

Sustainable City: Save Money Using Innovative Energy Strategies

May 19, 2009

Hosts:



Sponsors:



Conference Summary Recorded by
Roland J. Cole
Sagamore Institute for Policy Research



May 25, 2009

Dear Conference Participant:

The High Performance Government Network and Roland J. Cole have provided you with this conference summary in order to add value to the Sustainable City Conference by providing further information on the topics discussed. These notes are designed to capture information on the most relevant items discussed at the conference.

In addition, we have provided the contact information of all participants so you can contact others directly to learn more about their efforts.

Thank you for your participation in the Sustainable City Conference. We welcome your feedback, and invite you to share it by contacting me directly at (260) 439-8372 or ryan@hpgnetwork.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan P. Chasey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "R" and "C".

Ryan P. Chasey
President

Sustainable City: Save Money Using Innovative Energy Strategies Agenda

9:00 a.m. Welcome – Mayor Greg Ballard, City of Indianapolis

9:15 a.m. Greening Cities

Topics include: Parks, Trails & Greenways, Clean Communities, Bike lanes, Utilizing Public Boards

10:15 a.m. Controlling Energy Costs -- **Sponsored by Ameresco**

Topics include: Joint Purchasing, Energy audits, Anti-idling policies, Public Transportation, Reducing fleet costs by reducing routes, vehicles

11:15 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. Hidden Green Assets in your Community: High Speed Broadband

Topics include: High speed applications that save energy, provide new services, create jobs and meet federal stimulus dollars guidelines

12:30 p.m. Lunch Keynote -- **Sponsored by DLZ**

“Austerity to Prosperity: An Action Plan for Energy Savings and Green Jobs for your Community”

Presented by Graham Richard, Mayor of Fort Wayne 2001-07

2:00 p.m. Identifying Regional Energy Challenges

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Green Building Strategies -- **Sponsored by Energy Systems Group**

Topics include: Improved building weatherization, Lower energy usage equipment, Recycling programs, Building code challenges

4:00 p.m. Action Items and Wrap-up

Sustainable City: Save Money Using Innovative Energy Strategies

Participant Contact List

Town of Avon
317-272-0948

Tom Klein, Town Manager
Ryan Cannon, Public Works Director

tklein@avongov.org
rcannon@avongov.org

Bedford:
812-279-6555

Dan Kirk, Planning Director
Mike Mitchell, Park Director
Misty Adams, Utilities Director
Kyle Brown, Employee Relations

dkirk@bedford.in.us
mmitchell@bedford.in.us
bedfordutilities@comcast.net
kbrown@bedford.in.us

Columbia City:
260-248-5111

James Fleck, Mayor
Roger Seymoure, City Council

jfleck@columbiacity.net
raclesy@embarqmail.com

Evansville:
812-436-4962

Katy Nimnicht, Assistant to Mayor
Dona Bergman, Director of EPA for Evansville
Debbie Spalding, Purchasing Supervisor
James Harris, COO

knimnicht@evansvillegis.com
dbergman@evansvillegov.org
dspalding@evansvillegis.com
james.harris@evsc.k12.in.us

Fishers:
317-595-3462

Scott Fadness, Deputy Town Manager
Jeff Heiking, Dir. of Engineering & PW
Eric Pethtel, Assist. Dir. of Engineering & PW

fadnesss@fishers.in.us
heikingj@fishers.in.us
pethtele@fishers.in.us

Franklin:
317-736-3602

Fred Paris, Mayor
Zachary Burton, Dir. of Communications
Rick Littleton, DPW Superintendent
Chip Orner, Parks & Rec Superintendent

fparis@franklin-in.gov
zburton@franklin-in.gov
rlittlejohn@franklin-in.gov
corner@franklin-in.gov

Greencastle:
765-653-3100

Susan Murray, Mayor
Laurie Hardwick, City Attorney
Shannon Norma, City Planner
Tom Sutherline, Police Chief

smurray@cityofgreencastle.com
lhardwick@cityofgreencastle.com
snorma@cityofgreencastle.com
tsutherlin@cityofgreencastle.com

Indianapolis:
317-614-9240

Karen Haley, Director, Office of Sustainability
Michael Terry, Office of Sustainability
Trevor Ocock, Office of Sustainability
John Hazlett, Project Manager
Alysson Pumphrey
Andy Lutz, Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator
Al Ensley, Greenway Manager
Ashlee Kilpatrick, Planner

khaley@indygov.org
mterry@indygo.net
trocock@indygo.net
jhazlett@indygov.org
apumphre@indygov.org
alutz@indygov.org
aensley@indygov.org
akilpatr@indygov.org

