
ENGINEERS


ENTREPRENEURS


POLICY GEEKS


DATA SCIENTISTS


MAPMAKERS


WATER NERDS


URBAN PLANNERS


INVENTORS

WE ARE CNT


SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPS


ECONOMIC ANALYSTS


COMMUNITY BUILDERS


GAME CHANGERS

**We take on
big challenges
starting in
small places.**

**We help make
neighborhoods,
cities, and regions
work better.**

**Our solutions
are all about
efficiency.**



LOCATION EFFICIENCY

Concentration of housing, transportation, and amenities that allow people and goods to move around without wasting energy, time and money



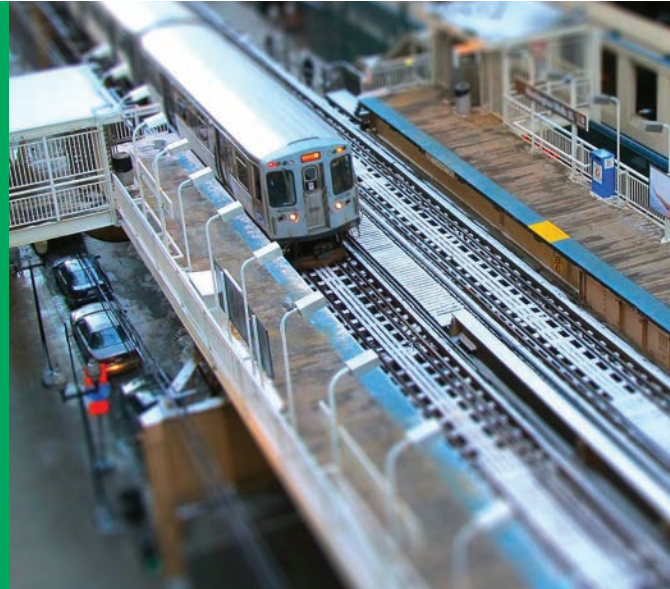
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Conservation of water (including rainwater), energy, and the rest of our natural environment

Making our communities more efficient brings big benefits:



More
**LIVABLE +
AFFORDABLE**
neighborhoods



JOBS
for people who need them



**FEWER HARMFUL
EMISSIONS**



**GREATER
RESILIENCY**
in the face of climate change

It's our best strategy for taking on big challenges like poverty, climate change, and urban sprawl.

Here's how we do it >>

WE ASK

We ask questions and crunch data.

WE STRATEGIZE

We come up with practical strategies to influence policies, markets, and behaviors.

WE TEST

We test our ideas and demonstrate the benefits of efficiency in real time, for real people, in real places.

WE SCALE

We take the best ideas to scale.

WE DELIVER
GAME-
CHANGING
SOLUTIONS

WE REDEFINED HOUSING AFFORDABILITY.

THE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION (H+T[®]) AFFORDABILITY INDEX

In 2002, we asked: What happens to housing affordability when household transportation costs are included?

The traditional, 30%-of-income rule for housing affordability drove many Americans to seek inexpensive homes in car-dependent places. We challenged this thinking. CNT developed a groundbreaking index that incorporates transportation costs—usually a household's second-largest expense. The H+T Index shows that location-efficient places can be more livable and affordable.

STRATEGY

Give policymakers, planners, and individuals data on housing and transportation costs, and tools to guide smarter, more sustainable development decisions that reduce the cost of living.

IMPACT

Transportation officials, metropolitan planning organizations, and governments in communities from coast to coast use the H+T Index to advance sustainability and affordability goals. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) used H+T costs as a livability measure in its GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan. El Paso, TX used the H+T Index for affordability determinations and to adopt a 50% H+T affordability standard. In Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Index was used as a performance indicator for the Central Corridor light rail line to ensure balanced community benefits. Charlottesville, VA used the index to develop a five-year housing plan. In Madison, WI, a custom H+T analysis informed a market demand study for Bus Rapid Transit and development of walkable, transit-supportive communities.



RETHINKING THE COSTS OF LIVING

2006

CNT produces a Housing and Transportation (H+T[®]) Affordability Index for Minneapolis-St. Paul

2013

H+T Index expands to 900 metro areas, representing 89% of the US population

TODAY

H+T Index guides policy and planning decisions in cities and regions across America

WE CUT ENERGY BILLS FOR 19,000 HOUSEHOLDS AND COUNTING.

THE ENERGY SAVERS PROGRAM

In the 1980s, we asked: Can we preserve affordable housing by making multifamily apartments more energy efficient?

Energy costs are the second-or third-largest expense for building operators, and among the most volatile. We saw that reducing energy costs could help maintain affordable housing. Over the years, we figured out a strategy to overcome barriers and make it easy for building owners to invest in efficiency.

STRATEGY

Offer a one-stop retrofit service that combines energy audits, contractor referrals, and financing options.

