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Press Release

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Citizen Planners from Across Maryland Assemble in Easton for Annual Education Conference

More than 100 attending two-day event

The Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA) is hosting its annual conference at the historic Tidewater Inn in Easton, MD, on November 9 and 10, 2011. The 2011 conference, themed "New Directions in Planning: Tools for Planning Now," offers attendees new insights into watershed implementation planning, the investment climate and land development, demographic trends and the impacts on sustainable growth and public engagement best practices. The [full conference program](#) is available on the [MPCA website](#).

Following the "new directions" theme, this year's conference will feature a webinar on Social Media and Ethics that will address what you can say to whom, and how via social media. The webinar is approved for 1.5 AICP CM Ethics and is open for planners to attend at no charge.

Conference activities begin Wednesday afternoon with sessions and a walking tour of historic downtown Easton. The keynote speaker for the opening evening is Dr. Jim Segedy, FAICP, who offer insights gained from more than 25 years of practice in and writing about community based planning.

The second day of the conference continues with a presentation by Richard E. Hall, AICP, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning. A luncheon and keynote speaker will be followed by a full afternoon of sessions wrapping up with an open floor from around the state.

MPCA, in conjunction with MDP and the University of Maryland Extension Service, is conducting a three-hour planning commissioner's education course during the conference at no charge. This course satisfies the requirement of the Smart and Sustainable Growth Act of 2009 that planning commissioners and board of appeals members in the state complete an education course.

Founded in 1983 and headquartered in Baltimore, MPCA is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and training of the state's citizen planners who serve on planning commissions, planning boards and boards of appeals. Most citizen planners serve as volunteers.

The Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association is a Presenting sponsor of this year's conference. Other sponsors include the Maryland Clean Energy Center, the Maryland Association of Counties, Lane Engineering and the Maryland Department of Planning.

For more information on the conference and the MPCA, please visit their website:
<http://planning.maryland.gov/YourPart/MPCA/mpca.shtml>

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