

Onondaga Citizens League "Greening CNY" Steering Committee Meeting Notes,
February 2, 2010

Present: Rachel May, Andy Maxwell, Peter Arsenault, Carol Boll, Diane Brandli, Mary Jean Byrne-Maisto, Dave Coburn, Megan Costa, Lori Dietz, Kuki Haines, Karen Kitney, Sarah McIlvain, Rebecca Madden-Sturges, Sandra Barrett.

NEXT STUDY SESSIONS: TBD
NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

DISCUSSION

Sandra noted that the next Study Session was scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 4 on the new County Sustainable Development Plan, with County Executive Joanie Mahoney and Megan Costa, manager of planning services for SOCPA.

Peter, Diane and Mary Jean presented a quick overview of various Sustainability Organizations. Links to the documents will be posted to the website under Study Resources:

http://onondagacitizensleague.org/ocl_studies/2009/study_resources.htm Some, such as ICLEI, are international membership organizations, some require communities to "sign on" and have certification criteria, others are simply information-sharing, and several of the sites presented toolkits for local governments - these seemed to be the most useful. It was noted that as a result of the City School District's participation in the Go Green Initiative, the 2008 national [Go Green Earth Summit](#) was held in Syracuse.

Peter will work on a matrix plotting the purposes and utilities of all the reviewed organizations.

Rachel May, the new Coordinator of Sustainability Education at Syracuse University, talked about the American College and University Presidents Pledge and the university's commitment to aspire to sustainability by 2040. There are several approaches, including building retrofits and energy efficiency; focused effort is beginning with the College of Visual and Performing Arts which is spread across several buildings on campus, and downtown. SU's pledge also includes a commitment to educate students to become environmental stewards. In general most students do not seem concerned with environmental issues, so this is a big challenge!

Andy Maxwell, the director of the City's new Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, said that the new city administration is committed to being more strategic in its approach to planning, and the Bureau will pull together all the disparate city departments and efforts. Although it is early days yet, the city is exploring green codes and is having conversations with USGBC staff and others experts. The SDAT team has continued to meet since the AIA/SDAT's 2006 analysis, and this group may be expanded as an ongoing advisory committee.

NEW RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2010/02/04/the-hidden-life-of-garbage.aspx> - **The Hidden Life of Garbage** - "Check out this short documentary about recycling and waste in the U.S. It exposes the often false feeling of accomplishment people get from recycling, and points out the real problems -- overproduction and industrial pollution. It explains corporate greenwashing and the economic system of 'built-in obsolescence'."

http://www.bagsontherun.com/environment_articles.php - environmental impact of plastic bags

Government / City Related Organizations

Researched by Peter Arsenault

1. ICLEI <http://www.icleiusa.org/>
2. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (US Conference of Mayors) <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/revise/>
3. Global Green USA / Green Cross International <http://www.globalgreen.org/>
4. SustainLane Government <http://www.sustainlane.us/home.jsp>
5. NRDC Smart Cities <http://smartercities.nrdc.org/>

Resource Related Organizations

Researched by Mary Jean Byrne-Maistro

1. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) www.epa.gov/
2. Natural Step www.naturalstep.org
3. Enterprise Green Communities <http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/>
4. Sustainable Communities Network <http://www.sustainable.org/information/guide.html>
5. Sustainable Cities Network <http://www.sustainablecitiesnet.com/>

Education Related Organizations

Researched by Diane Brandli

1. Mayor's Alliance for Green Schools
http://www.greenschoolbuildings.org/action/join/mayors_alliance.aspx
2. College & University President's Climate Commitment
<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment>

Other possible organizations

3. AASHE Star Rating System for college campuses <http://www.aashe.org/stars/index.php>
4. Go Green Initiative <http://www.gogreeninitiative.org/>