IMPACT

With an average energy savings of 30%, building owners can keep rents affordable and tenants comfortable. More than 500 new jobs were created in the Chicago region for this energy efficiency work. The 19,000+ retrofits led to a collective savings of more than 12 million kWh of electricity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 35,000 tons.

SAVING ENERGY + CUTTING COSTS

2007

CNT engineers begin energy efficiency programs for multifamily buildings in low-income Chicago neighborhoods

2014

CNT's affiliate, Elevate Energy, and its partners boast energy efficiency upgrades in over 19,000 units of affordable multifamily housing in Chicago

TODAY

Elevate Energy works with partners in Michigan, Minnesota and Connecticut to develop multifamily energy efficiency retrofit programs using the Energy Savers model

WE PIONEERED "THE SHARING ECONOMY."

IGO CARSHARING

In the late 1990s, we asked: Will city dwellers give up their cars if they have convenient access to shared vehicles?

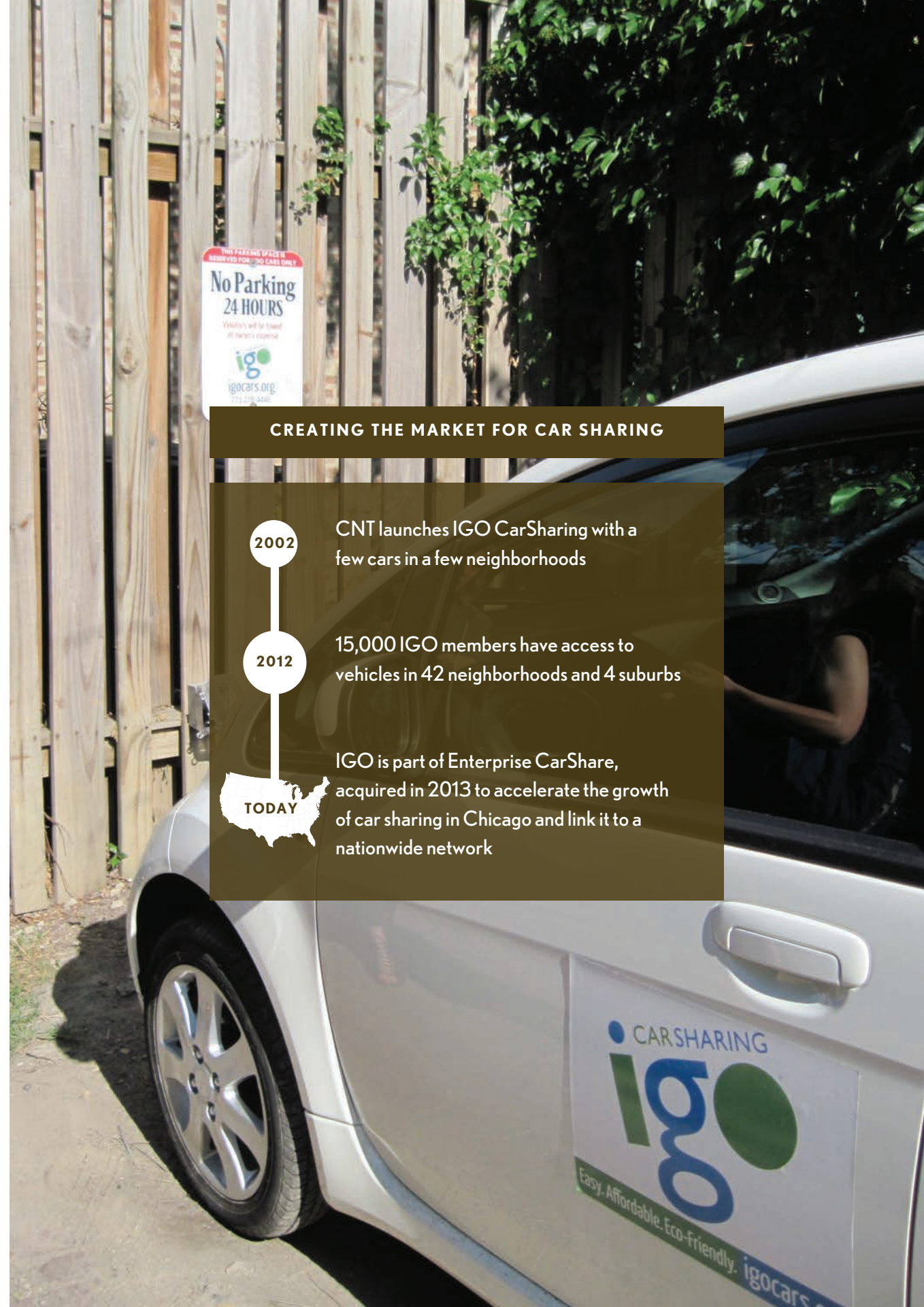
CNT saw an opportunity to bring a hot European import to America: car sharing. We believed that if people had access to convenient, affordable vehicles for occasional use, they would own fewer cars, drive less, save money, and generate fewer harmful emissions.

