

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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Sustainable Communities: Creating Educational Spaces

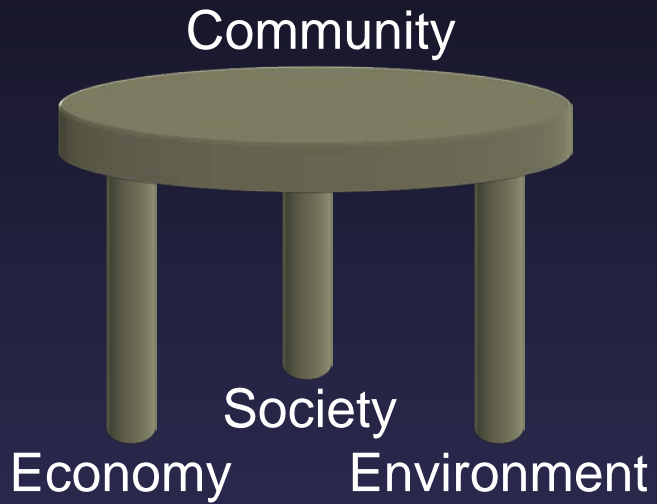


AUDUBON
INTERNATIONAL

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



Sustainability



Purpose

- Outline of Our Organization and Programs
- What is an Educational Space?
- Why is it important?
- Case Study: Henrietta, NY
- Case Study: Williamston, NC
- Case Study: Coconut Creek, FL

Who is Audubon International?

We envision our communities becoming more sustainable through good stewardship of the natural environment where people live, work, and recreate.



Our Programs

- Sustainable Communities Program and Green Neighborhoods
- Cooperative Sanctuary Program
- Signature Program



Certification:

1. Assess
2. Plan
3. Report
4. Measure

SCP: Stages of Involvement

STAGE ONE:
Community Outreach, Education, and Involvement



STAGE TWO:
Sustainable Strategic Planning



STAGE THREE:
Implementing the Strategic Plan

Sustainable Communities & Green Neighborhoods

Municipal and Resort:

Voluntary Environmental Education Linking Environmental Science, Public Policy and Smart Growth Planning

Facilitate and help communities:

- ✓ *Create a sense of place*
- ✓ *Monitor and record progress*
- ✓ *Update zoning ordinances and development codes to support traditional mixed use development.*
- ✓ *Guide “fix-it-first” policies, such as rehabilitating existing schools rather than building new schools outside of the existing community.*
- ✓ *Compile Case Studies and publicize progress*



Sustainable Communities



- Long-term Plan
- Sense of Place
- Sustainability Portfolio
- Third Party Verification
- Issue-Specific Planning



Sustainability Indicators: Focus Areas

1. Agriculture
2. Economic Development/Tourism
3. Education
4. Environmental issues
5. Governance
6. Public Health
7. Housing
8. Open Space and Land Use
9. Planning, Zoning, Building and Development
10. Population
11. Public Safety and Emergency Management
12. Recreation
13. Resource Use (water, energy, waste)
14. Volunteerism and Civic Engagement
15. Transportation

Three groupings

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

Using the Sense of Place

- Without a long-term vision defined by the community, anything goes.
- Without a sense of place, people are less inclined to participate in and contribute to this process.



- 1982 –2001 34 million acres of open space converted to developed land
- 2030 projections –additional 26 million acres to be developed

What is it?

- Engaging residents
- Capitalizing on the current quality of life, and working on improvement
- Embracing Wildlife
- Encouraging Stewardship
- Creating a vested interest in issues such as Water Quality and Zoning
- *Engaging to Educate*

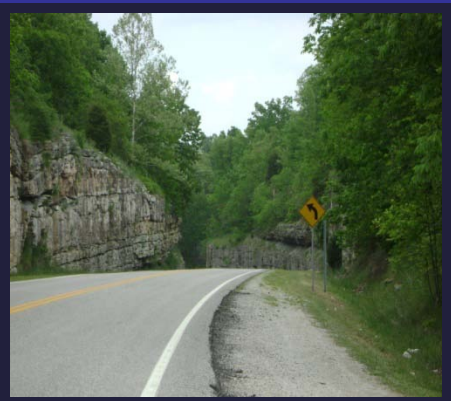


How do you do it?

- Inventory assets- survey the community
- Create small project opportunities with take home lessons
- Capitalize on assets
- Asking “why do you choose to live here?”
- Create rewards and institutionalize programs with reward systems
- *Engage and educate*



Case Study



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Williamston, NC

Motivating Factors:

- Economic
- Water!
- Population Challenges (Pop: 6,000)
 - De-population
 - Out-migration



Williamston, NC



*Agricultural and Rural
Heritage*

History

Natural Resources

*Family Values/
Religion*

Williamston, NC



Roanoke River Preservation



Outdoor Classrooms



Water Quality and Stormwater



Health and Quality of Life



Businesses



Local Government

Coconut Creek, FL

- Water, Water, Water
- Aesthetics
- Hurricanes
- Butterfly City USA



Henrietta, NY

- Let businesses and schools lead the way
- Know the assets and challenges
- Know the regional resources
- Complaining = Good!
- Certificates and Publicity



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Audubon International's
Sustainable Communities Program
Suzi Zakowski, Manager
46 Rarick Road
Selkirk, NY 12414
518-767-9051 x.124
szakowski@auduboninternational.org

