



## “Sustainability: Balancing our Responsibilities”

June 18, 2010

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

The South Central Assembly (SCA) and the American Public Works Association (APWA) are pleased to offer our first regional sustainability workshop. This workshop, conducted by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, will use the STAR Community Index to help identify and guide the region toward sustainability goals focused on economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and equity/social responsibility.

APWA’s Center for Sustainability selected our region to pilot this national workshop aimed at increasing community understanding about sustainability and cultivating this systems-thinking in regional revitalization, planning, and development projects. The sustainability principles were developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, an international association of local governments as well as national and regional local government organizations which are committed to climate protection and sustainable development.

During the morning workshop, ICLEI will introduce the STAR Community Index, a voluntary rating system for sustainable communities modeled after a highly successful LEED™ green building program. STAR will provide local governments with a system to evaluate their own progress, as well as plan, track and measure their sustainability programs. The partnership behind STAR includes ICLEI, the US Green Building Council, which developed LEED, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System, and the Center for American Progress, a think tank based in Washington, D.C. This overview will introduce attendees to sustainability’s three pillars: environmental, economic, and equity/social, and showcase applications of sustainability which harmonize with community and environmental interests.

Following this “how to” workshop, attendees will work collaboratively to explore local applications of sustainability which provide a systems approach to long term service delivery. Matching newly-acquired sustainability concepts to ideas from their own community, attendees will self-select one of five facilitated sessions to attend in the afternoon. These sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss ideas, identify potential resources, and draft project proposals. The SCA will select projects from among these proposals to provide additional support over the coming year. Topics to be presented at the workshop include:

- **Transportation** – This session will focus on what “Smart Transportation” is all about. A subset of this topic will be on active transportation: biking and walking. The mayor of Carlisle will discuss a local project – Starting a “Road Diet”, reducing two lanes of highway to one lane, utilizing the same space to include a central bike path. Attendees considering mobility, congestion management, transportation safety projects, and other transportation-related projects are encouraged to participate in the session.
- **Building & Facilities** – This session will explore five potential areas of sustainable investment in facilities—energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, waste



reduction associated with building operations, and maintenance and promotion of a more sustainable building sites. With current financial incentives, sample projects and a facilitated discussion will focus on school districts where funding is currently available for eligible projects. This session is intended for anyone considering new facilities or facility upgrades which support sustainability initiatives. School District representatives in particular are encouraged to learn more about their unique funding and long-term savings opportunities.

- **Sustainable Energy Initiatives**– Tom Bell, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Energy Development authority, will discuss the PA Economic Development Authority, which has \$16 million dollar competitive grant program for solar, wind, low-impact hydro, geothermal, biogas, biomass, fuel cells, coal-mine methane, waste coal, IGCC, and demand management. He will also talk about the PA Sunshine Program, which has a first come - first served \$100,000,000 rebate program.
- **Community Food Systems** – This session will explore the merits and feasibility of implementing community food systems. The discussion will start with a review of three regional models: Gettysburg College’s “Center for Public Service” which facilitates local food systems gleaning from local farmers; Dickinson College’s institutional buying program which supports agriculture through partnership with local famers; and Harrisburg’s “Carver’s Secret Gardens” project which provides learning opportunities for at-risk youth who establish, plant, and harvest produce in local community gardens.
- **Managing Sustainability with GIS** – Want to know how to develop, plan, and manage your sustainability initiatives? This session will demonstrate specific GIS-based applications for planning, implementing and monitoring and measuring sustainable community initiatives. Demonstrated applications will be presented using the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania GIS.

Our luncheon speakers include **Mr. Lance Simmens, Special Assistant to the Governor**, who will discuss the current climate crisis as one of Al Gore’s climate change messengers. Mr. Simmens has delivered over 90 presentations worldwide on the need for sustainable development and alternative energy policies. Joining Mr. Simmens, **Ms. Melissa Muroff, Esq., Roofscapes, Inc.** will illustrate the merits of sustainability through innovative projects involving “green roofs” and other initiatives.

Registration for the joint South Central Assembly/APWA Workshop is \$30, which includes meals and workshop educational materials. Please send your check payable to the “*South Central Assembly*”, and mail to: **Deborah Kravitz, SCA Administrator, Dixon University Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Richards Hall, 2986 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201.**

For further information, contact:

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