



SUSTAINABLE SOUTHEAST

PARTNERSHIP

Resilient Peoples and Place

2017 Mid-Year Sustainable Southeast Partnership Summit

Director's Update

Partners and collaborators met in Juneau for a two day bi-annual SSP workshop in March. This workshop coincided with SE Conference's Mid-Session Summit. The success and utility of the SSP network relies heavily on the commitment of partners to meet in-person twice a year. Spending time together to share information and ideas always leads to improved collaboration across the region. We saw over 50 people participate in the two day event, and many of them noted that it was a priority to attend because they see the value it brings to be tapped into the SSP network.

We used the two days to explore specific ideas including; ideas for improving the network in 2017, reflection on how we as individuals and organizations both provide and receive benefits through the partnership, and building an SSP story bank. Southeast Alaska has a rich history rooted in the use of storytelling for sharing knowledge, skills and inspiration. The SSP prioritizes sharing compelling and progressive stories to strengthening projects and connections between our rural villages across the region. We spent one afternoon brainstorming storytelling ideas based on our projects and work and started to discuss and map out strategies for sharing those stories to inspire positive change.

Q: What does SSP provide to you & your organization?

A:

- Shared Values / Supportive Space
- Access to people and resources
- Partnerships
- Shared challenges & ideas; creates efficiencies
- Inspiration from growing SSP network (family)
- Common strategy/goals across diverse stakeholders
- Expertise & access to diversified skills
- Awareness – platform for creating awareness
- Regional success stories and project models
- Accessible partnership for SE entities due to small size and focus
- Capacity to leverage \$\$ for funding programs
- Provide direction and perspective to each organization
- Professional development and personal growth opportunities
- SSP provides a platform for my voice

- Values framework for doing business; promotes TBL balance
- Common language and connection
- Increase bandwidth for each partner to develop ideas and action
- Cultural understanding
- Brings relevancy to each entity and their priorities
- SSP is a 'neutral' party

Q: What do you or your organization provide to the SSP network?

A:

- Local liaisons/connectors
- Money, people, time (resources)
- A local perspective, community values
- Host entity/organization
- Community expertise & insight
- Supportive energy
- Our story
- Ideas and energy- living the values
- Infrastructure
- Embodiment of the Triple Bottom Line
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Support to each person and partner in the network
- Commitment to mission & place (passion)
- Time spent together and collaboration
- Diversity
- Dream sharing
- Education opportunities
- Ownership of projects
- Creative deal sourcing

Q: What are themes that we can focus on to improve the network in 2017?

A:

- Focus on policy (where there is consensus among partners)
- Project summaries
- Monetary value of the work
- Identify sustainable funding
- More face to face time within the network
- More training opportunities
- Knowledge sharing
- Identify non-traditional partners with clear roles
- Share SSP model outside of SE (Statewide & beyond)
- Toolkit for creating organizational sustainability
- Hire a full-time Regional Sustainability Catalyst- focus on building sustainability into orgs, projects, and region
- Expand the network; more diversity, partners, and communities
- Capture what works through our stories
- 5 year strategic plan
- Youth leadership needs to become a priority
- Continue to reject the Us vs. Them mentality
- Emphasize housing and asset building for community members
- Push to make TBL model established/adopted everywhere

