

Onondaga Citizens League

“Greening CNY” Steering Committee Meeting Notes

September 22, 2009

Present: Joe Ash, Emanuel Carter, Dave Coburn, Kuki Haines, David Holder, Steve Kearney, Rick Martin, Sarah McIlvain, Evan Newell, Mary Jane Szczesniak, Carol Boll, Sandra Barrett.

UPCOMING STUDY SESSIONS:

Case Studies in Sustainability: From Tompkins County, NY to Vitoria-Gastiez, Spain. Tuesday, **September 29, 5PM – 6:30 PM** in [409 Marshall Hall](#) on the SUNY ESF campus.

Sustainability: The Big Picture. **Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4:30 – 6 PM** [Tech Garden](#).

Land Use Planning: 2110 Plan Revisited. **Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12 – 1:30 PM**, The Warehouse.

Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy. (ESF event) **Wednesday, Nov. 4, 4:30 – 6:30 PM**, Whitman School.

9/22/09 UPDATES:

New study committee member: David Coburn, director, Onondaga County Office of the Environment and chair, county Environmental Sustainability Committee.

DISCUSSION

The upcoming **September 29 study session** was discussed. Emanuel said that he would include more local ecosystem perspective as well as the Vitoria case study. Richard Smardon will also participate and talk about Tompkins County sustainability plan and other northeast examples.

Dave Coburn agreed to take on the **Waste Management topic**. He will develop a proposal and contact Tom Rhoads at OCCRA about speaking. Rick suggested that SU’s “recycling czarina” could represent the perspective of a major waste generator in the discussion.

Emanuel reminded the committee about the upcoming seminar on Valuing Ecosystem Services, November 23 <http://www.esf.edu/outreach/pd/2009/conversations/default.htm>

Joe discussed the **Energy Supply** session and the possibility of collaborating with an already-planned ESF session, on **Nov. 4, 4:30 – 6:30 PM** at SU <http://www.esf.edu/certificates/sure/2009fall/program.htm> part of SURE 2009, which continues on Nov. 5 at ESF. The committee agreed that would work. Joe will talk to Mike Kelleher about adding a speaker on wind power. Sandra suggested that OCL could provide registration for the Nov. 5 event for committee members who would like to attend and report back to the committee.

Jonnell Allen, SU community geographer was not able to attend due to a family emergency, but Sandra will discuss possibility for **Sustainability Map** with her, for report at the next committee meeting. Evan said EFC is hoping to create a website that tracks sustainability projects in CNY, with EPA funding, but no timeline yet. David Coburn shared Creative Core map <http://www.creativecoreny.com/GreenMap.html>

Carbon footprint measurements and comparisons were discussed. Rick will put together available information on Onondaga County/CNY; everyone is encouraged to share resources with him. Dave C. offered to obtain information on Carbon Calculator project developed by Charles Driscoll, SU environmental engineer, and other academics. It could be used for Onondaga county. Richard Sardon will talk next week about use of the model in Tompkins. Emanuel referred to current Atlantic Monthly article on California as a model for reducing carbon footprint <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200910/california-energy>

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: TBD

Agenda: Update on Public Perceptions project; Measurements & benchmarks; Sustainability Map

REVIEW

COMMITTEE PROGRESS TO-DATE:

Definition of Green: environmental impact subset of Sustainability Traits, focusing on “reduce, recycle, reuse” principles

Questions to be addressed by the study:

1. what are we doing Green? Is it enough? (An assessment; comparison to benchmarks)
2. How can we be more Green in CNY? (look at other places, model practices)
3. How do we make sure that the decisions we make have a beneficial effect on the environment?

Timetable: Study Report to be completed by May 1, 2010.

Audiences: individuals/families; business and organizations; municipalities. For the purposes of the study, the local community is defined as Onondaga County, although we may touch on other places in the metropolitan area.

Potential Study Session Topic Areas - Subgroups will focus on: Ecosystems (Sept. 15 – Notes on the website); Sustainability; Land Use Planning; Transportation; Energy Supply; Green Bldgs & Housing; Waste Management; Water; Green Infrastructure; Green Jobs, etc.; Case Studies of holistic approaches to sustainability; Natural Resources (TBD). Public Perceptions Subgroup works with all topic areas.

OCL is now on [Facebook](#) and the [OCL Green Blog](#) has been activated.

Reminder: April 22, 2010 – 40th anniversary of Earth Day