STRATEGY

Design and operate a car-sharing service for Chicago, offering energy-efficient vehicles in a diverse mix of neighborhoods.

IMPACT

IGO made car sharing an attractive, visible, practical option in Chicago, creating a market where none existed. Some 73% of IGO members either sold cars or postponed buying one, saving members more than \$48 million annually. With a full fleet of low-emission vehicles, solar panel charging stations for EVs, and reduced car usage overall, IGO achieved annual CO2 reductions in excess of 45,000 metric tons. IGO introduced America's first joint smart card that bridged public transit and car sharing, and was a founder of an international trade association of car-sharing groups.



CREATING THE MARKET FOR CAR SHARING

2002

CNT launches IGO CarSharing with a few cars in a few neighborhoods

2012

15,000 IGO members have access to vehicles in 42 neighborhoods and 4 suburbs

TODAY

IGO is part of Enterprise CarShare, acquired in 2013 to accelerate the growth of car sharing in Chicago and link it to a nationwide network

WE SHOWED HOW CATCHING RAINDROPS CAN KEEP OUR BASEMENTS DRY.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In the late 1970s, we asked: Is there a better way to manage stormwater and prevent flooding in cities than massive infrastructure projects?

CNT believed that many small investments in local stormwater infrastructure could be more efficient than spending billions on pipes and tunnels. Rain gardens, permeable pavement, bioinfiltration installations and other green infrastructure can prevent urban flooding and allow water to filter down and recharge the aquifer.

STRATEGY

Educate homeowners and municipalities about green infrastructure alternatives, demonstrate their economic value, and create standards to help communities scale-up investments.

IMPACT

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Lancaster, PA used CNT's The Value of Green Infrastructure report and Green Values Stormwater Calculator to compute the cost savings, social benefits, and environmental advantages of Lancaster's Green Infrastructure Plan, which could cut capital costs for stormwater management infrastructure by \$120 million and reduce wastewater pumping and treatment costs by \$661,000 per year. CNT's 2013 urban flooding study inspired the Illinois General Assembly to commission a statewide analysis of stormwater management programs, to include recommendations for rapid, low-cost solutions like green infrastructure strategies and other natural approaches. The National Urban Flooding Forum, convened by CNT, facilitates discussion of urban flooding and mitigation strategies with stormwater experts across the country.

PREVENTING URBAN FLOODING

1978

CNT advocates for neighborhood-level flood reduction as an alternative to Chicago's "Deep Tunnel" megaproject

