How do we work with communities?
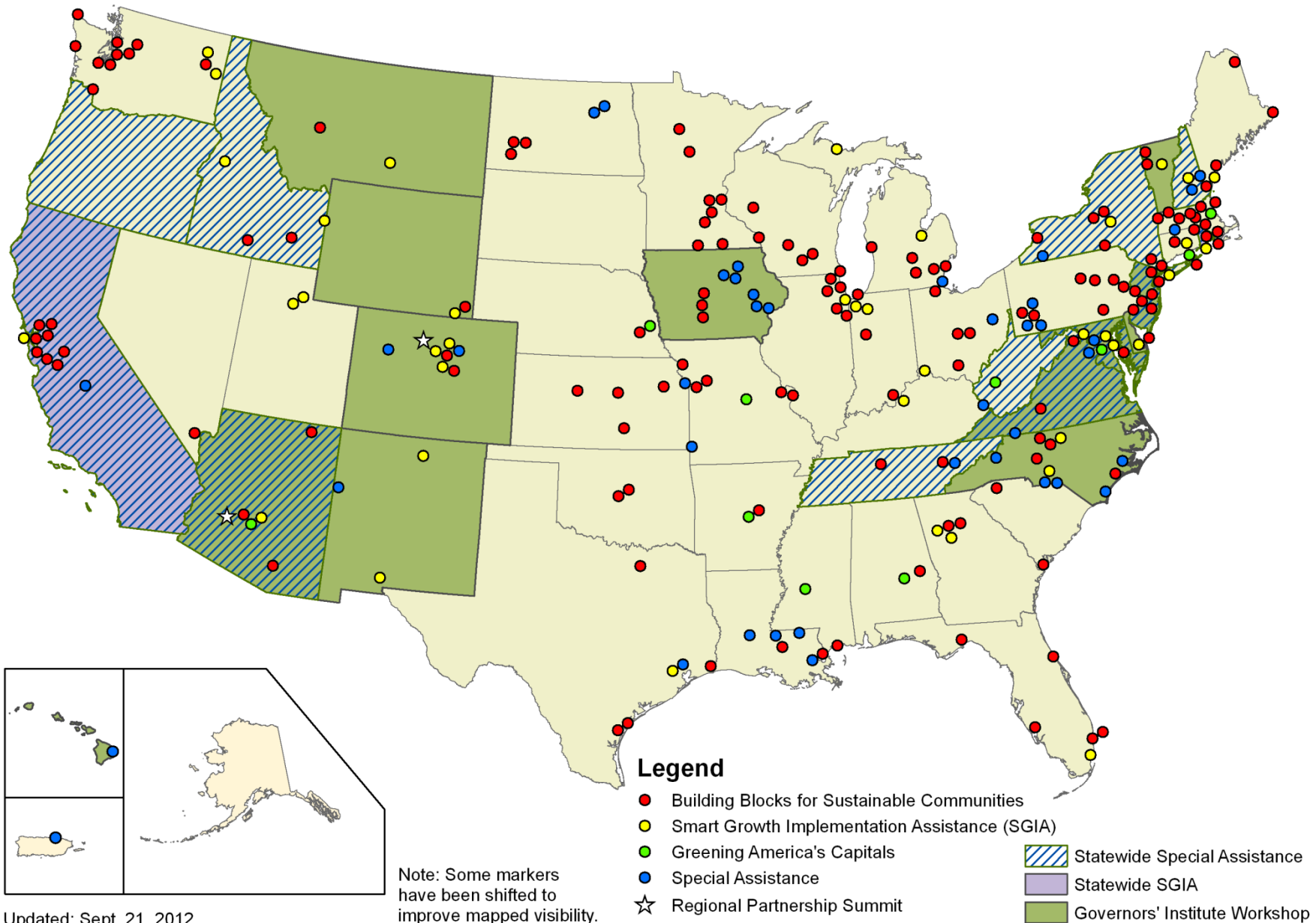## Office of Sustainable Communities Lessons Learned

Promoting Sustainability Through Net Zero Strategies

February 25th, 2014

OSC Technical Assistance and Workshops 2005 - 2012

Legend
- 🔴 Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities
- 🟡 Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA)
- 🟢 Greening America's Capitals
- 🔵 Special Assistance
- ☆ Regional Partnership Summit
- ▨ Statewide Special Assistance
- ▨ Statewide SGIA
- ▨ Governors' Institute Workshop

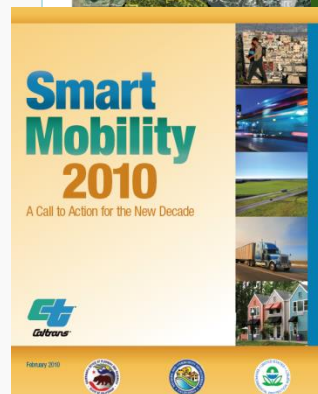Note: Some markers have been shifted to improve mapped visibility.

