Creating a Resilient Region: The Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Plan

Championing economic and environmental vitality......Community Driven, University Assisted.
- Sustainable Development in action will satisfy three guiding principles of: economic prosperity, ecological stewardship and community livability.
- The challenge is to NOT sacrifice one for the sake of the other.
- By definition, sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5 Counties, 65 Cities, 155 Townships, 2 Tribes
- Total population of the Region is 165,000
- All 5 Counties in Region are currently considered economically distressed.
- Most of the 65 Cities under 500 residents
- Largest city; Brainerd is one of top 20 fastest growing Micropolitan's in the nation

Creating a Resilient Region: The Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Plan
- 25 year implementation plan
- Extensive inclusionary process
  - A 200+ member consortium
  - Workgroups
  - Basecamp/InCommons
- Immediate implementation through 26 activities

Agenda
- HUD Update Cheryl Lee Hills, RoDC
- The Collage of Sustainability Cheryl Lee Hills, RoDC
- Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Angela Headlee, CERTs
- Project Planning Form (Ideas to include in the Resilient Region Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Cheryl Lee Hills, RoDC

For more information
See www.resilientregion.org
WHO IS ENGAGED?

Mission

- To create a Community driven, University assisted partnership around planning sustainable regions integrating:
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Natural environment and land use
  - Economic Development (including energy and local foods)
- Through HIGHLY involved civic engagement, building an inclusive region to provide opportunities, be free from discrimination, and improve the quality of life of ALL residents.

Central Guiding Principle

- Think regionally and inclusively
- Consolidate effective data
- Capitalize on assets, current plans, and work in progress
- Use land use planning to balance redevelopment and to preserve opportunities
- Consider regionalization of services
- Connect more people to well-paid jobs
- Connect active living opportunities in the region
- Connect broadband technology to entire region

Process/Approach

- PLANNING
  - 26 initiatives that inform the planning process.

Structure

- Full Consortium
  - 200+ members
  - Representing the regional profile

- Workgroups
  - Land use and Natural Resources
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Economic Development

- Advisory Board
  - 25 members
  - Representing the Full Consortium

Identified Key Issues (Economic Development)

Final plan includes strategies and identified leadership for 20 key issues within the core areas of Housing, Transportation, Land Use, and Economic Development.
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Leveraging Resources
Multi-level agency engagement.
- Involve federal, state and local agencies to participate
- Promote interagency opportunities
- Establish specific assistance
- Showcase success

ALIGN with partners who can:
- Encourage federally recognized plans that foster economic, environmental, and social balance.
- Incorporate regional resilient plans into statewide planning and implementation.
- Give funding priority points to programs within resilient region plan and to those initiatives that support the plan guiding principles.

OPPORTUNITIES
- PROJECT PLANNING FORM
- PREFERRED SUSTAINABILITY STATUS
(see handouts)

Through practice we will
Create the Tool Box of processes that fosters an economic, environmental, and socially VIBRANT region.

The Tool Box processes include the “how to—”
- Engage resources to create and implement a SCRP.
- Identify, prioritize, and measure projects.
  (provide sample sustainable projects and activities)
- Attract, secure, and manage investments.
- Align policy with sustainable strategies & goals.
  (provides sample policies, comprehensive plan language and coding options)

Lessons/challenges
Lessons:
- Build a great team. Committed Champions who can lead and DO are essential.
- Don’t re-invent the wheel. R3G was invited by the region to lead our SCRP because of its capacity to build on the work it already does well.
- Communication is key. The message must reach a broad base of stakeholders with frequency, relevance, and varied mediums.

Challenges:
- Local policy implementation at all levels of government based on regional vision.
- Integration into State & Federal processes.
- Alignment of funding capacity.

Want to learn more? Resources:
- Green Step City program: [http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/](http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/)
- Conservation Design Scorecard: [http://www.envisionmn.org/conservation-design-scorecard](http://www.envisionmn.org/conservation-design-scorecard)
- DNR shore land standards: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/waterngmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/waterngmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update.html)

How to be involved?
To join the consortium contact:
- Dan Frank, Initiative Foundation
- 1-877-632-9255
- Extension 2056

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For more information
See [www.resilientregion.org](http://www.resilientregion.org)
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Evaluation Results from Resilient Region Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Time Waits</th>
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<td>29</td>
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</tbody>
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Evaluation Results from Resilient Region Workshops, continued

1. Anything else that you wish to share about the meeting?

2. Any ideas or feedback on how to improve the meeting?

3. Anything else you would like to share about the meeting?

4. Anything else that you wish to share about the meeting?

5. Any ideas or feedback on how to improve the meeting?

6. Any ideas or feedback on how to improve the meeting?

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