Knox:
574-772-4553

Rick Chambers, Mayor
George Byers, Park Director
Ed Blue, City Council
Jeff Houston, Clerk-Treasurer

knoxmayor@nitline.net

knoxct@nitline.net

Monticello:
574-583-9889

Jason Thompson, Mayor
Rod Pool, Water Works Superintendent
Shane Swain, Fire Chief
Curt Blount, Police Chief

mayor@monticelloin.gov
water@monticelloin.gov
fire@monticelloin.gov
police@monticelloin.gov

Muncie:

Dick Shirey, Deputy Mayor
Jerry Friend, Building Commissioner
Matt Wagley
Tom Bennington

dshirey@cityofmuncie.com
jfriend@cityofmuncie.com
mwagley@cityofmuncie.com
tbennington@munciesanitary.org

South Bend:

Patrick Henthorn

phenthor@southbendin.gov

Valparaiso:
219-462-1161

Bill Oeding, City Administrator
John Seibert, Parks Director
Jeff Lewis, Energy Commission Chair
Don McGinley

boeding@valpo.us
jseibert@valparaisoparks.org
jlewis@designorg.com
dmcginley@valpo.us

Vincennes:
812-882-7285

Belle Kasting, Board of Works
Duane Chattin, City Council

bkasting@cinergymetro.net
dchattin@sbcglobal.net

Winona Lake:
574-267-5783

Craig Allebach, Town Coordinator

9:00 a.m. Welcome by Mayor Greg Ballard, City of Indianapolis

Overview: Greg Ballard, Mayor of Indianapolis, provided his perspective on the role of municipal government in sustainability. He also provided several examples of how Indianapolis is fulfilling that role.

Mayor Ballard began by describing why he came back to Indiana to live. He shared how comfortable he felt living in the state. Similarly, he feels comfortable with the High Performance Government Network because he knows them, knows their issues, and feels that they do a good job addressing those issues.

He also noted his belief that, regardless of the issue, municipal government can make a difference. In dealing with issues like sustainability, citizens are often waiting for something to happen, and activity by the municipal government can provide a jump start for all sorts of supporting activity.

He said that the City of Indianapolis has set a goal of becoming the most sustainable city of its size in the Midwest. It purposely chose “sustainable,” rather than “green” to include all the activities that work for the long term.

He noted several activities:

1. Plans to “green” the city-county building
2. The 15-year plan to put bikeways throughout the city
3. The “green supplemental document” that the City created to prepare building inspectors and other city officials to incorporate green and sustainable concepts, such as permeable pavement, into their daily activities on behalf of the City.
4. More common programs such as LEED certification for buildings

He asked the question: “What class of people do you want moving into your city?” Indianapolis wants to attract the “creative class” that it sees as a great source of economic and cultural growth, and is working to leave the next generation a set of amenities, such as bikeways, that will be attractive to this class.

He mentioned his dislike of “silos,” and how much he likes working across the state, and how he wants Indianapolis to be a model for the Midwest. He helped form the Central Indiana Council of Mayors so he could talk with his counterparts about water and other long-term regional issues.

He closed by mentioning how Indianapolis had turned the old building housing the conference into one of the newest city offices, and introducing the Director of the Indianapolis Office of Sustainability.

1. Conference Introduction by Kate Love-Jacobson

Kate started by discussing the history of HPG Network. The HPG Network is a not for profit founded by the Indiana Chamber, Indiana University SPEA, and Indiana Assoc. of Cities and Towns. The HPG Network helps local government leaders improve performance in their organizations in order to reduce costs and improve services by offering a range of training and networking opportunities. HPG Network now has 15 Indiana cities and towns as members as is seeking more – the more members, the more the network has to share.

She also introduced HPG Network President Ryan Chasey and Vice President of Operations Joy Hudson and official notetaker Rollie Cole, a volunteer from the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.

She then asked participants to share their objectives for the day. Objectives included:

1. For each participant to develop a list of good ideas that could be applied in their communities.
2. To discuss what has worked and what has not.
3. To identify best practices, such as for fleet vehicles
4. To add to the attendees' knowledge of "green" and "sustainability."
5. To add some excitement that attendees could take back to their communities
6. To discuss innovative financing solutions.
7. To identify potential and actual synergies between municipal departments.