Updated: Sept. 21, 2012

- Launched in 2005
- Worked with 53 communities to date
  - Designed to address difficult challenges…
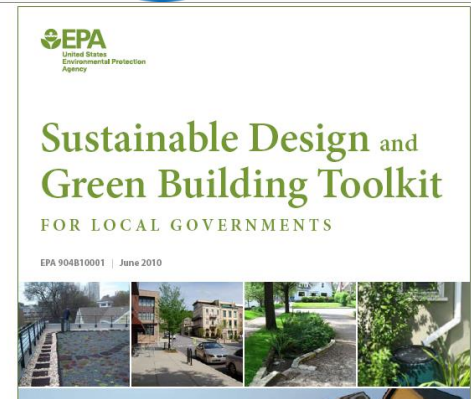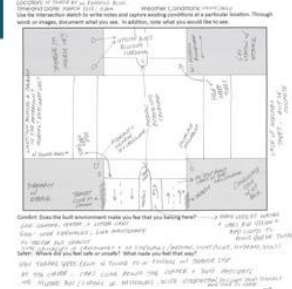 - and find transferable solutions
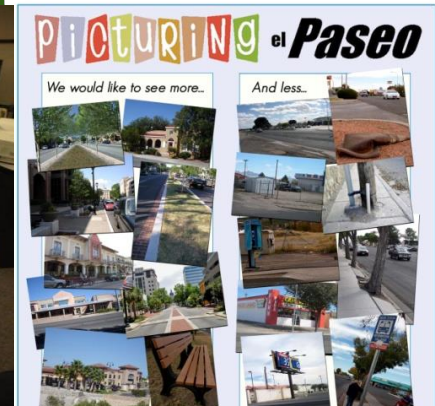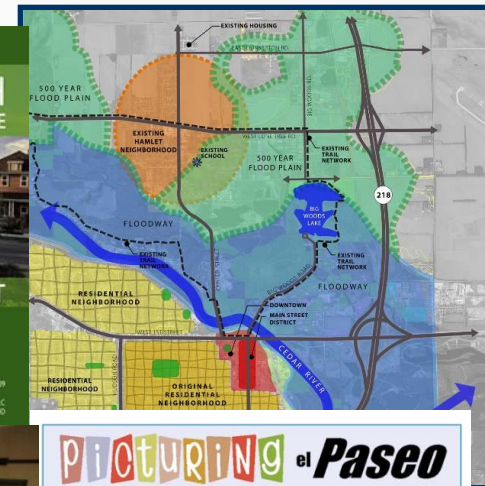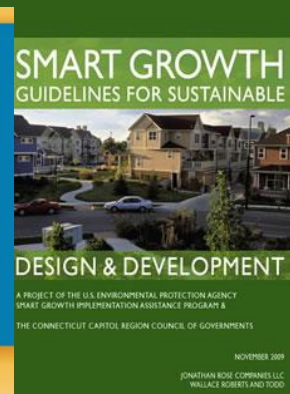
- Launched in 2011
    - 141 communities reached to date
    - 57 community workshops last year
    - 36 anticipated in 2014

Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
EPA 904B10001 | June 2010

Walkability Workbook
Intersection Sketch

Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program
EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

Green Streets

Smart Growth
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project
- 15 state capitals 2011 - 2013

