

Conference Program

18th Conference on the Small City & Regional Community University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Sponsored By: The UWSP Center for the Small City and
The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST)

April 6-7, Dreyfus University Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Theme: Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development: Problems and Prospects

Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Alumni Room)

1. **Featured Speaker: Prof. Jamie Druckman**, Payson S. Wild Professor of Political Science, and faculty member in the Institute for Sustainable Practices, Northwestern University

Topic: “Policy Challenges: Energy Politics and Public Opinion”

(Preceded by Welcomes from **Christopher Cirmo**, Dean of the College of Letters & Sciences; and **Paul Fowler**, Executive Director of WIST)

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Time Block I 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

2. **Economic Opportunity and Environmental Sustainability (Legacy Room)**

Moderator: **Duane Greuel**, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Presenters:

Tom Wolf, Co-owner, Café 27, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

“Owning and Operating an Environmentally Sustainable Restaurant”

Kevin Korpela, Co-owner, Downtown Grocery, Wausau, Wisconsin

“Owning and Operating a Sustainable Grocery Store in a Small City”

Steven H. Schinker, Esq. Corporate Counsel, Wausau, Wisconsin

“Going for the Green: Business Opportunities in Today’s Environmental Climate”

3. **Solar Energy in the Small City: Three Case Studies (Room 378)**

Moderator: **Matthew Oldenburg**, Department of Sociology, UWSP

Presenters:

Roger Collins, Homeowner, Waupaca, Wisconsin

“Installing and Operating a Home Solar Heating System”

Thomas Klismith, Klismith Accounting & Tax Group, Plover, Wisconsin

“Installing and Operating a Solar Heating System in a Small Business”

Paul Graham, President, Central Waters Brewery, Amherst, Wisconsin

“Installing and Operating a Solar Heating System in a Small Brewery”

4. **The Ethics of Sustainability: Religious Perspectives (Encore Room)**

Moderator: **Chris Diehm**, Department of Philosophy, UWSP

Panelists:

Rev. Susan Zencke, Pastor, Frame Memorial Church, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Rabbi Dan Danson, Mount Sinai Congregation, Wausau, Wisconsin

Rev. Steven Olson, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Rev. Tom Lindner, Pastor, Newman University Parish, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Refreshment Break 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Time Block II 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

5. **The Eleven Dimensions of Sustainable Societies (Room 378)**

Organizer & Presenter:

Lowell Klessig, Professor Emeritus, Human Dimension of Natural Resource Management, UWSP

Summary: *Eleven primary social dimensions are defined, which if attended, fulfill the general needs of all societies. Long-term balanced attention to all of these dimensions is viewed as essential to sustainability. Based on constitutional analysis, media*

content, citizens surveys, and personal observation, 28 countries are compared on the degree to which they balance or prioritize these dimensions. Ten of the dimensions apply to community sustainability.

6. Climate Change: Environmental Sustainability and the Future (Legacy Room)

Moderator: **Brad Mapes-Martins**, Department of Political Science, UWSP

Presenters:

Alan Haney, Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry, UWSP

“Searching for Truth Amid the Confusion about Climate Change: Implications for Small Cities”

Kent Hall, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biology, UWSP

“The Politics of Climate Change”

7. Community Design and Economic Development (Room 374)

Organizer and Presenter:

Linda Stoll, Center for Land Use Education, UWSP

Presentation I: “Creating Livable Small Cities”

Presentation II: “The Third Place”

Summary: *The presentations focus on the importance of walkable neighborhoods, vibrant downtowns, and popular gathering places in small communities. The focus shifts from traditional economic development strategies to a more comprehensive community development process that emphasizes uniqueness and quality of place.*

8. Issues in Sustainability (Encore Room)

Moderator: **Robert P. Wolensky**, Department of Sociology, UWSP

Presenters:

Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education

“Beyond Green: Moving Toward Sustainability”

Kevin Korpela, Co-owner, Downtown Grocery, Wausau, Wisconsin

“Downtown Development in the Small City: Sustainability & Design”

Gene Martin, Department of Geography & Geology, UWSP

“UWSP Student and Employee Commute Patterns, 1980-2010”

Lunch Break **12 noon - 12:45 p.m. (food is available in the DUC)**

Time Block III **12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

9. Central Wisconsin Mayors Discuss Environmental Concerns (Legacy Room)

Moderator & Organizer:

