

2014-05-29 / Around Town

Grow Smart Summit



Bike Newport was recognized for its Smart Growth Leadership. Scott Wolf, Executive Director of Grow Smart RI; Bari Freeman, Executive Director of Bike Newport; Deanna Casey, Board Chair Bike Newport; Guillaume de Ramel, Frederick H. Prince Memorial Fund and Bill Riccio, City of Newport Director of Public Services; Despina Metakos and Francisco Lovera, both of RIDOT Highway Safety.

Grow Smart Rhode Island, a public interest group promoting sustainable economic growth, recognized Bike Newport with the Outstanding Smart Growth Leader award at the 2014 Power of Place Summit, which took place on May 23, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. This year's theme focused on "Positioning Rhode Island for an Economic Renaissance," the biennial statewide conference offers an opportunity to promote and celebrate successful smart growth, development, policy, and planning in the Ocean State.

Since officially launching as a Rhode Island nonprofit in 2011, Bike Newport has encouraged biking and has led a collaborative effort by city government, businesses, and community-based organizations to improve bicycle safety and enhance the overall experience for bicyclists. In 2013, the national League of American Bicyclists recognized Newport as a Bicycle Friendly Community—making it the first municipality in Rhode Island to achieve that honor. Freeman noted: "We hope to be the first of many bike friendly communities all over Rhode Island. This award will help to make that happen."

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