

## Provisional

### Sustainability Committee's Program for 2011:

#### *Establish a Sustainability Planning Learning/Practice Network*

For Action at Board Retreat, January 22, 2011

**Committee Members:** Scott Edmondson, Hanson Hom, Katja Irvin, Justin Meek, Tanya Sheyner, and Kay Cheng.

**PROPOSED RATIONALE:** Given (1) the urgency, magnitude, and innovation required to respond effectively to the evolving, multifaceted sustainability challenge, (2) the unique role that planners and planning can and should play in leading a response, and (3) the varying capacity of planners and planning departments to respond effectively, the Northern Board establishes a Sustainability Committee to support and accelerate successful sustainability planning in the Northern Section.

**PROPOSED MISSION:** Develop and deliver an on-going program of learning and practice resources responding to members' needs for expanding understanding and effective practice such that the Northern Section expands its role as a leader and laboratory for innovative community sustainability planning, measurable progress, and ultimate sustainability success.

#### **PROPOSED STRATEGY:**

- a. **Establish an interactive, sustainability planning learning/practice network** responsive to Northern members' needs and to the imperatives of effective sustainability planning. The primary goal is to activate an evolving dialogue and associated learning and practice. Participation in the network would be voluntary and based on perceived value-added. It would include a number of "roles," from occasional use/contribution to more active roles as regular contributors, sustainability resources, event sponsors, etc.
- b. **Expand Sustainability Committee membership to execute the program proposal and be the core of the Section's Sustainability Learning/Practice Network.** Membership in the core group would require a willingness to commit 1-2 hours per week on average (or more) to specific aspects of the program. Members would also be encouraged to share or develop a specific area of expertise and be a "go-to" resource person for the Section on that sustainability topic. All Committee members would pursue some degree of training in strategic sustainability. The resulting shared understanding would enhance the Committee's effectiveness.
- c. **Leverage the Section's volunteer expertise** by creating committee roles matched to program needs, volunteer interests, and realistic time requirements.
- d. **Do not duplicate resources. Leverage existing sustainability resources** and expertise by providing access to them within a framework for effective sustainability planning.
- e. **Pace work on the program to the Section's fiscal and volunteer capacity** (and possible sponsorship at some point). Year 1 will be developmental. Services will be developed and offered when ready.
- f. **Lead, motivate, and inspire with examples of** outstanding, state-of-the art, next-generation sustainability planning innovation.
- g. **Expand program materials to new venues such as webinars and social networks** after establishing an initial program of traditional workshops and web-based information.

## PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAM – 2011

Task	Target Timeframe	Potential Board Roles	No. of volunteers
<b>1. Form Committee</b>			8-10 total
a. <b>Recruit Steering Committee members</b> , define committee roles, and refine program mission	February/March 2011	Professional Development	5 new members
b. <b>Draft final Sustainability Committee mission statement</b> for board approval	March 2011	All	
c. <b>Pursue strategic sustainability training</b> to establish a common understanding of basic principles among committee members (webinars, readings, etc.).	Initial training Spring 2011; ongoing thereafter	Optional	
d. <b>Form larger working committee</b> to function as Section's core Sustainability Planning resource. Reach into membership for expertise to form core of learning network.	Over 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2011	All	As many as interested
<b>2. Develop/Launch a Web-based Learning/Practice Network . . . ,</b>		Review & Comment as Developed	
<b>a. with Section's Existing Web Tools</b>			
i. Launch initial webpage for recruitment and general information about the committee	March 2011	Web Masters	2
ii. Develop best approach for web-based functionality (2-way communication, resource access, etc.) using Section's existing web tools.	Spring 2011	Web Masters	2
iii. Formulate a framework for information, self-learning and training resources and populate it with essential resources, including short case studies.	Summer 2011 and ongoing thereafter		8
iv. Promote use.	2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2011		Committee
<b>b. with Best Social Network Web Technology</b>	2012		
i. Research social network technology/hosts, such as NING, to find the best platform for a Learning/ Practice Network (with discussion groups, etc)	Fall 2011		2
ii. Present proposal to Board	Winter 2012		
iii. Development	Thru mid 2012		3
<b>3. Publishing</b>			
a. <b>Prepare short contributions</b> for Newsletter & E-Blast (Committee updates, highlights, and articles or column)	Each issue (10/year)	Newsletter Editors & Sust. Comm.	4
<b>b. Draft a Sustainability Planning Guide</b>			
i. Assess need	Spring 2011		2
ii. Outline to board for review	Fall 2011		3
iii. Draft to board for review	W/Sp 2012		4
iv. Post on website	Summer 2012	Web Masters	
v. Update annually	Ongoing		2
<b>4. Workshops</b>			
a. <b>Support RAC chairs</b> to present sustainability topics	Ongoing	RACs	1
b. <b>Pursue opportunities to co-sponsor</b> relevant workshops for CM credit	Ongoing	All	
c. <b>Evaluate need</b> for a focused/interactive introductory workshop on community sustainability planning	Fall 2011		2
d. <b>Develop and present</b> community sustainability planning workshops	TBD	RACs, Prof. Dev. & Plan. Comm.	3
<b>5. Prepare 2012 Program Proposal</b>	November 2011		