9:15 a.m. Greening Cities

The session featured a panel from the City of Indianapolis, including:

1. Karen Haley, Director; Office of Sustainability
2. John Hazlett, Sustainability Project Manager;
3. Al Ensley, Greenways Manager;
4. Andy Lutz, Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator

Overview: The session started with examples from Indianapolis, but expanded to cover some of what attendee cities were doing as well. Examples included bikeways, greenways, and storm water treatment (especially "green" versus "grey" treatment methods). The discussion also covered working with citizens and working across departments on these issues.

The ideas identified and discussed included:

1. The City's attempts to fold in bike riders with drivers and park users in City information-gathering and decision-making.
2. The use of the Monon Trail as a spine – willing to spend more for trails that connect to it than for those that are unconnected
3. The idea that the best trails connect to other trails, rather than start and stop by themselves.
4. The attempt to put bike lanes in greenways and in parks, and to connect the greenways to parks.
5. The lesson that the City will have to use streets at least in part – sometimes with a separate lane, sometimes by paving a shoulder (shoulder paving had been stopped for financial reasons; now re-started for sustainability reasons).
6. The cultural trail that is a combination of walkway and bikeway – it connects 7 cultural sites, but will also connect to the network of bikeways.
7. How the Departments of Public Works and Parks are coordinating on storm water management, trying to use “green overflow” (areas of natural vegetation and streams) rather than “grey overflow” (artificial tanks and pipes).
8. The use of green overflow is also being applied next to a school – an area of natural vegetation to handle storm water running off the roof of the new addition to the school.
9. They gave the example of the Fall Creek project – storm water will flow down the creek through plantings right near a future segment of the Fall Creek greenway, which will include a walkway/bikeway.
10. Having people pass so close also creates an educational opportunity, through signage that will point out the “green overflow” that is being used in place of “grey overflow.”
11. The Office of Sustainability works with a public Bike Advisory Council that is just 3 months old.
12. One of the City goals is to achieve national certification as bicycle friendly, whether at the bronze, silver, or gold level.
13. The Bike Advisory Council includes members from the separate Bicycle Coalition. The Coalition helps with outreach to the public, especially its member bike riders.
14. One of new efforts is to schedule a bike lane along any road in the city being re-surfaced.
15. In response to a question about separated or shared lanes, Indianapolis uses both. Its shared lanes are usually a striped area along the shoulder of the street. The city does get

complaints, and is getting ready for some accidents to occur – but is finding that the existence of the bike lanes helps drivers stay closer to the speed limit and flow more evenly than on streets without bike lanes.

16. The city seeks feedback through the Bike Advisory Council, through its pre-construction meetings, public service announcements about bikeways, a part of the city's monthly town hall meetings held throughout the city, and as part of the city's web site.
17. The city has found that most feedback, most of it positive, follows the creation of a bikeway – when merchants along it request bike racks, more bike lanes, etc.
18. Indianapolis noted that the bike-friendly cities of Chicago, IL; Portland, OR; and Madison, WI have materials on what they are doing and how they are doing it that might be applicable to an attendee's city or town. They might even be close enough to be re-purposed largely as is.
19. Is there opposition from the “old guard?” Yes, but dealing with it is a process of education, and other bike-friendly cities may have materials and stories that may help.
20. What about development standards and requirements on private developers? Indianapolis has had land and financial donations, and has purchased in some cases. The Town of Fishers requires bikeways along public thoroughfares and then fills in gaps. Situations vary by city, and various cities have used various policies.
21. What about plans to study commuting versus recreation, serious biking versus not-so-serious, etc.? In Indianapolis, the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs has been studying this, and DPW does bike-counts along with car-counts in its planning, and is studying how to calculate the value of extra bike lanes.
22. The panel also noted that commuting may require cooperation from the employer – bike racks, perhaps bike security, perhaps facilities to “clean up” – but these can also be a way to encourage more commuting.
23. Any use of pervious (and/or permeable) materials for at least the separated bikeways? Not in Indianapolis yet, but they are studying the issue. (The bike-path along the Indianapolis canal may or may not count – large portions of it are clay, which can turn messy during rain, but is a bit more permeable than asphalt.)
24. Do cars and bikes mix? Indianapolis is trying the experiment along New York and Michigan streets, which are very busy entrances to the downtown. So far, the results are accident-free, in part because cars are forced to drive closer to the speed limit and are thus better matched to traffic lights, which are timed based on the posted limits. The panel also noted that bikes have a legal right to use public roads, so it helps to plan for that.

