide business to target those consumers. Car Wash Or you could start your own car wash with lower rent and other expenses. Family Farm For those who live in rural areas where homes come with lots of land, you could also start your own working farm and run it as a business that provides food, tours or other products or services. Florist Or if you prefer growing flowers, you can start your own floral shop and sell different flower varieties or even make more advanced products like wedding centerpieces. Landscaping Business Rural areas often mean that homeowners have lots of yard and outdoor space to take care of. So you could certainly start a successful business in the landscaping arena. Gardener Or

you could focus more specifically on offering gardening services to homeowners in your area. Home Painter If you have the necessary skills, you could also start a business where you offer house painting services to local homeowners. Plumber Skilled trades like plumbing are also in high demand no matter where you live. So that could be another potentially successful business idea. Handyman You could also start a more general handyman business where you provide a variety of different home repair and maintenance services. Computer Repair Computer repair is another area where consumers might need help, no matter what type of market you set up shop in. IT Support Or you could set up a location-independent business where you offer IT support to businesses and other clients over the phone or online. Home Restoration Service If you live in an area where there are a lot of historic homes and buildings, you could specialize in providing restoration and repair services for those buildings. Landscape Photographer Small towns and rural areas offer a lot of great scenery that can lend itself to great landscape photography. Event Planner You could also offer your services to local clients as an event planner , especially if your small town has an active business community. Beauty Salon Or you could set up a hair salon or barbershop to provide beauty services to local consumers. Dog Groomer Dogs also need grooming services, regardless of location. So you could open up your own grooming business in a small town or rural area. Microbrewery Microbrewing has become a huge industry with customers tiring of big brands and seeking a more unique alternative. You could then either sell it locally “ especially if your small community has a sizable tourist influx ” or seek distribution in larger markets where consumers are hungry for more variety. Winery Or you could ferment or sell your own wine products , though this is likely to require even more space and specialized equipment. Christmas Tree Farm If you have a lot of outdoor space, you could also start a seasonal business where you grow and sell Christmas trees to consumers who are willing to go a bit out of their way for real trees. You could use your outdoor space to create a corn maze and then charge admission during the fall months each year. Petting Farm Or if you have animals on your farm, you could charge admission for consumers who want to come and pet or visit with the animals. Author You could also write books or ebooks from basically any type of location. And small towns or rural areas can sometimes be great for writers looking to get inspired. Online Course Creator If you have specific skills to share, you could create and sell your own online courses. Again, this can be done from anywhere given adequate internet access. Local Museum Or if your small town has an interesting or unique history, you could start your own museum dedicated to the area. This again would be most effective if you live in a small town with a considerable tourist industry or if you could adequately promote it outside the area making it a tourist destination in its own right.

