Resilient Communities Project

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What is RCP?

Connecting U of MN + communities to advance sustainability and resilience

1-year community partnership – RCP as matchmaker

Match community projects with U of MN graduate courses

2012-2013 pilot with City of Minnetonka

Modeled after SCYP
Initiated RCP program

Grassroots organizing – enhance education in sustainability
Interviews + discussion → implementation strategy
Provide experiential learning for students
Ready supply of faculty
How does RCP work?

14 projects, 23 courses, 8 colleges

RFP for community proposals
  RCP advisory committee reviews applications

2013-2014 partner — North St. Paul

College of Continuing Education
College of Design
College of Education & Human Development
College of Food, Agriculture, & Natural Resource Sciences
College of Liberal Arts
College of Science & Engineering
Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Law School
Minnetonka Projects

Stormwater management
Water + energy conservation
Mid-priced housing options
Transit-oriented development
Conservation development
Rooftop gardens
Parking regulations
Transportation demand management
Water resources planning
Neighborhood identities
Post-development impacts
Density + housing options
Village center connections
Housing program evaluation

U of MN Courses

Neighborhood Revitalization
Building & Site Integration in Sustainable Design
Housing Assessment & Analysis
Land, Environment, & Energy Law Clinic
Principles & Methods of Evaluation
Urban Hydrology & Land Development
Pollution Prevention
Methods for Natural Resource & Environmental Policy
GIS in Environmental Science & Management
Design Thinking for Action
Urban GIS
Networks and Places
Housing Policy
Managing Urban Growth and Change
Land Use & Transportation Capstone
Environmental Communication
Evaluation Problems
Ecology of Agricultural Systems
Environmental Planning, Policy, & Decision Making
North St. Paul Projects
Live/work housing
Living streets and capital improvements
Green energy initiative
Neighborhood identities
Fiber optic network development
Community identity and branding
Downtown revitalization strategies
Civic engagement and communication
Environmental education
Redevelopment-ready community
Public art and public history
Master redevelopment plan
Silver Lake trail connection
Community gardens and local food
Staff development and retention
Development of underutilized parcels
Aging in place
Energy conservation initiative

Additional Course-Based Capacity
Distance education opportunities
Tree preservation policy
Stormwater management
Greenway corridor development
Reengaging community organizations
Active living and community health

Additional Student Capacity
Individual capstone projects
Professional papers/honors theses
Research assistantships through CURA
Funding Model

2012-2013

- \$15k Institute on the Environment
- \$5k Center for Urban & Regional Affairs
- \(\frac{1}{4}\) time staff person Institute on the Environment
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- Accounting + some media

2013-2014

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Accounting + some media

\+$25-35k$ local contribution

Prospects for additional staff, funding for evaluation

Need more work on institutional strategy

Foundation support?
Lessons

Sustainability Faculty Network critical to quick start

U of Oregon financial model likely not viable

Lack of affiliation limits resources + support

  Recognition, communication, + finances

Lack of affiliation creates flexibility

  Work with innovators, cut across collegiate boundaries
Lessons

SCI – avoid *death by over-inclusion*

Be clear how this is different – more than “one-off” + building capacity for all involved

Draw on *content knowledge* to facilitate great projects
Next Steps

Evaluation essential in Land Grant context – prove value + impact

Institutional strategy critical to sustainability

Build on success with compelling message

7 proposals, 200+ projects, local funding offers $12k - $160k

Prospects for Greater Minnesota partners

Follow-up capacity building + organizational change work with communities
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Photos: Carissa Schively Slotterback