

TO: APWA Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Mucha, Chair APWA Center for Sustainability  
Julia Anastasio, Director of Sustainability

RE: APWA Center for Sustainability Summary of Activities

DATE: August 2009 to August 2010

The APWA Center for Sustainability accomplished the following for the year:

- Organized committee and established a mission, vision and values statements to guide the Center for Sustainability's activities and defined Sustainability in Public Works.
- Developed the *APWA Framework for Sustainable Communities (Framework)*. The *Framework* is designed to assist public works professionals in taking an integrated, whole systems approach to public works management.
- Solicited case studies on *Framework* for publication on Center webpage once it is developed.
- Planned and participated workshop Central PA APWA Chapter, the South Central Assembly and ICLEI. This workshop highlighted the benefits of both the *Framework* and the *STAR Community Index* to meet sustainability goals.
- APWA joined with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), ICMA, NLC and NACo in submitting a proposal for funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on a grant entitled: "Developing the Capacity of Local and Regional Stakeholders to Create, Integrate and Implement Federal Livability Goals."
- Several presentations at APWA's Sustainability Conference in Minneapolis. Conference sold out.
- Center and Sustainability Conference got good press coverage in publications such as: Publicworks.com Newsletter; Water Online; Waste & Recycling News; Think Concrete Blog; and Geosynthetica.net
- Selected educational sessions for the 2010 Sustainability in Public Works Conference. Registration had to be cut off because of room limitations and the exhibit space sold out. Several Center Leadership Group (CLG) members gave presentations at the Conference.
- CLG members provided presentations on the Center's activities and the *Framework* at each of the spring House of Delegates meetings.
- CLG members gave presentations at several APWA Chapter conferences: Chicago Metro; Colorado Chapter; Florida Chapter; Northeastern Georgia Chapter; MD/VA/DC Chapter; and Washington Chapter. One CLG member gave a presentation on the Center and the *Framework* at the Colorado Municipal League Annual conference.
- Proposal on "How to Turn Obstacles, Barriers and Challenges into Opportunities for Sustainability" was chosen to be included in the Sustainable Communities Track at the 2010 ICLEI Local Action Summit program. Leadership Group members Keith Reester, Mary Anderson and Mary Pat Baldauf will be giving the presentation.
- Drafted position statement on Climate Change Legislation and sent out a Legislative Action Alert requesting full funding for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program and advocated for water adaptation funding in any climate change legislation considered by Congress.

- Drafted guidance statement on actions public works departments can take to combat climate change.
- Sent Legislative Action Alert out on Land Water Conservation Funding seeking full funding for the program.
- Participated in CLL on “*Framework*’ and CLL on “Measuring your Agency’s Carbon Footprint”. The CLG also proposed 4 topics for CLL for the next fiscal year. The first of which will be held August 12 on “How to Write a Sustainability Action Plan”.
- Established infoNow Sustainability Community.
- Integrated information on Center for Sustainability and *Framework* in the APWA Advantage Newsletter.

### **Priorities for 2010-2011**

The Center for Sustainability will focus on the following activities for the coming year:

- Utilize Technology To Better Engage And Serve Members Where They Live And Work  
LEAD: Keith Reester. GAT: Colin Doyle, Kent Holm
  - Identify and develop content for Knowledge Center.
  - Develop and post YouTube video explaining how to use the Framework for Sustainable Communities.
  - Develop mentoring program – two options (1) follow format of Leadership & Management Committee mentoring calls; (2) pair Center Leaders with APWA members looking for a mentor as they try to implement sustainability initiatives in their communities.
- Offer An Integrated And Comprehensive Approach To Professional Development And Education
  - Infuse Sustainability into Current APWA Programs – work with APWA staff and relevant committees to ensure sustainability concepts are included in APWA Institutes and Accreditation program. LEAD: Carl Quiram. GAT: Mary Anderson, Jeanne Hoffman
  - Coordinate with select technical committees (assign one LG member to participate in monthly calls) such as Engineering & Technology; Transportation, Water Resources Solid Waste and Leadership & Management, and participate in conference calls, suggest Reporter topics, Congress and CLL sessions and help to facilitate cross committee programs. LEAD: Michael Mucha. GAT: Vicki Musgrove, Doug Dycus.
  - Promote Framework for Sustainable Communities and get it out to Chapters, Technical Committees, partner organizations, etc. Consider using social media sites. LEAD: Mary Pat Baldauf GAT: Michael Mucha, Francine Shaw Whitson, FHWA, Lisa Sullivan Hair, EPA, *Dimitre Assenov*, and Phillip Jones.
- Support & Strengthen Chapters LEAD: Howard LaFever. GAT: Mary Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf and Matt Collins.
  - Continue to participate in Chapter functions (conferences, House of Delegates meetings, etc.) to get the word out.
  - Develop model for creating sustainability committees at the Chapter level and communication this with Chapters.
  - Review PACE awards to ensure sustainability concepts are included in award criteria.
  - Prepare and deliver presentation at Chapter leadership training.

- Formalize Partnership with ICMA. LEAD: Mary Anderson. GAT: Carl Quiram, Michael Mucha, and Sue Hann.