2012

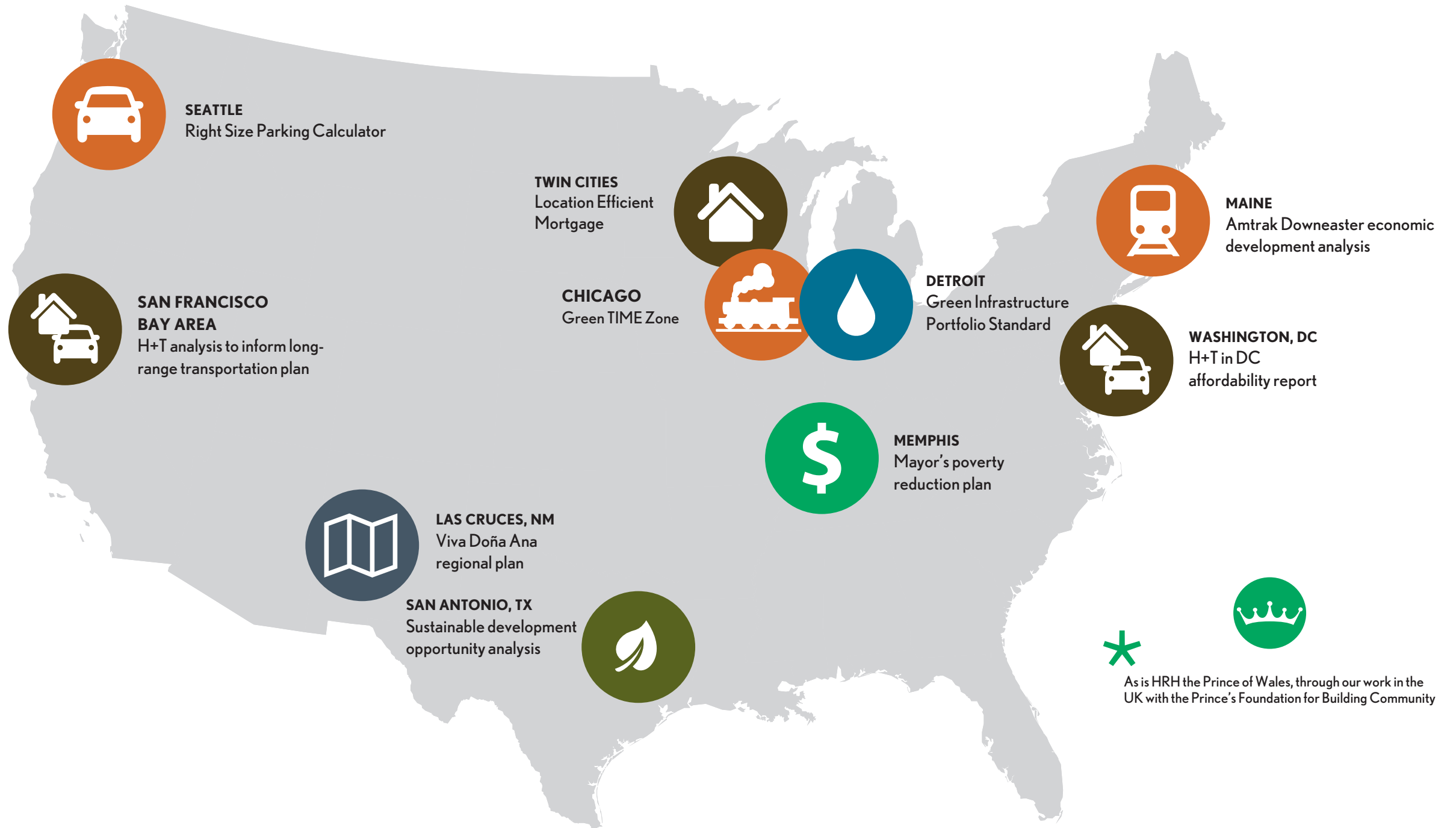
CNT introduces the Green Infrastructure Portfolio Standard (GIPS), modeled on renewable energy standards. Milwaukee, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Toledo begin pilot programs using GIPS methodology

TODAY

Proposed federal stormwater legislation incorporates GIPS principles



America's decision makers are adopting our ideas.*



Here's what we're working on now >>

SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

Lowering the cost of living

We're developing integrated strategies to combine transportation, water, and energy efficiencies to lower the cost of living, especially for the poor. Governments, communities and corporations can collaborate on sustainable development and smart infrastructure plans that capture the value of more efficient places. These strategies can create jobs and put America on a track towards a lower-poverty, higher-wage future.

We helped Memphis build its anti-poverty strategy. Other cities are expressing interest.

CARGO-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Delivering local economic development

We're shifting perceptions of freight rail from a dirty industry that simply passes through communities, to a potentially green (and growing) industry that can generate desperately needed jobs and revive declining tax bases. High-tech intermodal hubs can reduce the physical and environmental footprint of freight operations, increase throughput of goods, and create markets for freight-supportive businesses. Plus, related reduction in heavy truck traffic on highways enhances safety and decreases energy use, air pollution, congestion, and road maintenance costs.

We developed freight-efficiency solutions in Chicago's South Suburbs and advised USDOT on America's freight future. This is a national opportunity poised for growth.

ECO-DISTRICTS

Building resiliency by investing at neighborhood scale

We're focusing on ways to help cities manage energy, water, and transportation through increasingly uneven weather, economic volatility, and technological change. Recent demographic trends toward urban living and "sharing economies" present opportunities to deliver new and innovative services at a neighborhood scale.

Municipalities are looking to us for strategies to package, finance and execute such services on a distributed-resources or "eco-district" basis.

RAIN READY

Creating "Rain Ready" communities

We're evolving our work on urban flooding to help individuals, businesses, and communities find solutions to the problem of too much or too little water. Cities and towns across America recognize the need to prepare for new weather patterns associated with climate change, while still reducing costs. Better water management can keep residences and businesses secure, services working, and rivers and lakes clean.

Our Rain Ready initiative builds on CNT's integrated approach to stormwater management. Property owners and municipalities alike are looking for cost-effective, scalable solutions that can improve the quality of life in their communities.

INNOVATION FUND

Inventing the next _____

As an innovations hub, we've delivered game-changing sustainability solutions for more than 35 years. Continuing CNT's record of innovation requires funding that goes beyond specific projects to stay on the cutting edge of sustainable development.

CNT's Innovation Fund provides early support for new approaches to urban sustainability and resiliency challenges.

Let's work together.

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CNT is a nonprofit innovations hub for urban sustainability. CNT's research, strategies, and solutions are implemented across America and around the world to create more equitable and resilient communities. Our 35-plus years of work in transportation and community development, water, energy, and climate have inspired a generation of new approaches and earned the highest of honors.



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