

# State APA Chapter Sustainability Action Agenda

## *From Mobilizing Sustainability Facilitated Discussion*

National APA Conference, Sunday, April 14, 2013, Chicago  
ste, 050213, 062113, 080113

## Introduction

The New Division held a Facilitated Discussion on Mobilizing Sustainability at the APA National Conference in April 2013. The session included an initial presentation by four of the five APA state chapter Sustainability Committees followed by breakout groups that discussed the following three questions.

1. What would it take to mobilize sustainability planning in your state APA Chapter?
2. How could state APA Chapters collaborate on sustainability planning for mutual benefit?
3. What are the best ways that the new Division can promote innovative sustainability planning and support state chapter planning efforts?

The APA panel distilled the following potential actions that the Sustainable Communities Division could consider pursuing in some capacity, voluntary leadership permitting. A summary of the key responses follows. The article, *The Challenge of Sustainability Planning - State APA Chapters and the New APA Sustainable Communities Division* provides background for the session. Links to the article, the power point slides of the session follow at the end of this paper.

## Action Agenda Synthesis

The following action list is synthesized from the Discussion Summary section below, which contains the kernels of some projects as well as advice on how to proceed or conduct the projects.

### Actions For APA State Committees

- 1. Launch a sustainability initiative**
  - a. Inventory current statewide issues, interested parties, and interests
  - b. Identify other organization stakeholders
  - c. Formulate an action plan, including sessions at conferences
  - d. Investigate benefits of launching a sustainability committee and follow the results
  - e. Join/formally monitor, participate, and contribute to the new APA Sustainable Community Division

## Actions for New APA Sustainable Communities Division

1. **Information Sharing Technology.** Create a list server or other technology for state, local, and/or member information sharing (possibly more powerful platform for virtual trainings and collaboration)
2. **Resource for Best Practices.** Become the authoritative resource for sustainable community planning best practices.
3. **Sustainability Communication.**
  - a. Develop best communication/messaging approach for sustainable community planning.
  - b. Initiate a sustainable community planning communication and public education campaign
  - c. Stimulate Discussion of What Is/Should be Done. Provide a “Forum” (electronic, at APA and Chapter events, Division newsletter etc.) to allow for the opportunity to generate and discuss new ideas and new thinking on the sustainable development topic.
    - i. Encourage discussion about not only what has been done and what is being done, but what should be done for the future.
4. **Activate Membership and State Chapter Initiatives.**
  - a. Figure out best way to formalize governance relationship with State Chapters to support sustainability planning
  - b. Create a learning/practice network program (resources, info sharing, project collaboration, training, application)
  - c. Launch a State Chapter Sustainable Community Division Committee
    - i. Initially, this could be composed of the 5 existing State Level Sustainability Committees
    - ii. The work program would not need to be onerous. Maybe limit it initially to sharing their own current and accumulating work through their websites, a quarterly e-update, and some other teleconference or webinar meetings. Another aspect could be a phase 2 research project to interview each of the state chapter president’s around their need/interest/ideas/initiatives they might/will undertake? Other interested State reps could join/collaborate.
5. **Infuse sustainability initiatives throughout the APA Organization** by engaging interest and catalyzing initiatives.
  - a. In other Divisions; In students/membership; In sympathetic orgs
  - b. Update of Sustainability Planning Policy Guide
  - c. Add to APA National Policy Agenda 2014 (not sure what this means)
6. **Initiate a Program to Legalize Sustainability Best Practices**
  - a. State level – engage with State APA Legislative Committees
  - b. National Level – connect with national APA legislative program.