25. What about state roads? So far, the state has been reluctant to consider bike lanes along state roads, but has been developing separated paths in some areas.
26. How does experience with retrofit translate into areas experiencing new development? It is important to have a cross-department view of the issue, to look at the lessons of the bike-friendly cities (which have had both situations), and keep in mind that a bike-path to nowhere is much worse than a sidewalk to nowhere, so keep an eye on connecting the paths to each other.
27. The panel noted that bikes can tie into public transit – with bike racks on buses, or bike racks at bus stops, etc.
28. Commuters versus recreation? Indy is focusing on non-regular riders, with the idea that regular riders have learned, or can learn, to merge into more regular traffic. It has partnered with health groups, churches, and others to get the word out, publishes bike route map.
29. Any private funding? Not yet, but Indy is working with owner of bicycle shop that has a large email newsletter, is working with family foundations to sponsor parts of bike paths, and with corporations on bike racks, clean up facilities, lockers. The city has 3 projects for bike lockers under construction now.
30. Cost for bike lanes – for Indy, it has varied from about \$40,000/mile to \$1,000,000/mile – it costs more on old, narrow roads, less on places where putting a stripe on an existing shoulder will suffice. In general, the city is willing to pay more for paths that connect two or more paths, and less for paths that would start and stop by themselves.

10:15 a.m. Controlling Energy Costs

The session featured a private sector participant, Mark Heirbrandt, Ameresco, to provide additional insight.

Overview: The session alternated back and forth between how participating cities have tried to control energy costs and case studies Ameresco has seen. The session covered the Ameresco methodology (user interviews, utility use examination, etc.) and financing. It also identified examples of idling policies, use of alternative vehicles, green procurement, methane from landfills, use of LED lights, and others.

1. Ameresco often starts by interviewing building users – he can learn a lot about hot spots, cold spots, air quality.

2. A more detailed look includes testing air quality, looking at ducts, windows, doors, source of heat, motors and other equipment in the building, and doing infrared scans.
3. Even recently built or remodeled buildings can have problems – Ameresco checks invoices for repairs and replacements, since they may indicate a problem with water quality, grounding of electricity, etc. In fact, in one prison, improperly grounded electricity was creating electrolysis that was corroding pipes much faster than normal.
4. Fort Wayne may put in various forms of alternative energy production in its zoo for educational purposes.
5. Wind turbines, other than the largest commercial ones, may not be quite economical under current fuel prices and rules for “selling back” the power to the utility – they tend to have 20, 30, 40 year paybacks rather than the 10 or 15 people would like.
6. LED street lights are still under study – some have had good experience as traffic lights or decorative lighting, but there is a real trade-off with how much surface they can cover for more traditional street and parking lot lighting.
7. Financing – Mark mentioned that the state has just extended the period over which cities and towns can set up tax-exempt leases or guaranteed energy savings bonds – longer terms mean higher interest rates, but less cash flow per year.
8. Evaluation fees – Ameresco, and some others, do initial evaluations “on spec” or “at risk” and only get paid when and if city proceeds with an energy savings project. Some firms do charge something like 6% to 7% up front.
9. There is usually an energy guarantee – if the project produces less than the projected savings, usually measured in energy units, not dollars, then the vendor pays the city. If prices have gone up, the city may save even more than projected in dollars; if they have gone down (as they do occasionally) the savings may be less in dollars even if energy unit savings are achieved.
10. Only available to cities? No; program started with school corporations before local governments, so a variety of entities are eligible for these energy saving financing tools.
11. Pay downstream share of energy savings? Ameresco would love to do this, but has yet to negotiate such a deal.
12. Idle reduction – Indy and several other cities regulate by policy; Fort Wayne actually has automatic shut-off after 10 minutes. Evansville has designated exceptions for emergency vehicles others; Evansville also has software that tracks maintenance by time engine is on as well as miles traveled to account for wear and tear of idling as well as start and stop driving.

