

Strengthening sustainability in urban communities

Exchanging transatlantic best practices

Many cities in the US and Europe are ambitiously tackling sustainability, with initiatives focused on enhanced transportation choices to reduce vehicular travel, energy efficiency campaigns and incentives, and waste reduction strategies, to name a few. Cities are at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, and sharing their successes and challenges can strengthen their individual programs, and may also provide a framework for a transatlantic policy agenda. In this respect, the Netherlands Institute for City Innovation Studies, in cooperation with Virginia Tech, is exploring the possibilities for setting up a network amongst cities on both sides of the Atlantic for exchange of experiences.

The District of Columbia is a leader in sustainability programs and projects, as evidenced by a new neighbourhood-scale pilot project, called the Neighbourhood Sustainability Indicators Pilot Project (NSIPP), which empowers residents to take collective action to tackle climate change and be more sustainable (see www.sustainable-dc.com). The Royal Netherlands Embassy is located in the NSIPP project area, and has invited the District of Columbia to share details of this project, including the opportunities for residents, businesses, and even local embassies, to get involved in this project and the District's other sustainability initiatives.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy is honoured to invite you to this seminar which will highlight experiences and best practices of cities while providing guidance for strengthening sustainability work in urban communities.

March 10, 2010 at 3.00 pm until 5.30 pm
At the Royal Netherlands Embassy
4200 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington DC

The seminar will be followed by a reception until 7 pm.

Program

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| 3.00 | Opening by Renée Jones-Bos, Ambassador of the Netherlands |
| 3.15 | Brendan Shane, Chief of the Office of Policy and Sustainability at the District Department of the Environment |
| 3.35 | Andrea Limauro, Ward 3 Neighbourhood Planner, District of Columbia Office of Planning, "The DC Indicators Sustainability Indicators Pilot project: ambitions and results" |
| 3.55 | Joris Benninga, Real New Energy, "Built Environment Solutions that Work" |
| 4.15 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 4.30 | Panel discussion
Moderator: Fred Krimgold, Director Advanced research Institute, Virginia Tech (TBC)
Panel members: Laurel Colless (TBC) (Head of Research Development Sustainable Technologies, Virginia Tech), Brendan Shane (Chief of the Office of Policy and Sustainability at the District Department of the Environment), Henriette Bersée (Environmental Counselor at Royal Netherlands Embassy), Wim Hafkamp (Director Netherlands Institute for City Innovation Studies) |
| 5.30 | Reception |

Please RSVP before March 7 to WAS-EA@MINBUZA.NL