Boston, MA

Jefferson City, MO

Little Rock, AR
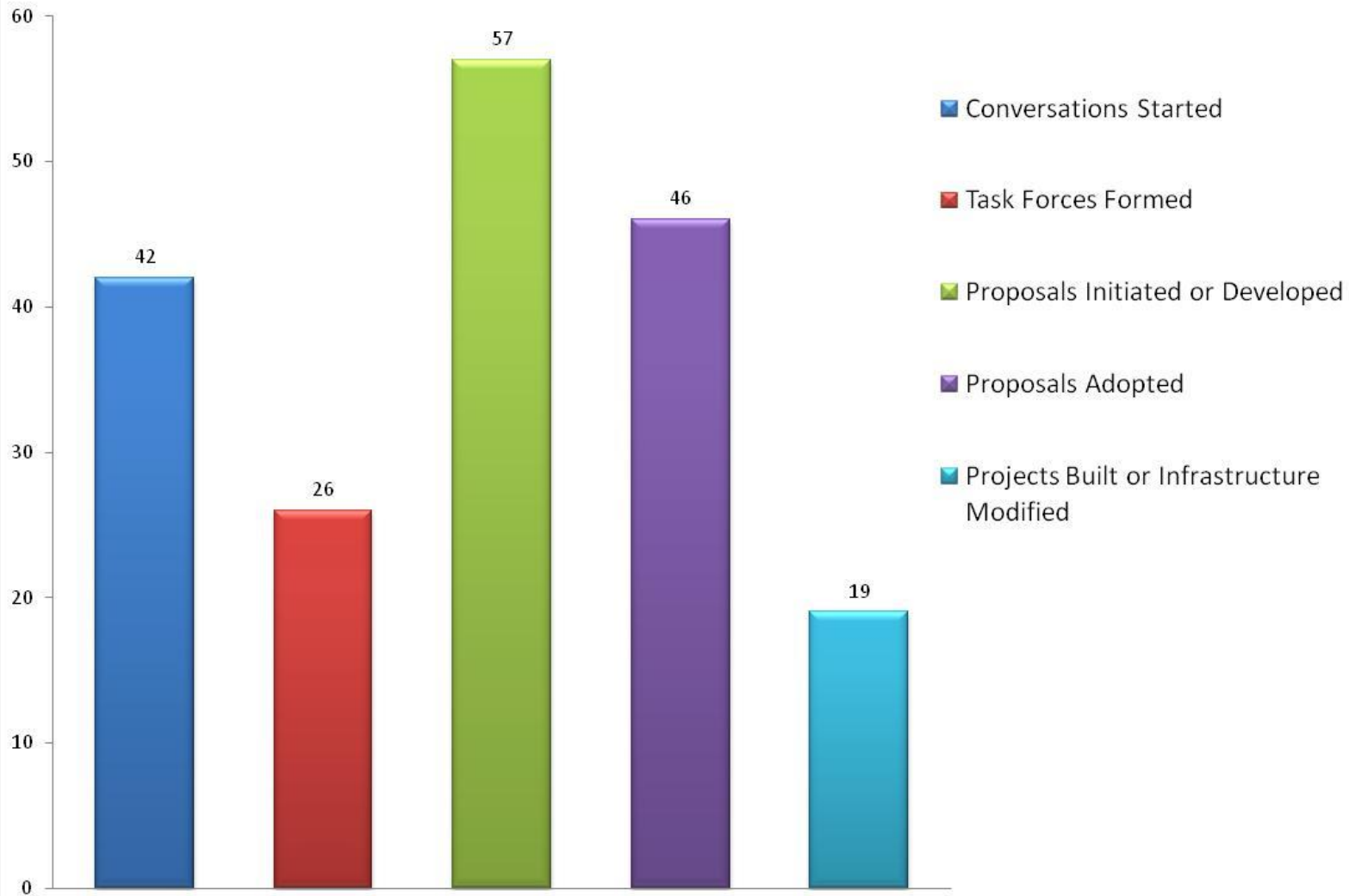

Charleston, WV

Hartford, CT

Outcomes

Community Accomplishments, By Component
(All Types, Post-EPA Assistance)

- Conversations Started
- Task Forces Formed
- Proposals Initiated or Developed
- Proposals Adopted
- Projects Built or Infrastructure Modified

