

A satellite view of the Earth, centered on the United States. The landmasses are shown in shades of green and brown, surrounded by deep blue oceans. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a sense of motion or a wide-angle shot from space.

The Case for Megapolitan Growth Management in the 21st Century: Regional Urban Planning and Sustainable Development in the United States

**By
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Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute 2009

The 100 largest Metro Areas of the USA

1/3 of these areas cross state jurisdictional lines

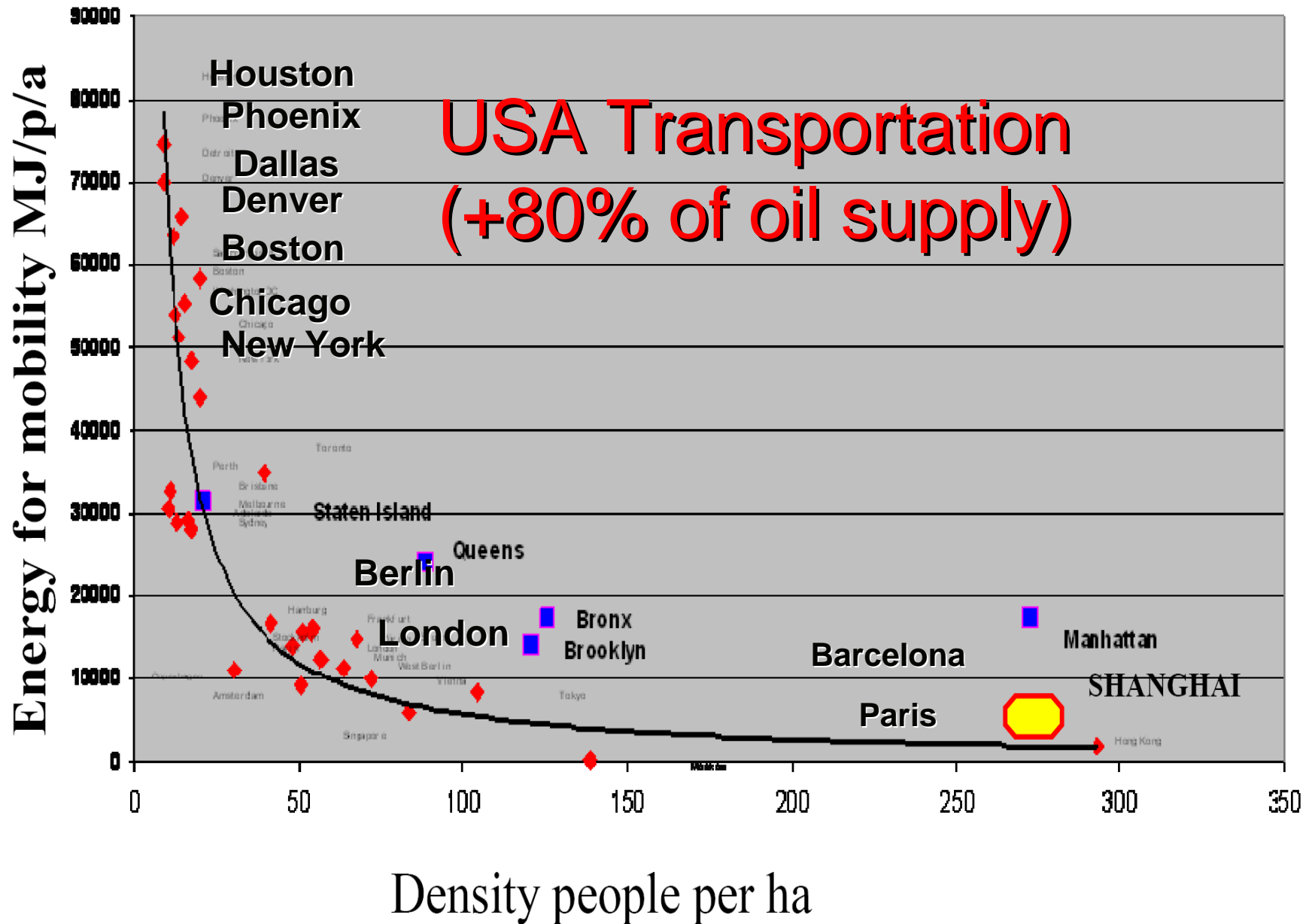
- 65% of the population
- 77% of minorities
- 85% of immigrants
- 2/3 of all jobs
- 3/4 of GDP

