

Green Infrastructure Peer Exchange Program

Program Purpose

Green Infrastructure Peer Exchanges are an opportunity to create carefully matched partnerships between eligible entities seeking assistance on implementing green infrastructure and those that have achieved green infrastructure success. For example, numerous areas of the country seek an understanding of how to integrate green infrastructure planning and management into their local government functions and strengthen the relationship with their master plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances, or they desire a greater integration of green/grey infrastructure planning, or are in need of a mechanism to develop a sustainable financing stream for green infrastructure, or a viable plan for long-term management.

The Green Infrastructure Planning Peer Exchange Program is designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning by having the travel costs covered for a site visit. These visits can range from one to three days, may include travel for one to five representatives, and can be hosted by either the entity seeking expertise or the entity offering assistance. While formal training is a key component of any learning experience, the objective of the peer exchange program is to further green infrastructure initiatives by delivering valuable opportunities to speak with those who have faced the same challenges and developed possible solutions for delivering on-the-ground results.

Eligibility

The Green Infrastructure Peer Exchange Program is available to local, regional, and state government agencies, as well as non-governmental and non-profit organizations committed to implementing and managing green infrastructure planning initiatives in their area. Plans may be in the process of being conducted and implemented at the landscape/statewide level, regional/local level or site/project scale. It is expected that the applicant will have already initiated green infrastructure planning processes and is seeking additional technical assistance to achieve green infrastructure implementation and management goals.

Application Requirements & Matching Process

To participate in the Green Infrastructure Peer Exchange Program, the following is required for review:

- Submittal of Application of Interest
- Draft agenda of site visit (up to 3 days)
- Estimated budget of travel expenses (expenses will be reimbursed at-cost rather than straight per diem)
- Commitment to complete a post-site visit evaluation & 6-month progress report
- Submission of a project profile to www.greeninfrastructure.net

The peer exchange program will assist applicants in finding appropriate partners; however, applicants are expected to review www.greeninfrastructure.net for possible peer exchanges and have contacted the entity with expertise and obtained agreement to participate in the program as a mentor prior to submitting a formal application.

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come/first-served basis. Preference will be given to geographic diversity, need, and demonstration of potential impact of peer exchange.

Green Infrastructure Peer Exchange Program Application of Interest

Please complete the following application to be considered for the Peer Exchange Program. Submission instructions are found on page 6. In addition to this application a **Draft Agenda** of the site visit (up to 3 days) and **Budget Estimate** of travel expenses are required. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2011 or until funding for the program has been fully depleted. All travel must be completed by December 31, 2012

Contact Information:
Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Address: _____ _____
Phone Number(s): _____
Are you interested in having additional leaders/members participate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please list their names and phone numbers. (Up to four)
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Background Information:

Please describe your green infrastructure planning initiatives to date.

What have been your major accomplishments (if any) related to green infrastructure planning?

Identify the needs and/or barriers to achieving your green infrastructure goals and objectives.

Describe briefly the importance of these issues with respect to implementing and managing the green infrastructure initiative and discuss your most pressing issue of concern.

Description of Site Visit:

Have you contacted a potential partner? Yes No

Has the potential partner agreed to fully participate in the visit? Yes No

If yes, please provide their contact information.

Name of Contact: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Will you host the site visit or travel to your partner's site?

We will host We will travel

Please describe the reasons for selecting your potential peer exchange partner.

Describe (list) your expectations, goals, and objectives for your site visit. (A draft agenda for the visit is also required with this application.)

Please describe the topics you would like to receive assistance with (e.g. how to integrate green infrastructure planning and management into government functions; strengthen the relationship with master plan, zoning and subdivision ordinances; grey infrastructure planning; public finance and management decisions, etc.)

Thinking Ahead:

Describe how your organization plans to disseminate the information gained from the Peer Exchange.

Describe how the results of the exchange will be evaluated and used by your organization.

To have your application reviewed, you must commit to completing the following tasks. Checking the box signifies your acceptance of this commitment.

- I agree to submit a post-site visit evaluation report within 2 weeks of peer exchange.**
- I agree to submit a 6-month progress report after completion of the site visit.**
- I agree to submit a project profile to www.greeninfrastructure.net**

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come/first-served basis. Preference will be given to geographic diversity, need, and demonstration of potential impact of peer exchange.

Submission information:

Submit this application along with a **DRAFT AGENDA** of the site visit (up to 3 days) and the **BUDGET ESTIMATE** for travel expenses associated with this peer exchange (expenses will be reimbursed at-cost rather than straight per diem). Materials must be submitted to Margarita Carey by any of these three methods:

By Mail:

Margarita Carey
The Conservation Fund
698 Conservation Way
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Email:

mcarey@conservationfund.org

Fax:

(304) 876-7751
Attn: Margarita Carey
The Conservation Fund

For any additional questions, please contact: Kris Hoellen at (304) 876-7462 or khoellen@conservationfund.org.

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THE CONSERVATION FUND

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