13. One of the simplest fixes is a programmable thermostat; Fort Wayne even uses wireless control to change temperature settings remotely.
14. IndyGo has moved to rubber garage doors that open and shut much faster in order to save energy.
15. Evansville captures methane from landfill; used as economic development tool by working with private developer seeking lower energy costs
16. The biggest challenge is finding capital to implement identified changes.
17. One-third of the Evansville fleet is hybrids.
18. One needs to train staff to be sensitive to need for energy conservation; and to retrain as staff changes or technology changes
19. One needs an overall plan – firms like Ameresco does help with that through its energy calculations, knowledge of technology prices, etc.
20. Occasionally, an energy audit will reveal that a building is in good shape; occasionally, that the changes are too expensive
21. Energy savings are financial leverage – can bond against future energy savings
22. If the city owns the utility, reduction of use is revenue reduction – need to analyze both sides of the equation and explore alternatives like selling the “surplus” to other communities
23. What about “green” procurement? Does the IN or US Department of Energy help? Do you need an internal watchdog group? Are there general principles, such as recycled materials versus new, local supplier versus remote? Indy has a “green procurement policy” in rough draft. Interest has to come from the top of city government. Going through the state process to be designated a “clean community” can also be helpful; as can forming an “energy commission” to help provide advice to the city.
24. Joint purchasing on striping and salt helped save money; FW saved money on joint purchase of vehicles.
25. Evansville combined with school corporation on office supplies, food, fuel, and tires – tied into contracts with vendors like Office Depot
26. Office Depot online system helps you identify green, WNBE certification, etc.
27. But joint purchasing may cut out small, local vendor – some may chose to “buy local” even if in the short run it costs a bit higher.

11:30 a.m. Hidden Green Assets in your Community: High Speed Broadband

The session featured Graham Richard, former Mayor of Fort Wayne from 2001-2007

Overview: This session covered the potential value of broadband to communities as (a) a way to save energy and greenhouse gases; (b) a tool of economic development; and (c) a method for improving government service. It also discussed how much wireless and fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) are already being deployed in Indiana. It gave examples of how communities are, or might use FTTH and wireless and discussed the process for (a) promoting FTTH and wireless into new communities and (b) taking advantage of where FTTH and wireless are already being deployed.

1. In surveys of site selection specialists, presence of highly-qualified workforce was #1 criterion; but since 2002, availability of high-speed connectivity was #2.
2. Fort Wayne called a broadband summit in 2001; wanted to be the most “wired and inspired” city of its size in the nation.
3. Mayor Richard showed an article from the National League of Cities publication about how well Fort Wayne succeeded in that effort.
4. He discussed the example of giving a gift of a CD (compact disc) versus a download from the Internet – all the carbon consequences of going to and from the store, the production and packaging of the CD, shipping it to the store and then to the recipient, etc.
5. Indiana is in an unique position to go after at least its “fair share” of the \$7.2 billion in stimulus money because it already has 40 cities and towns with fiber to the home (FTTH), some of whom have good experiences with innovative new applications, and a system of public libraries dedicated to public computing.
6. Richard showed the map of the 40 plus towns and cities that already have FTTH deployed or scheduled, argued that they are competition for those that are not on the map yet.
7. Richard compared data over copper wire as water through a straw; data over optical fiber is like Niagara Falls. Coaxial cable comes close to current (but not future speeds) one-way, but is not two-way interactive the way optical fiber can be.
8. A company named Steeplechase was at a presentation in Ohio showing off 40 new applications, many of them directly related to municipal services, all of which require something like optical fiber broadband.

9. Of the 40 Indiana cities and towns, only 2 are municipal electric utilizes using the “build it yourself” route. The other 38 are seeing it done by a private or cooperative entity.
10. Richard recommends a three-step process for bringing broadband to your city; also usual for other green, sustainable, and high performance projects – convene, connect, collaborate. Convene the appropriate entities and individuals; get them to connect to each other; and help them collaborate with each other.
11. Note that each broadband application deployed (1) reduces vehicle miles traveled; (2) reduces energy use; and (3) uses technology to improve service.
12. The convener need not be the mayor – but anyone with the credibility to get people together to imagine what can be done.
13. He talked about the example of the INACE system, which uses online course to teach Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic, and to hold virtual town meetings with students.
14. Fort Wayne created iTeams (Innovation Teams) to explore advanced applications in education, medicine, private sector, city government, and other service
15. One of the applications was mentoring for 21st century scholars – K-12 students trying to be the first in their family to go to college
16. Another application was the work with Matthew 25, a faith-based group that delivered medical and dental service to the poor. They were able to do digital retinal exams on site, send the data to experts elsewhere via broadband, and save the sight of several people.
17. Another application was work with the League for the Blind and Disabled to set up a video bridge so deaf and blind could get telephone support for computers, appliances, medical issues, etc. The deaf could sign to someone on the bridge, who could relay questions to and answers from the person providing telephone help.
18. Another application was Senior Connect – a program that originated in Indianapolis and uses high school seniors to help re-build computers and give them, along with training, to senior centers and public libraries where they will be used by senior citizens.
19. Another application was Renaissance Point – an area in Fort Wayne that suffered a major fire and was being re-built with smart homes – using wired and wireless connections so that single parents could, for instance, turn the heat on only when their latchkey kids actually got home from school.
20. Another application was in Wyoming – school teachers used fiber to the home to start teaching English to Koreans; Koreans are now exploring making investments in the small town in Wyoming where their teachers were located.