9000 local governments

control growth in the built environment of these 100 metro areas and unsustainable low density auto-dependent regional sprawl is the prevalent legally required development pattern



Energy – Transportation - Density



W E L C O M E T O

U S A

SUV
CITY

*The friendliest
place to drive
your Big SUV!*

Boulder

**100,000
population**

**Welcome!
New Urbanism
Town Center**

*Are Americans ready for
a low-carbon diet??*

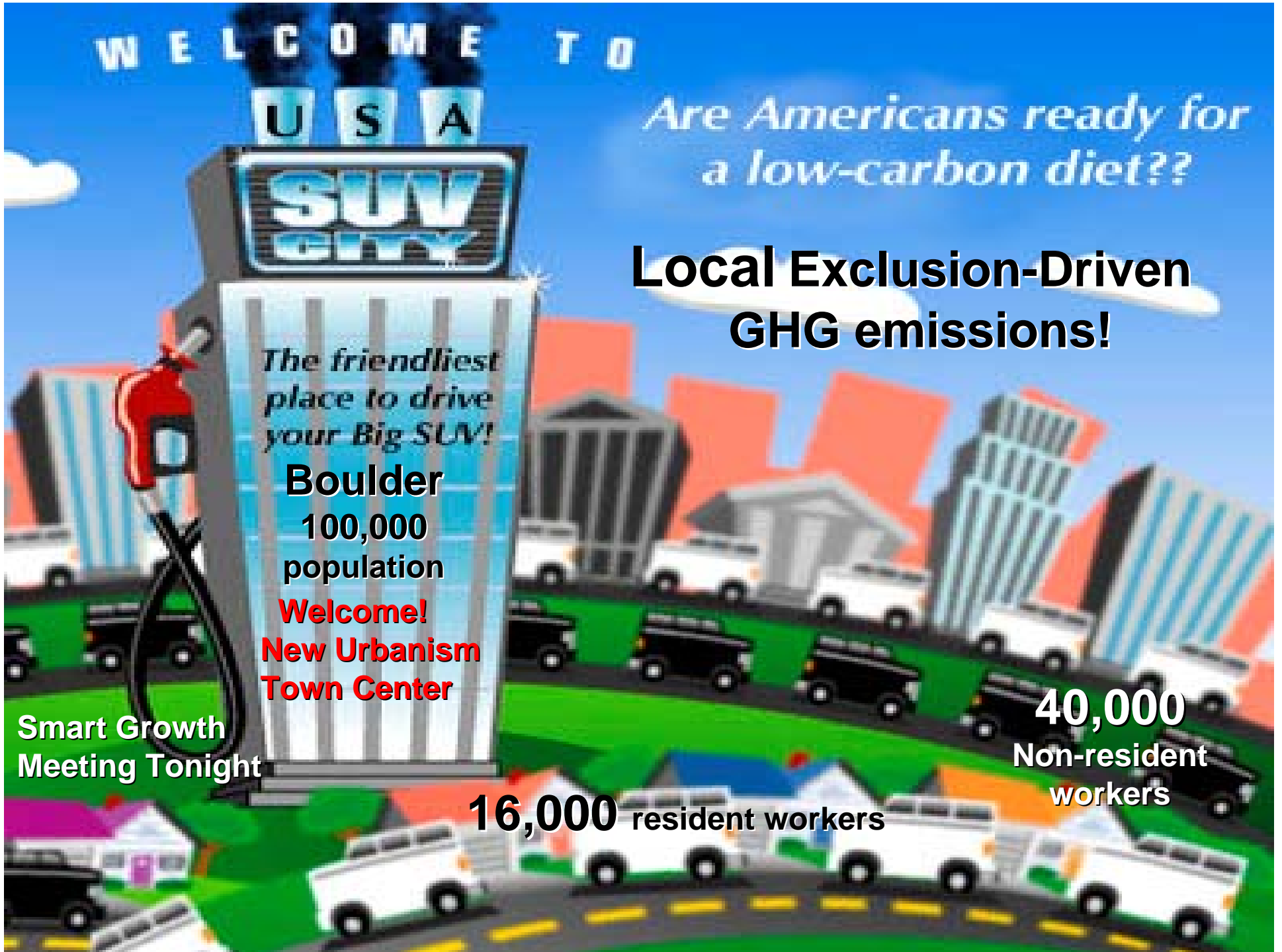
Local Exclusion-Driven GHG emissions!

