

Building Sustainable Communities: From Theory to Practice

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What's Your Sustainability Challenge?









TODAY'S AGENDA:

- See the Connections
- Make the Connections
- Keep the Connections







See the Connections

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

~ Albert Einstein

Livability Project









Make the Connection





Community Snapshot: Bethesda, Maryland



1. Building the Structure

- Board of diverse stakeholders
- Goals, objectives and metrics
- Realistic outcomes
- Develop a volunteer corps



Bethesda Green Working Groups



2. Engaging the Community

- Based on areas of interest
- Organized outreach
- Multiple entry points
- Partner with existing groups



2. Engaging the Community

- Events
 - Monthly Happy Hours/Brown Bags
 - Green Awards and Showcases
 - Hosting films/panel discussions



• Enhance an *existing* green initiative!

Montgomery County's e-shred event - before





• Enhance an *existing* green initiative!



- The Education Center as a hub
 - Meeting spaces
 - Highlight best practices



Education Center





4. Identifying Gaps

- Build on proven ideas/programs
- Launch a "Green Incubator"
- Training and mentoring





5. Multiple Revenue Streams

- Sponsorship
 - Cash
 - In-kind
- Grants
 - Government
 - Foundation
 - Corporate

- Incubator rent
- Events and workshops
- Affiliate/partner programs
- Facilities usage fees
- Individual Contributors







Keep the Connection

Guiding Principles and Best Practices for Your Community

Five Principles to Practice

- 1. Everyone is welcome
- 2. Check politics at the door
- 3. Green is an economic engine
- 4. An attitude of service
- 5. Respect connectedness of natural and manmade systems

Green is the new gray!





Questions?

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