21. The Killer App conference held in Fort Wayne in 2007 featured over 80 applications that took advantage of FTTH and wireless.
22. Evansville has a wireless canopy for utility meter reading and letting field inspectors upload images from the field and is working on electronic medical records.
23. South Bend is working on meter reading, and has already combined with Notre Dame University and a major hospital to bring fiber to all three much cheaper than if each had tried on its own.
24. Valparaiso is working on water meter reading, downtown wireless zones, and fiber in some public and private buildings.
25. The next step, that does NOT occur automatically, is to extend to homes and small businesses via FTTH.
26. Evansville brought up its attempt to consider real-time video on all its buses. A system with 5 buses would have been no problem, but a system with 265 buses was going to have serious problems in handling all the video data generated. Perhaps Rose Hulman or Ball State would be interested in working on the problem.
27. Richard said another Fort Wayne procedure was to beg, borrow, buy, build – in that order. Fort Wayne was able to largely “beg” its broadband; it bought its wireless via an RFP, and was busy using all 4 to get applications for both.
28. Another Fort Wayne procedure was to form BEST teams (building service excellence teams), each of which would focus on a particular government service to be improved.
29. When Fort Wayne did wireless, it was able to offer use of public assets like buildings for the wireless provider to put its antennas. It got a multiple use system with both public safety and public use via different frequencies across the same equipment. The result was the lowest crime rate in 27 years, largely because law enforcement could spend more time patrolling and less time processing. For instance, policemen did not have to cut short their day to fill out and turn in paperwork; they could do that from their patrol car or their broadband connection at home.

12:30 p.m. “Austerity to Prosperity: An Action Plan for Energy Savings and Green Jobs for your Community” -- Lunch Keynote with Graham Richard

Overview: This session started by discussing how much more important energy for home and vehicle use has become over the last 30 years. It then identified programs that various communities are using to help with energy use. It also discussed the processes that communities are using to identify and implement these programs, and ended with a “cross-crawl” exercise to keep the attendees limber and help improve their connections between the right and left halves of their brains.

1. Richard started by talking about a study by the Center for Neighborhood Technology that measured how households spent their money from 1970 through 2000. As you can imagine, each decade the percentage spent for heating, cooling, and transport went up. So reductions in energy use are more valuable than ever to real households facing real problems.
2. He passed around “Grassroots Green,” a report by a FW citizens’ commission that identified all sorts of ways individuals could participate in green and sustainable efforts.
3. North Dakota used this sort of thinking to create some of the “coastal amenities” demanded by former natives returning from a coast – broadband for connectivity, bicycle paths, greenways, etc.
4. Valparaiso (city) compared notes with Valparaiso University on how each was trying to be green. The city government came away with dozens of additional ideas to try.
5. Valparaiso learned that its citizens commission needed real leadership, needed to move from just energy to sustainability, and needed to help re-engage departments but not just sending advice into the departments, but carrying department activities and education out to other departments and the general public.
6. Even if federal dollars come via formula, those spending the dollars need to have a plan (a “greenprint”).
7. Franklin points out that smaller entities often cannot have full time staff dedicated to this issue, let alone an office or a department, so helping with focus and knowledge are crucial.
8. Could wireless replace fiber? Richard pointed out you need both – for one thing, the signals to and from the towers have to come and go from someplace else. Also, they serve different needs – like trucks and cars. Richard also noted that outside entities are willing to provide, especially if the city helps with the politics, access to some public assets, etc.

9. What does it mean to the city if one is already on the FTTH list? The suggestion was to contact the provider, convene a team, and start planning on how to use the marvelous new asset already coming into the community.
10. Muncie noted that the world's largest geothermal heat pump system is going in at Ball State – likely to be source of many lessons for other communities.
11. Fort Wayne used a BEST team to reduce the number on-the-job injuries; also made great use of alumni of local institutions (often glad to come back at their own expense, or expenses only, to help). They also used student interns and the federal domestic peace corps program
12. Columbia City expanded its recycling program to accept hazardous waste every day instead of once per year, and is working with youth groups to sell high-efficiency light bulbs instead of cookies.
13. Greencastle had a city-led coalition on energy, which led to a city energy commission, which led to efforts to use more local foods via farmers' markets and other techniques.
14. Evansville got involved in helping with ride-sharing, overlaying bike-paths with public transit routes, and putting both sets of maps online.
15. South Bend partnered with Notre Dame to use waste heat from data centers for greenhouses.
16. Greencastle uses interns from DePauw, Ivy Tech, and high schools to help with energy audits. They also used interns from the Landscape Architecture program Ball State, which is always looking for community projects.
17. Several web sites can be very helpful – HPG Network will be compiling a list on its web site.
18. Valparaiso is working with Walmart to recycle plastic bags that were otherwise a significant part of litter in the area.
19. Fort Wayne, as part of its effort to move services from standing in line to going online, partnered with Walmart to have computers and connectivity at a local Walmart so shoppers could also take care of city services while in the store.
20. Monticello is starting to form a broadband team.
21. The utilities investing in wind power, even if out of region, often have programs whereby locals can purchase electricity from renewable sources as a way to participate even if the particular renewable, such as wind, is not feasible in the local community.

