



Vibrant Communities—Robust Region



Invest two hours and make a difference in your region for the next 40 years!

At **CONNECT Our Future** Community Growth Workshops



How

Come participate in one of the workshops to map out the future of your county

When

*During September and October 2013
At your choice of 9 am,
1 pm and 6:30 pm*

Where

More than 40 workshops will be held across the region's 14 counties

Tell me more about these workshops.

Simply sign up to participate in one of three identical workshops in your county. Each workshop needs about 2 hours of your time.

You will participate at one of several tables of 10 people, with your neighbors, to show the way that your county might grow over the next 40 years.

You will have information from people who have already participated in **CONNECT Our Future** to consider along with your own sense of your community. You'll have the chance to actually map out the growth for your county at your table, thinking about where people will need to work, live, and play and how you can enhance and protect your quality of life as the area grows.

Your group will be led by a table guide who will help you understand and work on your task. It is a great chance to meet and work with people from across your county and to think about the future you want to see.

CONNECT Our Future is a collaborative, interactive, data-driven approach to setting ourselves on a path for successful growth as a 14-county, two-state region.

Phase 1: Input from the region's residents on what is important to them

Phase 2: Design of regional growth options through Reality Check 2050 and Community Growth Workshops

Phase 3: Growth option selection based on the outcomes of what the residents of our region want for the future.

(OVER)



Jobs/Economic Development



Land Use



Transportation



Housing



Energy



Natural Resources



Public Health



Food Systems

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Why is my participation so important?

Our two-state, 14-county region is expected to grow by **another 1.8 million people** and 860,000 jobs by 2050. Regional leaders are working to ensure that the area is ready. The goal is to plan and change by local choice – not by chance. That's the purpose of **CONNECT Our Future**. Already, **CONNECT Our Future** has been hard at work involving people from across the region:

- Last winter and spring, at 100 different events, 2,215 residents from across the region shared what they value most about their communities and the region and what they believe present the greatest challenges for the future.
- On June 4th, 400 elected officials and other leaders from the business, non-profit and public sectors worked together on principles to guide where and how our region might grow, keeping in mind the ideas of the 2,215 people who had already participated.



The map you develop at your Community Growth Workshop—along with all the other maps from the other 13 counties—will be combined with the input already gathered across the region. From all the ideas shared, four or five possible scenarios for the growth of our region will be created. These scenarios will reflect the different perspectives that people have shared across the region. In the spring and summer of 2014, residents from the region will again be asked for their input—this time about which of the alternative growth scenarios they prefer.

You have a special and unique voice to bring to this phase.

1. Register now and attend yourself!
2. Share your commitment and encourage other people to attend. Involve people at work, in your neighborhood, at your place of worship. Encourage others who share your interests to join you!
3. Tell us who else we need to involve in your county.

How do I sign up?

Just go online at <http://ConnectOurFuture.org/get-involved/> and select the workshop you want to participate in or you can call us at 704-714-4438 to offer suggestions or recruit other folks.



*Questions about the workshops? Contact Sarah Hejma / shejma@leeinstitute.org / 704-714-4438. The Lee Institute - www.leeinstitute.org - is **CONNECT's** lead public engagement partner and managing the recruitment of participants for the Community Growth Workshops. Visit www.ConnectOurFuture.org for more information about **CONNECT Our Future**.*



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704/372-2416 • www.ConnectOurFuture.org

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CONNECT Our Future is a project of:



Centralina Council of Governments

www.centralina.org



Catawba Regional Council of Governments
Serving Cherokee, Lenoir, and Swain Counties

www.catawbacog.org