**Smart Growth
Meeting Tonight**

16,000 resident workers

40,000

**Non-resident
workers**



Low Density Automobile-Dependant Sprawl Is Not Sustainable

- Quality of lifestyle choices
- Automobile use/traffic congestion
- Economic cost to households
- Global competition - job losses
- Economic growth & productivity
- Auto impact public health & safety
- Infrastructure costs/maintenance
- Peak oil - rising gasoline prices
- Environmental impacts
- Global warming – Co2 fossil fuels
- Sense of community / social cohesion

21 century?



**Broomfield Subdivision
Colorado USA**

21 century?



**Luodian
New Town
Shanghai**

Regional Growth Management development goals & standards

- higher density development
- mixed use development
- pedestrian/bicycle/scooter/public transit
- intensive, urban core job/housing areas
- TOD development (25-100 units acre)
- efficient rail/bus regional transit options
- designated growth/no growth areas
- green development standards

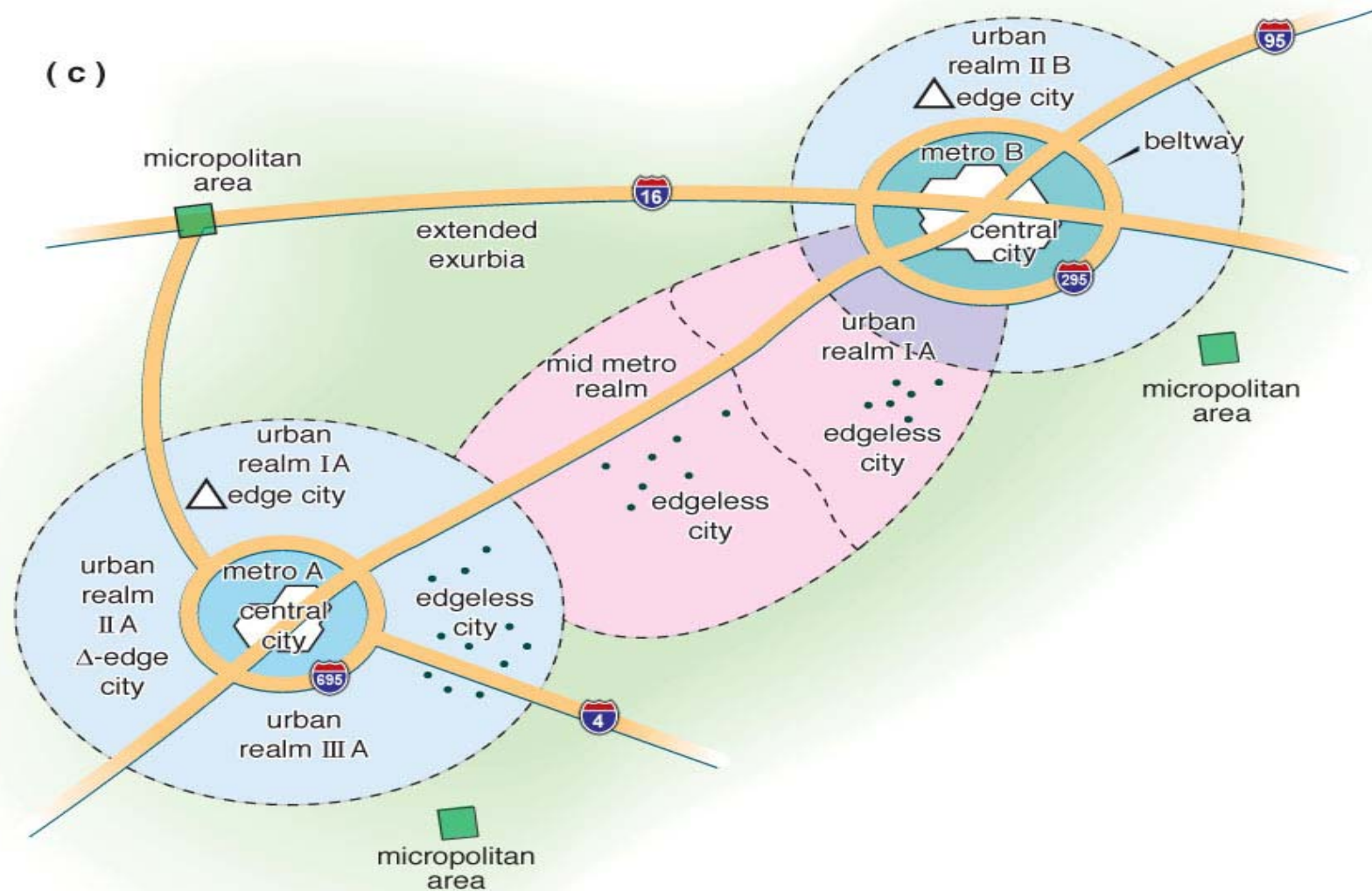
Green Building Techniques

Zoning and Codes 50%-80% Reduction

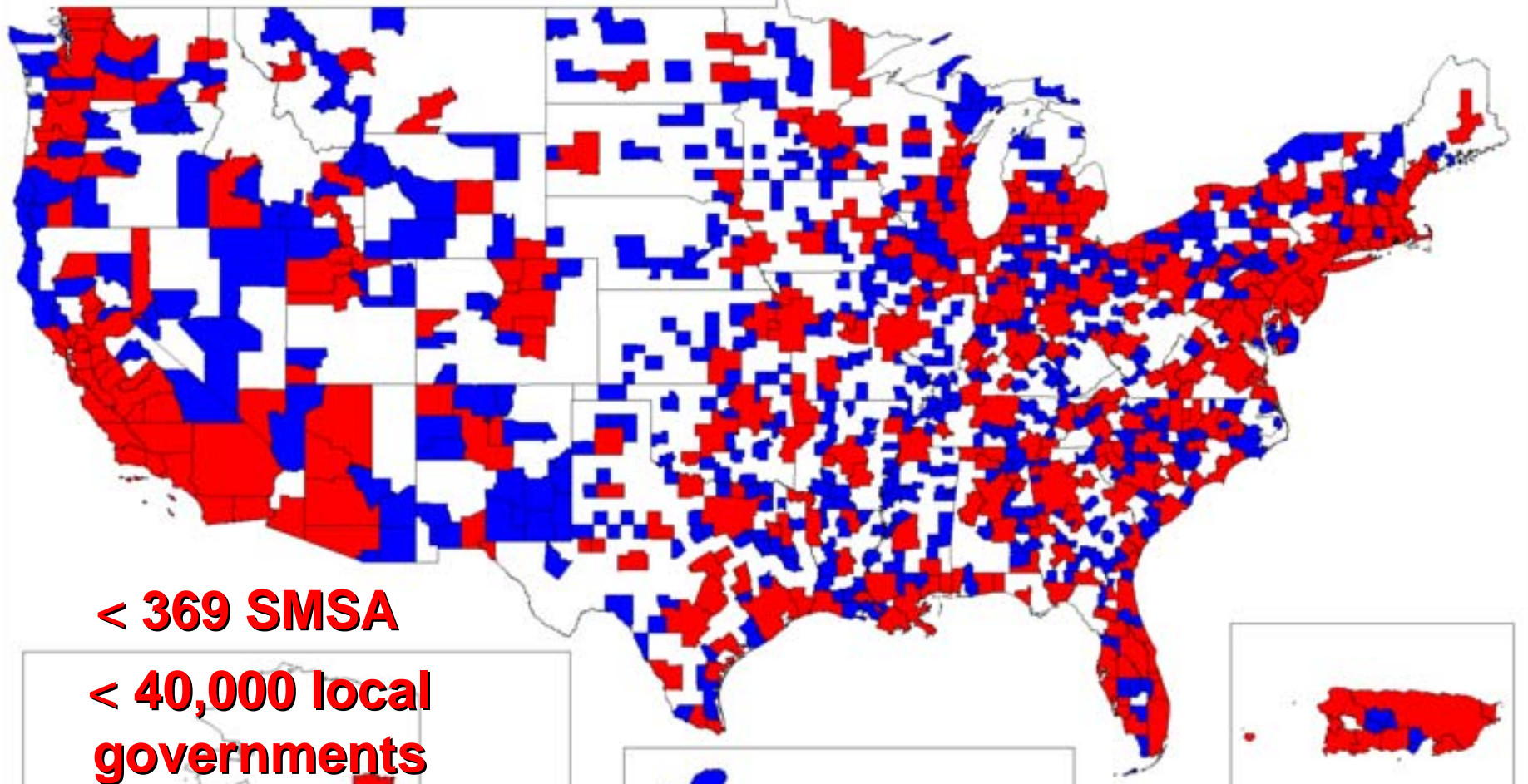
Allowed uses and density

- **Regional growth/no growth areas**
- **Maximum house/unit size**
- **Maximum building energy per sq. ft.**
- **Required density at TOD core areas**
- **New urbanist mixed use development design**
- **Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit friendly design**
- **Stop subsidizing sprawl**
- **Green building codes**