22. Evansville sees its opportunity in jobs to supply the energy industry, just like Muncie is about to have a local wind turbine factory, even if not a local wind farm. Similarly, one could imagine making solar panels for use in other areas, etc.
23. The session ended with a cross-crawl – an exercise designed to get the blood flowing, especially the connections between the left rational part of the brain and the right artistic part. One stands up, and keeping the back straight up, lifts the left knee and touches with the right hand (or right elbow, for the flexible), then lifts the right knee and touches with the left hand or elbow. The members of the group repeated the exercise from a few to several dozen times.

2:00 p.m. Regional Energy Challenges

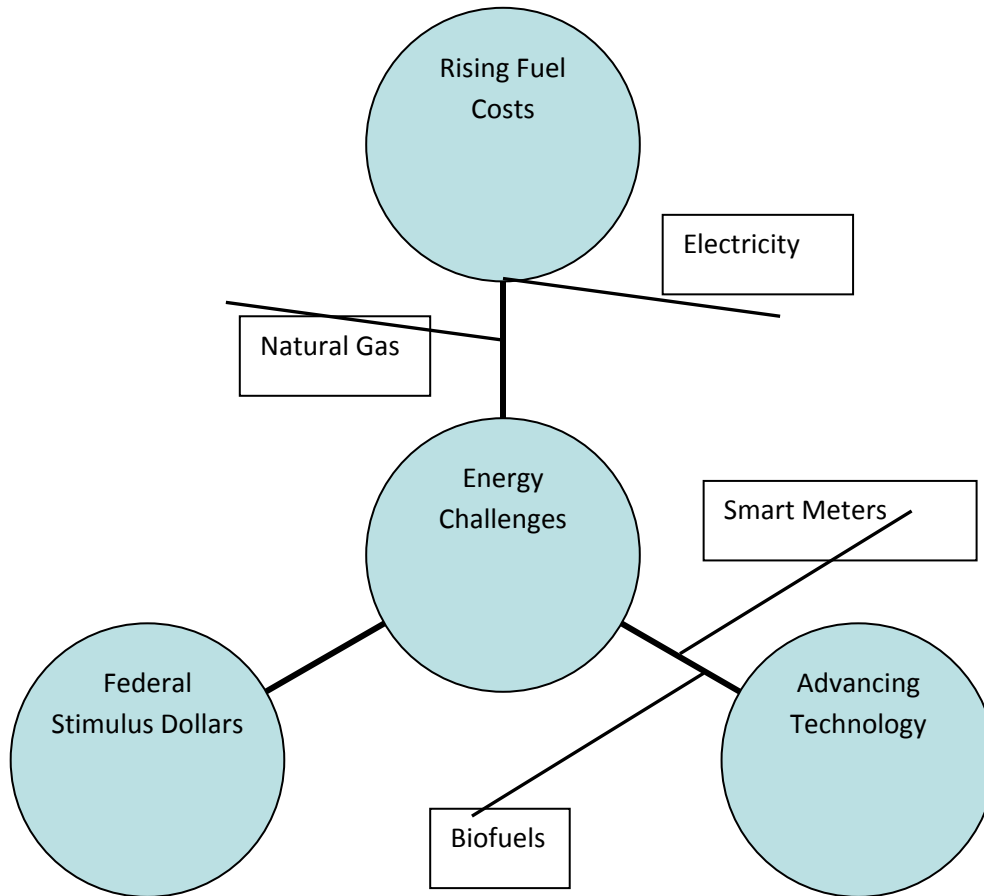
Led by Kate Love-Jacobson of HPG Network

Overview: This session started with a description of how to work with a mind map. The attendees then created mind-maps of the challenges and opportunities facing their region – whether north, central, or south. The attendees then met by region to compile a list of regional challenges and opportunities and ended by reporting back to the full group the list compiled for each region.