Conversations Started: 42
Task Forces Formed: 26
Proposals Initiated or Developed: 57
Proposals Adopted: 46
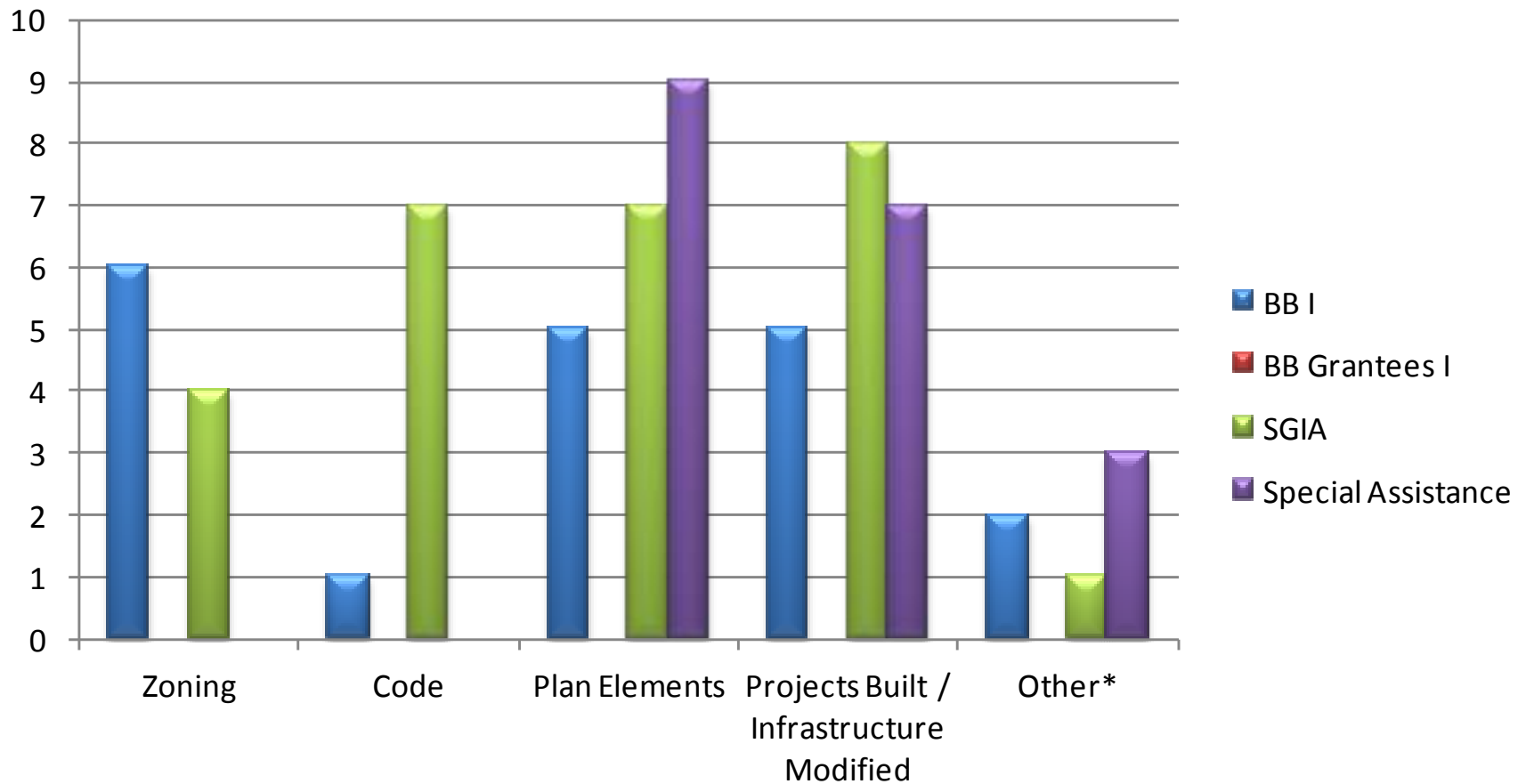Projects Built or Infrastructure Modified: 19

Outcomes

Community Accomplishments
(By Type , Post-EPA Assistance)

