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Redevelopment agencies used many strategies. Some of them worked, and some of them didn't. The same agency that made Mission Bay happen also gave out money to community groups in other areas without as much to show for it.

—Gabriel Metcalf, SPUR, <http://s.tt/15759>

Plan-it sustainably

Recommendations for APA's LA Conference

April 14–17, 2012, <http://www.planning.org/conference/>

By Katja Irvin, AICP

To help plan your APA Conference, we're providing information on the sessions of interest relating to sustainability. A short description of each is provided as well as a web link to allow you to add a session to your online conference schedule.

To start, we've been all about STARS lately at Plan-it Sustainably. If you missed our workshop on December 8, here's your chance to hear about it in person, with specific focus on the Santa Cruz case study:

Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System

<http://bit.ly/weCE2a>

Saturday, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Hear about STARS' systematic approach to achieving transportation and livability goals. The STARS framework uses a triple bottom-line approach – accounting for environmental, economic and social-equity measures of success – as a way to integrate sustainability into transportation plans and projects. STARS uses life-cycle analysis to assess costs and benefits of project strategies and allows for increased accountability. (Speakers: George A. Dondero III; Sine Adams, AICP)

There are two good sessions in the Sunday 10:30 time slot. I was impressed by both Walker's and Matt's presentations at the California Conference so I think this will be a good one:

Green Urbanism and Sustainability

<http://bit.ly/Ag4X7h>

Sunday, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Urban planning is experiencing a fundamental shift from creating cities that are safe and sanitary to cities that sustainable. This shift requires both new thinking and the creation of replicable examples. Hear leading practitioners exchange ideas, innovations, and implemented examples with each other, with the goal of defining how to best enable cities to make this needed shift in visions, form, and function. (Speakers: Walker Wells, AICP; Matthew David Raimi, AICP; Theodore M. Bardacke, AICP)

Life cycle assessment has got to be good, right? This seems like a powerhouse academic session and could be interesting:

Life Cycle Assessment of Transportation Options

<http://bit.ly/zZ7Ht4>

Sunday, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Review the results of a study comparing the lifecycle energy use and air pollution emissions of a light rail line, bus rapid transit line, and a passenger car in Los Angeles. Hear the lessons learned from those involved and consider a newly developed methodology that planners can use to compare lifecycle assessments of transit projects in their regions. (Speakers: Stephanie S. Pincett; Daniel Patrick Gallagher, AICP; William Eisenstein; Mikhail Chester)

If you're really dedicated to sustainability and want to get involved:

Sustainable Community Planning Interest Group

<http://bit.ly/Au1T4y>

Sunday, 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

(continued on next page)

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State lawmakers should consider selling more than \$2 billion in redevelopment agency assets and giving the money to cities and counties to use for economic development. —*Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento.*

<http://bit.ly/zOGvIM>

Plan-it sustainably *(continued from previous page)*

We all love Alex Hinds! Plus, this seems like a good opportunity to hear about the APA Sustaining Places Task Force:

Making Comprehensive Plans to Sustain Places

<http://bit.ly/yQ7HRw>

Sunday, 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

Discover how to incorporate the lessons learned from the 2011 APA Task Force on Sustaining Places into your comprehensive plans. Learn how leading-edge planning practitioners are recasting plans to cut across old functional elements with new principles, formats and metrics that focus on sustainability. (Speakers: David R. Godschalk, FAICP; William R. Anderson, FAICP; Alex Hinds)

It's a little off the pure sustainability track, but I gotta love those New Urbanists and want to see what they're up to. This could be the best NU presentation of the conference with Daniel and Stephanos together on the same panel:

Scales of Urbanism on a Sustainable Platform

<http://bit.ly/zZ2DZ1>

Monday, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Learn why intelligent planning and zoning reform at all land scales are essential for successful sustainability. Understand how the careful repair of existing places and wise infill can positively reduce vehicle miles travelled and greenhouse gas emissions to a greater extent than many "green gizmos." Discover tools being used nationwide to promote walkable, mixed use urbanism and reduce emissions. (Speakers: Kaizer R. Rangwala, AICP; Victor B. Dover, AICP; Daniel Parolek; Stefanos Polyzoides; Joseph A. Perez)

If you aren't completely brain-dead by 5:30 on Monday, you might want to check out this session with Daniel Lerch, lead editor of *The Post Carbon Reader* (2010). I bet he'll have some interesting stuff to say.

Resilience for a Changing Energy Future

<http://bit.ly/AnX0Ya>

Monday, 5:30 PM – 6:45 PM

Understand the drivers behind the changing global and national energy situations, and what this means for local governments and planning practice. Learn what cities are doing to prepare for and respond to the changing energy situation, particularly with regard to federally-supported energy resilience planning. Determine what "energy uncertainty" means for transportation, land use, and local and regional activity in the coming decades. (Speakers: Tricia R. Sears; Daniel C. Lerch)

And, last but not least, if you're still around on Tuesday this seems like pretty cool stuff – and it's the military! I'm curious and maybe you are too:

Planning Challenges for Net Zero Military Installations

<http://bit.ly/xwUJdm>

Tuesday, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Hear how the U.S. Army is striving to achieve a Net Zero status for energy, water and the generation of waste. That means installations produce as much energy as they use, reuse and conserve water, and reuse all emissions and materials. Explore the problems and potential solutions for these multiple interacting human systems and their ecological context. (Speakers: Jerry Zekert; Andrea Wohlfeld Kuhn, AICP; Cynthia A. Skinner, AICP; William D. Goran; Elisabeth M. Jenicek, AICP; Matthew D. Hiett; Michael P. Case) ■