21st Century Megapolitan Form

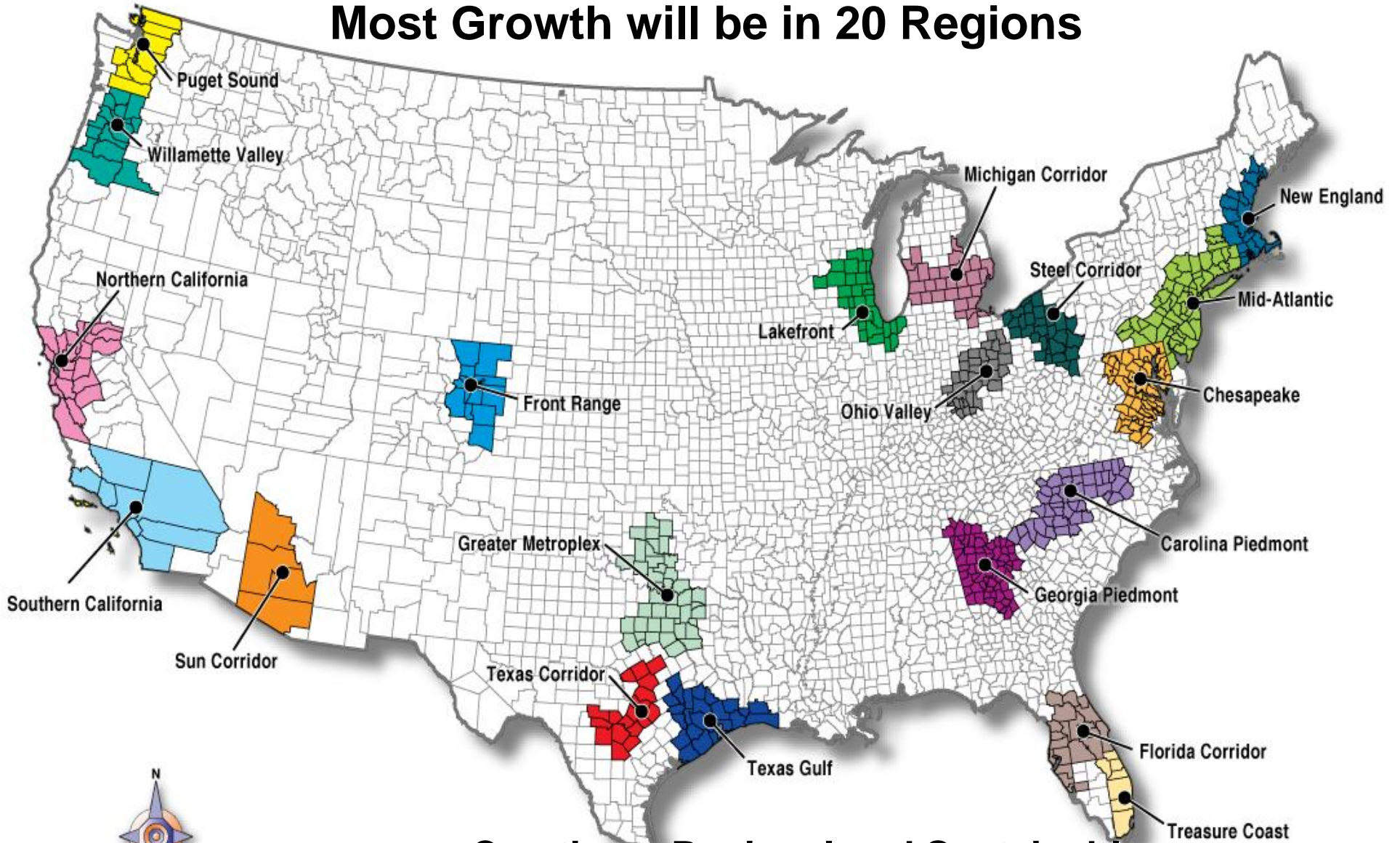


Regional Planning



Core-Based Statistical Areas
■ Metropolitan (369)
■ Micropolitan (582)

Most Growth will be in 20 Regions



**Creating a Regional and Sustainable
Development Framework for Local Urban Planning?**

Higher density benefits

(if less automobile dependant)

- More lifestyle options
- More human scale built environment
- Places friendly to children and elderly
- More pedestrian and bicycle friendly
- More nearby retail and service uses
- Public transit friendly
- Reduced auto use
- More households without cars
- Economic benefit to households
- Increase job creation & global competitiveness
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- Reduced land clearing
- Reduced air and water pollution
- Improved public health and safety
- Conservation of resources and energy
- Reduce global warming
- Improve energy security
- Improve food security

Metropolitan
Growth Management
Framework?

Infill and
Transit Oriented
Redevelopment ?

Regional Growth Management

Sustainable Development Concerns

- quality of life
- affordable housing
- efficient infrastructure
- conservation resources & energy
- economic prosperity
- alternative energy systems planning
- inter-modal transit planning
- regional food security
- water supply and treatment
- green urban cooling and heating networks
- waste treatment and recycling
- regional freight transport
- green carbon sinks and park networks,
- preparation of green development sites
- climate change mitigation/adaptation

Transit Oriented Development Vienna, Austria



Need for Change

New federal and state policies creating
a sustainable metropolitan framework
for local urban planning

Metropolitan Growth Management

“Providing some regional framework for growth may help us avoid waking up some years from now to a world of unsustainable plug-in automobile traffic jams, unsustainable solar-powered housing sprawl, a collapsed regional road or utility infrastructure, or a metropolitan area without a ready and affordable supply of drinking water, energy, or food.

We need to create a growth-management policy that avoids addressing critical growth issues in the future with ad hoc, massive, last ditch, crisis interventions. We are not likely to be rich or wise enough or possess the social cohesion in the future to make that approach work.”

Ed Ziegler

**The Case for Megapolitan
Growth Management in the 21st Century**

The end