Outcomes
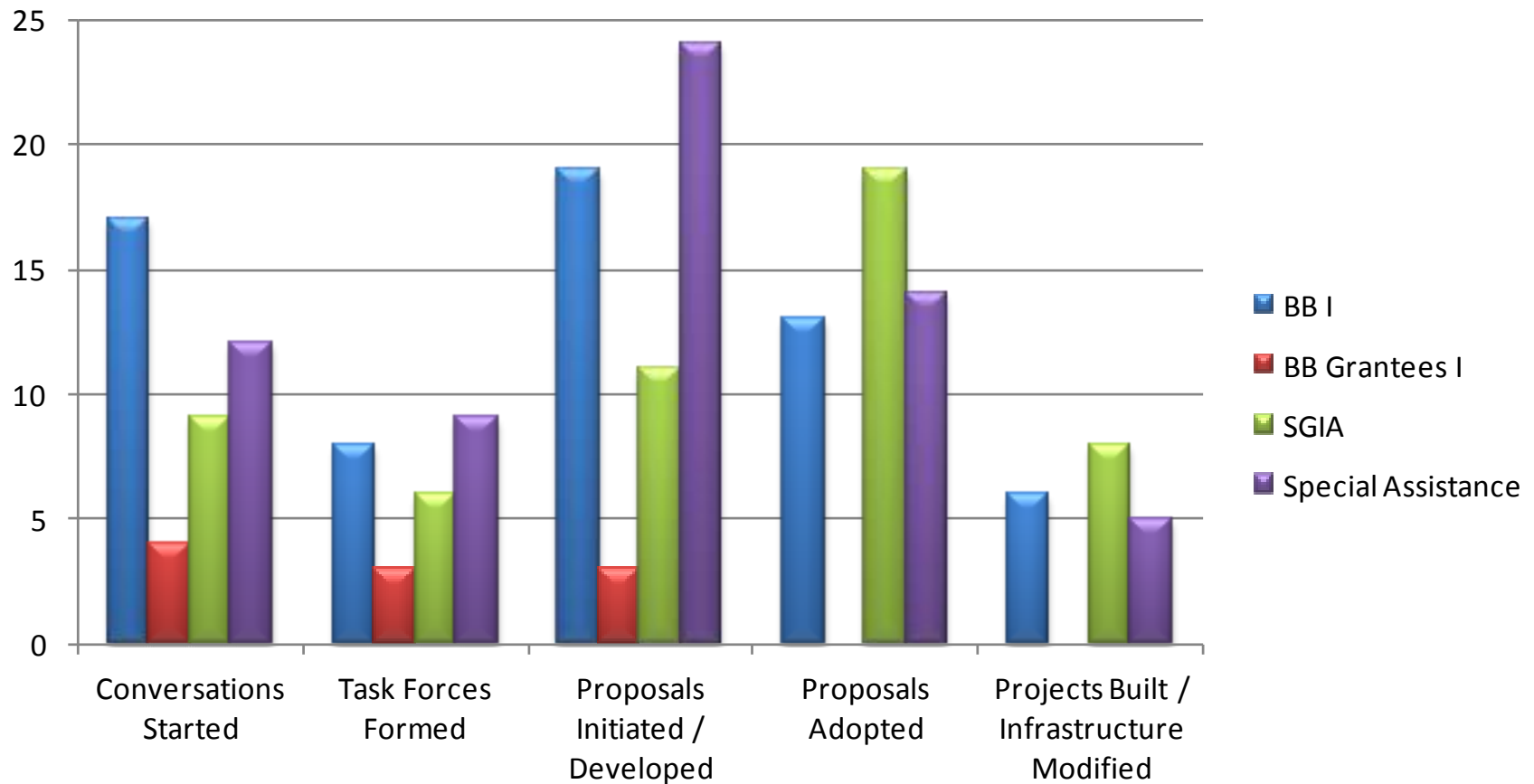
Proposals Adopted and Projects Built
(By Type, Post-EPA Assistance)

Defining the Type of Engagement

- Planning, Capital Programming, Policy Evaluation or Project Design
- Type of Engagement
  - Charrette vs. Workshop
  - Short Term vs. Sustained Support
- Level of Support Community needs to apply "tools"

Identifying Community Partners

- Crafting the offer of assistance
  - Clearly defined use case for any tool
  - Clear set of selection criteria
- Process for marketing assistance
  - Broadly advertized request for letters of interest
  - Targeted letters to eligible applications (e.g. mayors offices)

Selection Criteria

- Nature of the smart growth-related problem facing the community (1 point)

- Relevance of the described problem related to the selected tool (2 points)

- Short description of the expected results of the assistance (2 points)

- Did the applicant identify stakeholders and staff that are able to implement change?

- Will the assistance have a potential to produce change in 2-3 years, or less?

- Does the assistance lead some other community to change their practices based on this community as an example?

- Was the community (or associated with) a HUD Regional Planning Grantee (leveraging Partnership for Sustainable Communities investments)

More General Lessons

- The value of a formal yet simple process
  - The ability to be selective
  - More groundwork done by the community partner = greater buy-in
  - Community doesn't have to hire someone to manage a Federal grant
- A range of assistance products enables you to "meet communities where they are"
- Never underestimate the value of supporting tools with a good process or training opportunities