

CY PLAN 119: Planning for Sustainability

Department of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley

Spring 2014

Group Project Assignment

Background

American Planning Association is launching an accreditation process in 2014 to review comprehensive plans for sustainability criteria. (See: <http://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/compplanstandards/>). As part of the roll out, the steering committee is seeking feedback on the standards and their use in evaluating comprehensive plans.

Description

The class will be divided into groups and assigned one comprehensive plan of a city in our region. Each individual in the group will evaluate the plan against the accreditation scoring matrix. (Please see individual and group spreadsheets of the scoring matrix on bSpace). Next, each of your group members will combine your scores into a spreadsheet that we provide (see bSpace for spreadsheet instructions). You will upload a section of the spreadsheet to ReCal (at <http://dfreelon.org/recal/recal-oir.php>) which will test how well your scores are in agreement. As a group, you should discuss your individual and group scores. Finally, each group will then prepare a presentation. The presentation will provide a brief overview of your group's assigned city, its comprehensive plan and a discussion of your group's sustainability accreditation evaluation. In addition, your presentation to be an evaluation of the process itself of attempting to apply sustainability criteria to comprehensive (general) plans.

Project Deliverables

1. Comprehensive Plan Best Practices Scoring Matrix
 - a. Individual ranking
 - b. Group raking
2. Presentation
 - a. Brief background on city
 - b. Overview of sustainability efforts
 - c. Integration of sustainability goals into official planning – Is there a sustainability plan? How is it integrated – as a separate element or throughout the plan? Do the elements reflect the criteria in the scoring matrix?
 - d. Results of your analysis (Individual and Group Scores)
 - e. Observations about the results and process. (How much were your scores in agreement? Difficulty of rankings? Finding sustainability elements?)
 - f. References
 - g. Acknowledgments

Presentation Guidelines

Each group should plan for a 20 minute presentation with 10 minutes Q&A. Presentations are scheduled for 5/1, 5/6 and 5/8. You can use the format of your choice (e.g. PowerPoint, Prezi, online blog like Blogger, or website like Wix.com). Take advantage of the medium: Use images, video, links to maps, data and articles, tables, charts, etc. You can also embed charts, maps, and figures to help illustrate your main points and findings.

Additional Career Development Opportunities

There will be an additional opportunity outside of class time to present your group projects to practicing planners in the Bay Area! We will announce these opportunities and sign up in class.