## Chapter 4 : Full text of "Town planning for small communities"

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In Alabama, our success in attracting large automotive plants like Mercedes-Benz, Honda, and Hyundai has fueled such a lust for industrial recruitment. Many small towns are sure that their big break is just around the corner, if only they can come up with the right financial incentives and recruitment strategy. Business retention and expansion, small business and entrepreneurial development, tourism and retiree attraction, for example, receive short shrift compared to industrial recruitment. More significantly, local leaders pay too little attention to building community and civic infrastructure. Put another way, many small towns overemphasize marketing and sales industrial recruiting without adequate attention to product development improving the quality of life in the community. But prosperous small town economies are built upon the foundation of strong communities. Strategies for Small Towns and Rural Communities Successful development strategies in small towns will typically include the following elements: Create leadership that is inclusive, collaborative, and connected. Successful communities all over the United States understand the importance of an expansive view of community leadership. And its leaders function not as gatekeepers but as door openers, bent on widening participation. Rather, successful leadership requires mobilizing the knowledge, talents, and perspectives of every segment of the community. Successful communities tend to be full of leaders. Community Assessment and Planning: Identify all community assets and create a plan to take strategic advantage. They understand that an era of rapid social, cultural, and technological change requires a proactive approach to addressing current and future problems. They engage in a strategic planning process to identify what makes their place special and to decide how to cultivate and promote their unique assets. The result of this process is a strategic plan that identifies community priorities and outlines specific strategies to make best use of available assets and to address local challenges. It becomes a road map for the future and a benchmark for community progress. The benefits of strategic planning are not limited to the final product. In fact, one of the most beneficial aspects of strategic planning is the process itself. A successful strategic planning process brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, who address basic questions for the community: Local and Regional Partnerships: From Planning to Action: The process must not end with the creation of a strategic plan. If so, it would resemble most other community planning efforts. The result would be a plan that looks good on paper, but ends up collecting dust on a shelf. To prevent this, the community should create an entity responsible for seeing that the major objectives in the plan are actually implemented. The value of the group is not just that it checks items off of the list of community objectives. Most communities have many excellent people, programs, and projects. All communities have at least some institutional assets—city government, churches, schools, civic clubs, and Chambers of Commerce. But far too often, individuals and organizations work independently, rather than in concert with one another. The truly high-achieving communities are those that create crossroads where leaders from all of these community organizations and institutions can come together to accomplish shared community objectives. Joining with other jurisdictions to maximize limited resources. Because small towns and rural areas are sparsely populated, they lack a critical mass of taxpayers, leadership, financial capacity, infrastructure, and skilled labor. So if small towns are to survive, they must join forces and work together. Small towns must learn to see their neighboring community as a competitor only for the Friday night football game. While a holistic strategy for economic development is needed, attracting new businesses clearly should be one part of the overall approach. However, small towns rarely possess adequate resources to be effective in the increasingly competitive arena of economic development. Hiring a professional economic developer is an impossible dream for most small communities. That is, unless they decide to partner with their neighbors. Conclusion Small towns, and larger jurisdictions for that matter, are best served by a holistic approach to economic development. Industrial development may be an appropriate strategy, especially if done in partnership with regional neighbors. However, it should not be the only strategy. To be successful,

small towns need to cultivate strong and diverse community leadership that is inclusive, collaborative, and connected. They need to identify their unique assets, create and implement a strategic plan, and establish strategic partnerships among community stakeholders and with other jurisdictions. And they need to be proactive in creating community and regional crossroads “ organizations, or structures, where leaders can connect on a regular basis to assess, plan, and work together. If small towns aggressively pursue these strategies, they have excellent potential for success. Many city-dwellers long for what people in small towns already have, and often take for granted: Many of our small towns still possess a sense of authenticity and charm that cannot be replicated in bigger cities. These inherent quality-of-life advantages, enhanced by community leadership, planning, and partnerships, ultimately make the community more attractive to both existing and potential residents and employers. In other words, investments in product development make the community much easier to market and sell. The irony is that strategies emphasizing community development ultimately make small towns much more attractive in the competition for those large manufacturing plants they covet. Cases in Economic Development, edited by Douglas J.

*A successful development strategy for small town explained in three important elements to encourage a small community like us for a better Barangay Camarin, better for Caloocan City: 1) Developing strong and diverse community leadership that is inclusive, collaborative, and connected;*

