



Undermining Your Community

Don't let the bright lights of Wal-Mart fool you. Communities with Wal-Marts are often left in the dark as the large corporation sweeps in and destroys small businesses and the economic backbone of your town.

For example:

- Wal-Marts drive out supermarkets and small and family-owned businesses, lowering property values and creating urban blight.

- Wal-Mart won't tell you what it pays, but based on employee contacts and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, non-supervisory employees make an average of between \$7.50 and \$8.50 an hour.

With a 32-hour workweek, that's only a monthly gross of around \$1,000.

- Because of low wages and high premiums, nearly 700,000 of Wal-Mart workers are forced to get health insurance coverage from the government or through spouses' plans. This shifts the burden of healthcare costs to the taxpayers. Wal-Mart will actually hold training sessions on how to apply for Federal and State economic assistance.

- Wal-Mart impoverishes entire communities by keeping its workers in poverty. Residents have less to spend in communities, eventually causing everyone's income and spending to drop.

These issues, combined with the trail of small businesses Wal-Mart leaves in its wake, mean a negative impact for your community—all while masquerading as a form of economic development.

Consider the environmental and economic consequences:

- increased traffic negatively affects air quality standards
- water quality and aquifers are threatened
- stormwater and sewage mismanagement is possible
- wildlife habitat is reduced
- communities lose open space and unique natural areas
- rural landscapes are destroyed
- the economic and environmental value of land is reduced
- land is used inefficiently
- public tax dollars support the revitalization of leftover, rundown core areas
- the visual, aesthetic character of local communities is destroyed
- the value of other commercial and residential property is lowered, reducing public revenues
- sense of place and community cohesiveness is weakened
- historic commercial centers deteriorate

Don't let Wal-Mart be the ruin of your hometown.

Your

Community