

SUSTAINABLITY COMMITTEE'S TRIP TO PORTLAND, OREGON: JANUARY 21-23, 2016

The purpose of the Rapid City Standing Committee on Sustainability is to encourage education, stewardship, and policy leadership that will make our community a leader in economic, social, and environmental sustainability. sustainability@rcgov.org
http://www.rcgov.org/Community-Resources/sustainability-committee.html



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On January 21- 23, the committee sent a Delegation to represent the City of Rapid City to the 12th Annual Conference on Environmental, Cultural, and Social Sustainability in Portland, OR. www.onsustainability.com
The event was hosted by Common Ground Publishing http://onsustainability.com/assets/downloads/sustainability/S16FinalProgram.pdf



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Our Representatives:

Darla Drew Lerdal, City Council Beth Anne Ferley, Sustainability Coordinator Eirik Heikes, Chair of Sustainability Committee





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Themes and Location:

- 1. Environmental Sustainability
- 2. Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context
- 3. Sustainability Policy and Practice
- 4. Sustainability Education





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This was a global event; with 250 Delegates from 43 Countries.





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The schedule was full for 3 days of solid presentations by various representatives from around the world. Darla, Beth Anne, and Eirik decided to "divide and conquer" and made deliberate plans to attend various areas of sustainability advocacy.



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"The event was very progressive; I spent one moment discussing acidification of soils and rivers in Rio de Janeiro as they develop for the Olympics with a Biologist and another chatting about how the Hotel and Airline Industries will "pay forward" sustainability in the future. I really enjoyed the trends in public gardens and local foods from the US as well."

-Eirik Heikes



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Trends in attendance: 60 plus hours between delegates

Darla- Economic and Social Beth Anne- Education and Outreach Eirik- Urban Renewal, Development, Urbanization

In common-Local Foods, Housing Mixes, Cultural



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What we learned about: Darla

Economic Sustainability – Priority based budgeting Cultural Sustainability – Strengthening the ties between Lakota, Hispanic and white communities, - organic, happening without govt input or funding, more Lakota Art Sales and Powwow opportunities Ecological Sustainability – Work being done in the Solid Waste division and the naming of a new Sustainability Coordinator – Beth Ann Ferley/ Community Outreach



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What we learned about: Darla

Social Sustainability – brining our entire community together for events in the summer, sporting events, new uses of park land to build a healthier, connected community

1a. Farmers Market has a permanent home...need access to electricity to increase ability to have music and announcements with PA.

2a. The FOOD TRUCKS are coming and we had better have an ordinance to make them safe, legal and taxable.



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What we learned about: Beth Anne

Food Justice:

Healthy food is a human right; everyone has an inherent right to access healthy fresh food. Communities exercising their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food.





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What we learned about: Beth Anne

Compost – Used by our local community that aides in our Food Justice programs.

County jail garden, Lemmon Street, Pinedale Elementary, General Beadle, Landfill, and various outer gardens.

New garden: The target area is basically from E. North St on the south, N. Lacrosse St on the west, the railroad tracks on the north and Poplar on the East side.





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What we learned about: Beth Anne

Sustainability Camp: First camp to be held July 18-22, 2016 Students, Adults Materials secured from conference





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What we learned about: Beth Anne

Recycling: Continued demand to keep natural resources out of the landfill.





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What we learned about: Eirik

- Adaptive Re-use is working all over the world.
- Our strategy to "celebrate, educate, formulate" is effective for others.
- Empowerment and Organization works well through grass roots but needs endorsement.
- Social Media is a powerful tool. (Like us on Facebook)



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What we learned about: Eirik

 Hosting a Sustainability Conference in Rapid City would be great benefit to our citizens as well as would draw commerce from around our region.

We have decided to host such event in Fall of 2016.



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The event validated much of what we are doing in Rapid City. It brought great resources to all three attendees and a network of brilliant people from around the world. People who attended the event made note of the fact we came as a team and gave good compliments on our contributions to the event. Portland is a progressive city with some solid planning going on as well.



Upcoming Sustainability Events:

https://www.facebook.com/RapidCitySustainability/?ref=hl

Earth Hour- March 19, 2016 8:30 PM Main Street Square

Green Drinks- March 21st @ Garage https://www.facebook.com/events/1708779549365827/ 402 Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (BYOB)