While these communities may frequently lack institutional capacity and fiscal resources to undertake big initiatives, they do have the benefit of agility. Even a single leader can make a difference. Yet residents of small and rural places are every bit as deserving of a clean and healthy environment as are city dwellers. Indeed, these places retain great significance for Americans: The good news is that there are some terrific examples of green initiatives beginning to emerge in small-town America. Even a smaller grant or loan from a government or philanthropic agency can make a major impact in a small town. And, in some cases, small towns and cities find themselves in a position to draw upon available resources from outside the community that enable them to undertake sustainability efforts significant enough to rival those of big cities. In every case, they deserve our applause and encouragement. Among small-town sustainability efforts, none is more celebrated, and rightfully so, than the comprehensive green strategy currently being implemented in Greensburg, Kansas population as of It was born of a tragic event that no one would wish on any community: But the townspeople knew that, if they were to do so, the enormous effort required would have to be undertaken with a strong sense of purpose. After much deliberation, and with considerable support from the Kansas state government, that purpose came in an environmental form: These would include green buildings; a rebuilt, walkable, mixed-use downtown; green infrastructure to manage stormwater; and powering the town with renewable energy. Today, Greensburg is well on its way. Renewable [mostly wind] energy powers the entire community, and the streetlights are all LED. Greensburg is a great story, too rich to tell here in this blog post. For most small communities, though, going green means doing so with small steps. These steps can nonetheless be powerful, not just because of what they accomplish directly but also because of their educational impact. Sustainability in Small and Rural Places features, for example, the town of Columbus, Wisconsin population 4, in Subsequently, the town made a commitment "to create a marketing persona for the City of Columbus as a green community, a sustainable community," in the words of staffer Steve Sobiek. Visible green improvements include high-efficiency LED street lighting, hybrid electric municipal vehicles, plug-in stations at municipal parking lots, energy-efficiency audits and upgrades of municipal offices and services, and small subsidies for energy and water efficiency efforts and for tree planting by homeowners. City officials believe that the commitment to go green has paid significant dividends towards meeting its economic goals. An arts incubator chose Columbus over Madison and a local pump manufacturer has broken ground on a larger facility that will anchor a new business park. But many communities in the region share those benefits. Energy efficiency was also targeted in recent sustainability efforts of South Daytona, Florida population 12, in In , according to ICMA, South Daytona completed a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for its own operations as well as for the community at large. The city adopted a goal of reducing emissions 25 percent from levels by So far, the city has focused on energy conservation in municipal facilities by changing to more efficient lighting, installing a solar water heater in the fire department, and educating staff about energy usage. The city also replaced parking lot lights with more efficient fixtures and found other lights that can be turned off completely without compromising safety. According to ICMA, an amazing forty percent of home water use is typically flushed down the toilet. Bringing back Main Street Many smaller communities retain traditional shopping streets at their core, albeit frequently disinvested at this point since so much retail fled downtown to malls, big boxes and strips in the latter half of the 20th century. Today, these historic centers offer wonderful urban fabric to build upon in consolidating economic development efforts. Some communities are taking note and, when successful, such efforts help the environment by recycling buildings and infrastructure, by prioritizing walkability, and by obviating increments of suburban sprawl that eat up the rural landscape and lengthen driving distances and consequent emissions. I wrote about Corning at length earlier this year, positing five key elements that I believe can make Main Streets more likely to thrive: A superior

