

President's Sustainability Symposium 2013

Community Stewardship for Economic Benefits

March 19 (students) and 20 (communities), 2013 Coeur d'Alene and Twin Falls, Idaho

Theme

Community Stewardship for Economic Benefits will explore sustainability from the perspective of cost-savings and economic development in small communities and mid-sized cities. The conference will focus on topics related to sustainability and identified by communities as high priority: **wastewater treatment and solid waste management**. Student sessions will provide insight into challenges faced by communities, inspiration from student successes at other colleges and networking opportunities with professionals from a variety of organizations.

Objectives

- Showcase cost-saving practices, scale-appropriate technologies, and economic development opportunities.
- Provide practical information to move from concept to funding and implementation.
- Facilitate networking and partnerships between communities, businesses, government and higher education.

Target Audiences

Community leaders, economic development professionals, and elected officials and staff from communities, tribes, counties and the state.

Venues

The conference will be held at both North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene and the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Participants at the two sites will be joined through videoconferencing. Our goal in using this ground-breaking, two-site format is to make high-quality presentations and interactions available to people across the state, while minimizing travel time and expenses for conference participants.

For more information:

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Background on the President's Sustainability Symposium

As a signature University of Idaho event, the President's Sustainability Symposium addresses critical issues related to Idaho's economy and environment. This is the fifth annual symposium and the first to focus on linking community needs with practical, innovative solutions from public, private and university efforts. Previous events have educated, demonstrated and inspired attendees on sustainability issues such as energy, climate, health and the built environment. This year's event will be co-hosted by UI President M. Duane Nellis, College of Southern Idaho President Jerry Beck and North Idaho College President Joe Dunlap.

Community Stewardship for Economic Benefit

March 19th Student Sessions

12:30-6:00 pm Pacific/1:30-7:00 pm Mtn

Sessions will provide an overview of wastewater and solid waste management from a community perspective, share success stories, plan for future activities and get a chance to explore career opportunities and network with community sustainability professionals.

Session 1: Trends in Community Sustainability

Students will learn about waste water and solid waste management challenges facing communities today and in the next 20 years and hear about employment opportunities for a variety of career interests (hint: it's not just for science majors!).

Session 2: Ignite-Campus Sustainability Successes

Students from U-Idaho, NIC, CSI and surrounding colleges will share campus success stories in a fun and fast-paced Ignite format (5 minutes, 20 slides that advance automatically). Ignite events have been held around the world and the tagline says it all: ***enlighten us, but make it quick.***

Session 3: Student Advocacy

University of Idaho's Sustainability Center will host an event allowing students from U-Idaho, NIC, CSI, and other institutions to network, learn from peers about successes and challenges, and plan future regional activities.

Session 4: Networking 101 and Career Reception

Student attendees will learn the art of networking from Career Services staff. Professionals will share their perspective of what it's like to work for community-serving agencies. Students will then have the opportunity to interact with and practice networking with these representatives of organizations working with Idaho communities on sustainability issues.

March 20th Community Sessions

8:00 am-5:00 pm Pacific/9:00-6:00 pm Mtn

Sessions will review the current and expected state of solid waste and wastewater management in Idaho communities, explore promising and proven strategies and technologies, and showcase innovation in Idaho. Participants will explore strategies to involve community stakeholders in the decision-making process as well as opportunities for funding these types of projects.

Session 1: Changing Contexts for Waste Water Treatment and Solid Waste Management

Explore strategies for cost-effective sustainable water treatment and solid waste streams, what the changing landscape of federal funding will mean for future projects and upcoming trends in processing solid waste.

Session 2: Ignite-Idaho Community Case Studies

Learn about waste water and solid waste projects from communities around the state. Presenters will use the fast-paced Ignite format (5 minutes, 20 slides that advance automatically) to share a project overview, how they overcame obstacles, project funding and long-term goals and plans.

Session 4: Strategies for Financing Projects

This interactive session will provide answers to questions such as:

- *How best to fund different types of projects?*
- *What are the basic things that need to be in place to successfully fund and complete a project?*
- *What funding strategies fit best in which circumstances?*

Session 3: Looking Ahead Toward New Technologies and Opportunities

Explore new technological opportunities available for solid waste management and wastewater treatment. Presenters will cover strategies to reduce costs and identify economic development opportunities that turn costs into profits.