

**Linking Citizens and Cities for Sustainable Communities**

# Twin Cities Sustainable Communities Conference Local Government Sustainability Workshop

for 350 local government leaders

Friday, March 12, 2010 • Noon to 5:00 pm

Central Lutheran Church, 333 12th Street South, Minneapolis 55404  
(next to the Minneapolis Convention Center)

**FREE EVENT** please pre-register on-line at [www.afors.org](http://www.afors.org) or call 612-331-1099

Also check out our Neighborhood Sustainability Conference on Saturday, March 13 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

## Third Annual Local Government Workshop

Friday March 12 — Noon to 5pm

### Goals

1. Link local governments with grants and innovative funding tools for their sustainability projects.
2. Highlight effective sustainability best practices included in the new MN Greensteps Cities Program.
3. Help cities simplify their sustainability efforts by using sustainability indicators to focus city operations, ordinances and community engagement to achieve common goals & report on progress.

### Program

Noon **Networking, Exhibitors, Light Lunch**

#### 12:45 pm **Keynote**

- **Creating Consensus for Local Action.** Bridging differences to get projects done. New state and federal funding for city sustainability projects. Overview of Burnsville's Sustainability Guide Plan – Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor, City of Burnsville and President, U.S. Conf. of Mayors (invited)
- **Making Sustainability Simple.** How Madison is using the Natural Step to guide changes in city operations, ordinances and community engagement to meet their goals and report their results to residents. Mayor David Cieslewicz, City of Madison (Invited)

#### 2:00 pm **Workshops I**

Local government staff, elected officials and topic experts will share successful projects and new funding opportunities and will engage participants to share insights from their cities.

- **Overview of the MN Green Step Cities Program.** Including technical assistance and interns and funding opportunities, Phillip Muessig, MPCA
- **Using Sustainability Indicators to Focus City Efforts.** Green city operations, ordinances and community and business engagement – City of Madison, Office of Sustainability, Gayle Prest, Sustainability Manager, City of Minneapolis
- **New Money Available for City Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects.** MN Office of

Energy Security update on Energy Efficiency Block Grants Mark Hancock, Center for Energy and Environment Public Buildings Enhanced Energy Efficiency Program.

- **Creating Safe Pedestrian and Bike Networks Through Complete Streets Policies.** Municipal leaders will highlight ways citizens and city councils can create safe and convenient pedestrian, bike and transit links to new transit corridors and regional trails. Learn how to use the new web-based Cyclopath tool. How the proposed State of MN Complete Streets Policy will offer municipalities added flexibility. Overview of state and foundation grants for bike and pedestrian planning.
- **Saving money and resources through Organized Collection, Organics Waste Collection and Tiered Pricing.** Sig Scheurle will share the results of the MPCA's study that shows the multiple environmental and financial benefits of cities switching to organized collection. Dianne Wanner, City of St. Paul, John Jaimez, Hennepin County, Eureka Recycling.
- **Protecting and Diversifying Urban Forests.** Updates on state funding sources to for ash tree removal and replanting diversified urban forests. Balancing needs for shade and storm water mitigation with solar access and food production. Fruit and nut tree options. Protecting priority elm and ash. Model Tree Policies, Tree City USA, Ken Holman, DNR, John Uban Bonestroo.

#### 3:20 pm **Workshops II**

- **MN Green Step Cities Pilot Communities Roundtable.** Staff and elected officials from Edina, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Falcon Heights and Victoria will share some of their sustainability initiatives and how they are engaging resident and businesses. Urban Lands Institute and the Regional Council of Mayors.
- **Implementing your Comprehensive Plan with Innovative Ordinances.** Local examples of cities that are improving building performance, expanding recycling, ensuring low-impact development and meeting other comp plan goals through updating ordinances. Examples of Cities that are developing or implementing Comprehensive sustainability plans – Burnsville, St. Cloud
- **Community-Wide Energy Efficiency Initiatives.** Learn how Apple Valley, Minneapolis and St. Paul are leveraging utility resources and state and federal funds to retrofit hundreds of homes and businesses. Staff from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Apple Valley, Center for Energy and Environment, Neighborhood Energy Connection and Metro Clean Energy Resource Team.
- **Blue Star Cities.** Improving water quality through comprehensive strategies and innovative funding models – Brett Emmons, Emmons Olivier Resources, Trevor Russel, FMR
- **Local Food Policies.** Local examples of how cities are developing and implementing policies to expand farmers markets, community, school and backyard gardens, small enterprise urban agriculture and commercial use of locally grown foods –Julie Ristau, On the Commons, Gayle Prest, City of Minneapolis, City of Madison.
- **Placemaking Through Creative Use of Public Space.** How the City Repair Project in Portland Oregon works with neighborhood residents to reclaim public spaces through public art and planting to build community, calm traffic and restore habitat. Mark Lakeman, City Repair Project and Communitecture. Portland Oregon, Two metro communities will share place making examples.

4:30 pm **Networking, exhibitors, reception** for local government staff, elected officials and citizen leaders.

Alliance for Sustainability, Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the League of Minnesota Cities, MN Pollution Control Agency, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Eureka Recycling, Xcel Energy  
(Please call us at 612-331-1099 if your organization would like to sponsor or exhibit at the event.)