pedestrian experience, assisted by such design features as ample sidewalks; convenient, well-highlighted crosswalks; vehicle traffic at calm speeds; entertaining, transparent storefronts abutting or very close to the sidewalk; relatively short block lengths; in particularly warm climates, shading. Density, but at a human scale. For Main Streets in smaller cities and towns, I personally prefer a mixture of building heights ranging from two to about eight or so stories. Some chains are OK, but not too many. Especially in small towns, many older districts today provide opportunity for small, local businesses to have a chance at success. The more within walking distance, the better. You may have something akin to a quaintly designed outdoor shopping center. Nationally, the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offers a range of resources for those interested in revitalizing older commercial districts. Harnessing land use strategies and zoning Finally, the sustainability of any community is inextricably tied with its land use practices. This can be especially true in smaller towns and cities where the absence of capacity to create and implement good planning and policies can make it all easy for an ad hoc culture of poorly designed, haphazard development and abandonment of well-located, viable properties to prevail. But on these issues, too, there is a lot that can be done to guide the right kind of development to the right places in order to support economic, social, and environmental vitality. Surely the gold standard for a concerted, multi-faceted, small-town land use planning effort is exemplified by the work begun in by the adjoining towns of Ranson population 4, and Charles Town population 5, in West Virginia. I profiled the efforts of Ranson and Charles Town in an article shortly after the work began. The work was promising then, and today it is beginning to pay dividends. Earlier this month, I joined the planning consultancy PlaceMakers, which was deeply involved in assisting the planning process in Ranson and Charles Town. I have not been involved in those efforts. In particular, the communities sought and leveraged several sources of federal funding into an innovative and quite comprehensive planning exercise. Drawing upon support from the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and from the Environmental Protection Agency - collectively, the federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities - Ranson and Charles Town impressively undertook the following: A form-based "SmartCode" zoning system that joins a green downtown overlay district with an additional new zoning approach for undeveloped, outlying areas; A redesign of the prominent Fairfax Boulevard-George Street Corridor into a "complete street" with green infrastructure, to promote a better transportation route for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit; Establishment of a new regional Charles Washington Commuter Center in downtown Charles Town that will facilitate access to regional rail and bus transit systems for Ranson, Charles Town and Jefferson County; and A master plan for downtown that spurs job growth and economic development in former dilapidated manufacturing sites. This is amazing stuff for towns of this size. Since my summary which, to be fair, also expressed a couple of misgivings about the exercise, the comprehensive plan was adopted for a planning area of 6, acres in April, An area-wide brownfields redevelopment plan was adopted by Ranson and Charles Town, also in It must be said that few small towns will have the resources to undertake as large a planning effort - with so many elements addressed at the same time - as that addressed by Ranson and Charles Town. In this case, the communities benefitted greatly from federal funding that has since become harder to tap into because of budget-slashing. Entrepreneurial leadership makes a difference. It is important to show early benefits to build support for further efforts. Education of local staff and the public pays off, since they can be a force for change over time. Regional networks are critical for information exchange and learning best practices. Municipal utilities are key partners. They have expertise, investment capability, and regulatory incentives to play a leadership role. Sustainability can be a competitive economic development strategy -- one that promotes social inclusion and community revitalization. That seems like good advice to me. Move your cursor over the images for credit information. Kaid Benfield writes about community, development, and the environment on Huffington Post and in other national media.

*Small Towns, Big Ideas is the result of an intensive, yearlong effort to identify and document the stories of small towns that are surviving - and, in some cases, thriving - as.*