Edward J. Miller, Department of Political Science, UWSP

Presenters:

Mayor Andrew Halverson, City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Mayor Mary Jo Carson, City of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

Mayor Jim Tipple, City of Wausau, Wisconsin

10. Building Local Food Systems by Addressing Farmer Capacity (Encore Room)

Moderator & Organizer:

Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, UWSP

Presenters:

Holly Petrillo, College of Natural Resources, UWSP

“Developing a New Farmer Incubator Program”

John Sheffy, Farmer Capacity Building Corps Volunteer, Central Rivers Farmshed, Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project

“Building Farmer Capacity in Central Wisconsin”

Summary: *This session will examine the Farmer Incubator Program. Central Wisconsin has displayed a strong interest in developing a vibrant local food economy, and helping farmers is a key part of the effort. Since 2007, Central Rivers Farmshed has been coordinating the Farmer Incubator Program to train new farmers, with a goal of providing practical, on-farm training. The Program consists of two parts: classroom training and a summer farm internship. The classroom training occurs over four days each February. The course is taught by local farmers and covers many topics related to sustainable growing techniques, including growing vegetables, raising livestock, marketing strategies, and value-added processing. The program also links interested participants with a farm in Central Wisconsin where they complete a summer-long internship, learning skills needed to begin their own farm. Future goals include developing a land-link and business incubator to help beginning farmers take the next step.*

11. Green Careers and Job Training: Prospects and Possibilities (Room 378)

Organized by the Midwest Renewal Energy Association (MREA), Custer, Wisconsin

Moderator: *Ellie Jackson*, MREA Outreach Assistant

Presenters:

Nick Hylla, MREA Training Program Director

Josh Stolzenburg, CEO, North Wind Renewable Energy, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Tom Brown, Architect, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Summary: *This session will focus on employment prospects and possibilities in the new Green Economy.*

12. International Perspectives on Sustainability (Room 374)

Moderator: *Jennifer Collins*, Department of Political Science, UWSP

Presenters:

Francis Dube, Department of History, UWSP

“Trypanosimiasis Control & Environmental Sustainability in the Border Region of Colonial Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) & Colonial Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), 1890-1980”

Ismaila Odogba, Department of Geography & Geology, UWSP

“Sustainable Development in Africa”

Lynn Markham, Center for Land Use Education, UWSP

“Sustainability in Sweden's Eco-municipalities”

Refreshment Break **2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Time Block IV **2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

13. Approaches to Sustaining the Natural Environment (Legacy Room)

Moderator: *Neil Heywood*, Department of Geography & Geology, UWSP

Presenters:

Mike Dombeck, Professor of Global Conservation, UWSP; Former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and Director of the Bureau of Land Management

“Sustainability—Yes We Can: The How To's of Effective Civic Engagement”

Duane Greuel, Alaska Wilderness League Member and Arctic Backpacker

“Environmental & Cultural Impacts of Development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge”

Adam Greuel, USDA National Forest Service & UWSP Student

“Wilderness and the Human Being”

14. The Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project (Room 378)

Moderator & Organizer:

Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, UWSP

“Farmshed: Building a Local Food System in Central Wisconsin”

Presenters:

Eric Olson, Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, UWSP

“Community Resiliency as an Approach to Creating the Future We Desire”

Erin Yudchitz, Program Director, Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project

“Overview of the Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project as an Example for Implementing Community Sustainability”

Summary: *This session will discuss the Central Wisconsin Resiliency Project. Resilient communities are capable of bouncing back from adverse situations. They can do this by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social, and environmental change. When times are difficult they can call upon myriad resources that can make them healthy. A high level of social capital means that they have access to good information and communication networks in times of difficulty, and can call upon a wide range of resources. A high level of ecological capital (healthy ecological systems) means that they can maintain ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, diversity, etc.) in the face of environmental changes and human impacts.*

15. Food and the Food System (Room 374)

Moderator: *Tori Jennings*, Dept. of Philosophy, Religious Studies, & Anthropology, UWSP

Presenters:

Margaret Bau, Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA Rural Development

“The Producers and Buyers Co-operative of Eau Claire, Wisconsin”

Amy Wiza, Executive Director, Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners, Inc.

“The Farmer-to-Farmer Program and the Agriculture System in Nicaragua”

Tori Jennings, Department of Philosophy, Religious Studies, & Anthropology, UWSP

“The Backyard Chicken Revival”