

Linking Citizens and Cities for Sustainable Communities
Twin Cities Sustainable Communities Conference
Neighborhood Sustainability Conference

for 500 volunteers from neighborhoods, congregations & schools

Saturday, March 13, 2010 • 8:30 am to 4:30 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 or call 612-331-1099

Also check out our Local Government Sustainability Workshop on Friday, March 12 from noon to 5:00 pm.

5th Annual Neighborhood Sustainability Conference

Sat. March 13, 2010 8:30am to 4:30pm

Goals:

1. Support volunteers to green their neighborhood, congregation, school or businesses – with project tool kits, free materials, lawn signs a resource guide and speaker lists
2. Support citizens to partner with their city to enact sustainable local policies – through becoming a MN Green Step City, eco-municipality or transition community and sustainability indicators.
3. Support citizens to advocate for wise state policies to secure a sustainable shared future.

Program:

8:30 am **Registration and Refreshments**

9:00 am

Keynote

Placemaking – Reclaiming our Public Spaces. How the City Repair Project in Portland Oregon works with neighborhood residents to reclaim public spaces through public art, street painting and greening projects to build community, calm traffic and restore habitats. Mark Lakeman, City Repair Project, Portland Oregon.

Workshops

Grassroots Projects. Introductions, Topic overview 20 minutes. Project Case Studies 20 min. Technical Assist and Grants 10 min, Q and A/ Discussion 30 min.

Neighborhood Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects	Creating safe, welcoming streets / Sidewalks for all complete streets	Blue Thumb gardening and rain gardens for water quality
Deepening the top soil on your block through shared composting	Neighborhood Tree Stewards – diversifying your urban forest.	Community Gardening, Farmer's Markets, Food, Preservation
Launching a Transition Town initiative in your community.	Introduction to the Natural Step Framework – envisioning a new shared future	Global Sufficiency Network/ Buy Local/ Dual Currencies

11:30 am

Participatory Design Charettes

Participate in Extreme Makeovers for a city block, suburban congregation and transit corridor Volunteer landscape architects, permaculture designers, architects and planners will work with residents to envision new community spaces, green spaces and energy, storm water and food systems.

Seward Block Club
Closing the city street and connecting yards to build community and grow healthy food

St. Luke Presbyterian, Minnetonka
Replacing 2 acres of lawn with permaculture food crops to benefit the congregation, community and watershed

Central Corridor
Powering up green jobs through efficiency & solar projects, urban food production & bike/pedestrian access for businesses

Madison's Natural Step
How the city of Madison is using the natural step to work with neighborhoods and businesses to meet city sustainability goals

12:30 pm

Lunch & Geographic Break Out Sessions

- Meet for lunch with others from your neighborhood or suburban community to share your project ideas for the spring and summer.
- Link the green efforts of neighborhoods, congregations and schools in your community.
- Share news about new initiatives on energy, water, food, greening, etc. in your area.
- Plan ways to engage others to grow your core team at public gatherings, movie screenings.

2:00 pm

Organizing and Outreach Skill Building Sessions – learn ways to grow your green team

School Environmental Clubs
Youth Environmental Activists of MN

Congregational Creation Care Teams
Congregations Caring for Creation

Block Clubs Neighborhoods, Transition Town & Initiatives
Twin Cities Transition Towns

Entrepreneurship Urban Market Gardens
Cotlie Graddock, Alliance for Sustainability

Shared Leadership for Community Gardens
Rachel Hefte, U of MN Extension

Advocacy for climate Justice and Green Jobs
1 Sky, Clean Water Action, HIRE MN

Green Career Networking
Barbara Parks, Green Career Tracks

3:30 pm

Networking, exhibitors and reception

Geographic Follow-Up Sessions – focus on water quality, urban forestry and complete streets.
 April/ May/ June 2010

3pm

Workshop for City Staff and other city and community sustainability leaders

5pm

Reception/Networking for city staff, elected leaders and citizen leaders, info tables

6pm

Community Workshop for community volunteers, council members, planning and environmental commission members.

West Metro Roundtable
April
St. Louis Park, for cities and towns in Hennepin and Carver Counties

East Metro Roundtable
May, Woodbury
for Cities and towns in Ramsey, Washington and Chisago Counties and the St. Croix Valley

North Metro Roundtable
May, Roseville
for Cities and towns in Anoka, and Northern Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington Counties

South Metro Roundtable
June
Cities and towns in Dakota County, South Washington, Rice and Scott Counties

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