Home Uncategorized Top 10 Profitable Small Business Ideas for Small Towns Top 10 Profitable Small Business Ideas for Small Towns December 17, , admin , 3 Comments Even if there are limited opportunities for business in a small community, there are still various ways for an entrepreneur to survive in the community. There should be no doubt that there will be small business ideas for small towns that are likely to be profitable. The main incentive for venturing in business in such locations is the smaller capital needed and the lower overhead. It is easier to organize a business in a small town where people know each other. Explore the top profitability ideas for small towns in the list below. Local clothing People who live in smaller communities have a distinct advantage. They are more used to a traditional way of life and children, especially the women are taught domestic chores at an early age. For sure, there will be one or two seamstresses in the community. Use this to advantage and search online for ideas on how to create visors, caps, bags, shirts and other articles of clothing to promote local pride. Make the items available in local stores. Visitors to your community would find souvenirs like these interesting. Local jewelry In the same manner, you could harness your artistic talent to turn local items into jewelry. Check local history books, talk with older citizens in your community to find out more about local customs and traditions and draw inspiration from them. Rocks, shells, pottery, driftwood and other items found in your neighborhood could be turned into beautifully creative key chains, bookmarks, pendants, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. The outline of your community or your state could be made into a unique design for the above items. Make local postcards If you are good with a camera and have the eye for beauty, scour your town for the perfect scenic spots and take pictures. Turn these into postcards, posters and photo frames that you could sell locally and online. In the same token, you might even be a guide for hire when visitors come to your town. Local and organic foods Give value to local produce by going organic. More and more people are aware of the harm done not only to the environment but also to consumers of food that are not pesticide-free. You could organize weekend organic markets to encourage other farmers to use organic farming methods. Your business could be a hit when you announce the event and invite consumers from neighboring towns to come. Extend the organic vegetable market by selling condiments, sauces and local delicacies made from organic produce harvested from your local farms. Get certified as an organic farmer so you could sell your produce to larger markets, not just locally. Local outdoor sports Your town might have a spot for bird watching. This is one of the top outdoor sports in the country and hundreds of bird watching enthusiasts usually flock to different parts of the country each season. Get expert help to come up with a local bird watching reference guide to sell to visitors. Are you near mountains, white water rapids, caves or parks? You could organize hiking adventures, cave exploration or outdoor camps for summer, all laced with local hospitality. Sell local produce online If you are a farmer, do not concentrate on just your local market. Expand your business by creating a website and selling your produce online. There are several tutorials on how to set up a simple website or hire the services of a web designer to help you come up with the perfect design that is simple to update. Include an e-commerce system and organize a delivery system. Aside from perennial produce, you could give focus to seasonal fruits and vegetables that are attractive to most consumers. Your local trade and business bureau will have plenty of information on how to go about this. Buy global products to sell locally There are still plenty of small business ideas for small towns that you can find here. Oftentimes you will only find products locally manufactured sold at stores around a small community. However, there is always a market for people who want to buy global products. Make it easy for them to find these types of products by buying them and selling them to local customers. You only have to make a survey of what people in your community are looking for and then you source them out. You have the choice to buy both perishable and non-perishable goods if you have a good storage system or concentrate on one to avoid food spoilage, high inventory and high overhead costs. Sell things that you fix Are you very good at fixing most things? More people are now throwing out a lot of broken stuff because they do