The session began with Love-Jacobson explaining how to work with a mind-map. The idea is to take notes in a way that is more “natural” for most people than the outlines we were taught in elementary school.

A mind map starts with a circle in the middle of a blank sheet of paper, with the subject of the mind map written inside. Then the user draws various spokes out from the circle as major ideas occur. Ideas that are subsets of one of the major ideas go on branches of the spokes.

A limited version of such a mind-map appears below.



The group divided into central, north and south regions and each reported energy challenges and opportunities. Those reporting 2nd and 3rd tried to avoid repeating what the previous group had listed.

Central Region

Challenges were:

1. Capital, financial and human
2. Cost of replacement
3. Loss of revenues to utilities
4. Market fluctuations (e.g. gasoline)

5. Technology Change
6. Cap & Trade (restrictions on coal use)
7. Time needed to implement change
8. Need to educate new workers (also an opportunity)

Opportunities

1. Green jobs
2. A way to slow the brain drain
3. Current cost of energy is low relative to other parts of the country
4. Re-direction of community priorities
5. Regional transportation
6. Healthier life-style
7. New set of citizens engaged
8. Presence of Energy Research Facilities

Both

1. Stimulus Bill
2. Energy Independence
3. Global Warming
4. Reducing the Cost of Healthcare
5. Regional disparity in alternative energy – need to transmit to central region

South Region

Vehicles – policies, practices, technology

Lighting

Low maintenance landscaping – less mowing, watering, etc.

On infill, worried about rodents, trash, homeless, drugs

On large areas – production?, treat the same? Farming?

Joint purchasing

Building

Partnerships – multiple communities, school districts

North Region

Awareness

Department cross-over and overlap (e.g. mowing of department lands)

Route optimization for waste hauling

Energy audits

Joint purchasing

Low-impact storm water development

Use the water

Bioswales, native plantings

Alternative energy education

Mowing abandoned properties

Noise and other rules on when one can mow, when one can water

3:00 p.m. Green Building Strategies

The session featured participation from Samuel D. Welge, Energy Systems Group (ESG)

Overview: This session focused on the opportunities to reduce emissions and energy use associated with buildings, and the problems involved in doing so. ESG also discussed its methodology and financing. The financing discussion included coverage of energy saving guarantees and bonding based on energy savings.

1. Utility participation – some worry about lost revenue, but others appreciate help with slow payers, and the reduction in the growth of energy demand.

2. Biggest problems are (a) aging infrastructure, (b) deferred maintenance, (c) lack of capital
3. Some can capture methane from wastewater plants
4. Markets for recycled materials have been very down; some cities are storing such materials, rather than trying to sell them at this time
5. Energy performance contracting – starts with audit and benchmark (at a very high level), then proposed list for RFP, then more detailed study on building by building basis, then city selection of projects, then financing (now 10 years for buildings, legislation may move to 20 years), then energy savings guarantee – if less savings, vendor pays difference
6. ESG tries to use local contractors where feasible
7. Tax exempt rates around 5%, depending on credit rating of city
8. Annual energy review – ESG uses “Energy Cap” software that adjusts for weather, etc.
9. ESG generally works on commercial and industrial projects, but not private residences
10. ESG does LEED – looks at water and recycled materials in addition to energy
11. ESG helps with proposals – helps with technical information needed to write such proposals

4:00 p.m. Take-aways and Action Items

Led by Kate Love-Jacobson, HPG Network

Overview: The attendees each created another mind-map to identify take-aways and action items stemming from the previous seven sessions. The items identified included (a) renewed enthusiasm for sustainability; (b) a better understanding of “energy,” “green,” “sustainable,” and “broadband;” (c) specific ideas of potential activities gleaned from other communities, including work with citizens and across departments.

The session started with attendees making mind-maps for take-aways and/or action items.

Some of the items identified included:

1. Energy audits
2. Change name from energy to sustainability

3. Stick with ideas in the face of opposition; stay connected with others
4. Group meeting today rekindles interest
5. Department coordination
6. Development of standards for bikeways, greenways, use of interns
7. Clarity of consultants about what they do and how they get paid
8. Community looks to government as an example – government leaders must lead
9. Value of “green commission” to build public interest and contribute ideas
10. Value of knowing what other cities are doing
11. Polling cyclists about preferred routes
12. Get parks involved
13. Re-start trails coalition discussion
14. Look at Greencastle concerning LED decorative lighting
15. Re-check on wireless canopy