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Contact: Ann Brady
Interim President
609-393-9434
abrady@plansmartnj.org

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PlanSmart NJ Announces Lucy Vandenberg as New Executive Director

(Trenton, NJ) – PlanSmart NJ’s Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Lucy Vandenberg, AICP/PP as PlanSmart NJ’s Executive Director and Ann Brady moving into the Managing Director position.

Ms. Vandenberg has an extensive background in land use planning, community development, housing, and urban revitalization. Most recently she served as Planning and Redevelopment Aide for Mayor Dana L. Redd in the City of Camden. Her focus included creating new energy-efficiency programs for the City and developing an abandoned properties strategy. Prior to this, Ms. Vandenberg was the Executive Director of the NJ Council on Affordable Housing from 2003 – 2010.

Ms Vandenberg’s community development, housing, and urban revitalization background is perfectly suited to lead PlanSmart NJ’s complex and multi-issue policy positions. “She is well equipped to continue PlanSmart NJ’s commitment do what is effective and do what is right to make New Jersey more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable,” said Raymond Ferrara, Omni Environmental and PlanSmart NJ Chairman of the Board.

Former PlanSmart NJ President Dianne Brake said “Lucy feels passionately about the critical planning issues facing New Jersey. She will undoubtedly be able to advocate for strategies that will stimulate economic development and produce better outcomes on the ground.”

Ann Brady has been at PlanSmart NJ for nearly 20 years. She has managed numerous planning projects including the Mercer County Green Links Project and the Watershed Management Area 11 Project. She works closely with the Board and helped lead the organization through two name changes and a capital campaign which helped PlanSmart NJ to purchase its current headquarters on West State Street in Trenton. “She has valuable institutional knowledge and numerous contacts in the State,” said Ferrara. “The

Board felt strongly that it was important to elevate her role with the organization to help move us forward. I think she and Lucy will make quite a team.”

Ms. Vandenberg will begin work on May 2, 2011.

PlanSmart NJ is the state's premier regional planning organization, having built a reputation for integrity, substance and balance. For four decades, this Trenton-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit has worked to improve the environment, reduce disparities and improve job, housing and transportation choices for people across New Jersey. (Go to www.plansmartnj.org for more information.)