not want to bother about having these things fixed. However, there are many more people who cannot afford to buy items because of lack of funds for stuff that could strain their meager budget. Set up a small shop where you could fix broken appliances for example. Some might want to sell them to you instead of getting them fixed. This gives you the opportunity to offer two types of services – fixing broken things and selling things that you have fixed. Be a business window painter If you have the talent for this type of business, what is there to stop you? You can easily set up your business and invest in paints and brushes. This will give you a unique selling proposition for your local clients. You do not have to cater only to your community. Build a website and let other companies know of your business and expertise. Share your knowledge If you are good at something or at most things, then why use this to your advantage and build your business around it. You could be a tutor, a part-time teacher or a part-time professional coach, not just in sports but in business as well. Starting a business is not that complicated particularly if you take the hints given in this list of top small business ideas for small towns. The most important thing to do is to carefully identify where your interest lie and what you are capable of doing. The next step is to get expert help to get your business off the ground, from capitalization to business set up, marketing and management.

## Chapter 7 : Top 10 Profitable Small Business Ideas for Small Towns – calendrierdelascience.com

*Planning in a small town has been a joy. It has also been the most difficult experience of my career. It lead to physical threats and literally drove me to tears on occasion.*

Visit our Publications page for a list of publications about rural smart growth. A Tool for Small Cities and Towns Step-by-step guide to building a place-based economic development strategy. Can help a community assess its policies, programs, and codes to determine whether they support the type of development the community wants. Lessons From Successful Places Includes case studies of small towns and cities that emphasized their existing assets and distinctive resources to build their economies. Focuses on smart growth strategies to meet three main goals: Provides policy options that can help rural communities strengthen their economies while preserving rural character. Topics include fiscal impact analysis, commercial development, wastewater infrastructure, rural roads, and efficient development patterns. Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Through the Partnership, the U. Department of Transportation DOT , and EPA worked together to align investments and coordinate policies to help communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment. Federal Resources for Sustainable Rural Communities Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities Explores how the Partnership for Sustainable Communities can contribute to more resilient economies, healthy environments, and quality of life in rural America. Healthy Places for Healthy People: This program helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant places by engaging with their health care facility partners such as community health centers including Federally Qualified Health Centers , nonprofit hospitals, and other health care facilities. Local Foods, Local Places: Livable Communities in Appalachia: Across the Appalachia region, small towns and rural communities want to revitalize their traditional downtowns to boost the local economy and improve quality of life. Through the Livable Communities in Appalachia Program, EPA partnered with USDA and the Appalachian Regional Commission to help these towns explore ways to integrate smart growth approaches to restore their downtowns and neighborhoods, making them healthy, walkable, and economically vibrant. Top of Page Technical Assistance Reports EPA has worked with several small towns and rural places to help them achieve their development. These reports might be helpful to other communities facing similar issues. Madison County, New York Tested the Smart Growth Self-Assessment for Rural Communities tool that can help communities evaluate their policies, programs, and codes. Cedar Rapids, Iowa Assessed how land use policies could be changed to create incentives for infill development and sustainable growth. California Strategic Growth Council Developed a guidebook that provides strategies, progress indicators, and resources to help local governments find the right combination of smart growth strategies for their communities. Sussex County, Delaware Presented green street design options to manage stormwater runoff and improve safety and aesthetics. Developed a form-based code to help guide the city in its decisions about development in the Downtown Waterfront District. Pamlico County, North Carolina Examined smart growth approaches to improve a rural highway corridor. Driggs and Victor, Idaho Identified barriers to infill development. Laconia, New Hampshire Engaged the public in adopting a new master plan designed to protect water resources, create walkable neighborhoods, and strengthen neighborhood centers. Porter County, Indiana Explored different stormwater management, transportation, and parking strategies, along with building and land use designs for the Route corridor and Wells Corner central area. Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island Developed approaches for mixed-use zoning standards, design guidelines, and review processes in three communities. Taos, New Mexico Explored options to help make development along State Highway 68, the Paseo del Pueblo Sur commercial corridor, more attractive and economically stronger. Created a vision for development at two sites along the East-West Loop Road. After decades of fighting against the often-flooded Cedar River, Charles City transformed the land next to the river into a park that has become the recreational heart of the city. With just over residents, Howard is reimagining what it means to be rural with Maroney Commons, a mixed-use, green complex with a hotel, a conference center, a restaurant, and offices that will help rural residents learn about green jobs and technology. Route 1 in Maine. Twenty towns

worked together to preserve the economy, environment, and quality of life along this regionally significant corridor. The Lancaster County Planning Commission established a regional, comprehensive growth management plan that protects farmland and historic landscapes by directing development to established towns and cities in the county. Public space and streetscape improvements have helped revitalize Hyannis, a village within the town of Barnstable. The redevelopment plan has reconnected residents to the waterfront and downtown by creating pedestrian-friendly walkways. Bicycle and public transit routes are reconnected to main streets and residential neighborhoods while new residential developments are linked to natural areas and wetlands. The Winooski Downtown Redevelopment Project revitalized this small town by preserving or restoring nearly acres of natural habitat, returning vacant properties to productive use, creating several neighborhood parks, and building the pedestrian-friendly RiverWalk. The small community of Davidson created healthy and vibrant neighborhoods in a historic setting. The town revitalized its existing buildings, and its new neighborhoods incorporated a variety of lot sizes and housing types and neighborhood parks within a five-minute walk. The Wellington Neighborhood in Breckenridge provides affordable and market-rate housing on a site that was once dredge-mined. The project recycled land, created housing for working families, provided a free transit shuttle to the nearby downtown, and helped the region avoid "mountain sprawl. Top of Page Other Resources USDA " Rural Development offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and operate more effectively. Guidebook for creative problem-solving, building stronger state and local partnerships, and understanding the opportunities that transportation and economic development projects bring. Regional Approaches to Sustainable Development Exit Highlights opportunities for regional development organizations to undertake sustainable growth initiatives. Appalachian Regional Commission is a regional economic development agency that is a partnership of federal, state, and local government. It is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair appointed by the president.

### Chapter 8 : 50 Small Town Business Ideas - Small Business Trends

*While designed initially to assist the SCI grantee communities, these materials should be helpful to planners, economic developers, elected officials, and local residents working to improve and strengthen their small towns and rural regions.*

### Chapter 9 : Federal Grant Opportunities - Reconnecting America

*Come to Canada!! I live in a very touristy small town called Springhill Nova Scotia Canada. It was a mining town and there are 2 museums and we have the Anne Murray centre, which is a museum for Anne Murray because she is from Springhill.*