

2018 ASLA SDD PPN meeting in Philadelphia

This is a summary of the notes that were taken during the breakout session related to each of the three questions.

Question 1

- **Are there any barriers or challenges to SITES uptake?**
 - Municipal silos
 - Cost and efficiency concerns
 - Maintenance obstacles
 - Flexibility and willingness to discuss options regarding thresholds for opting in to the project.
 - What am I getting out of this, increase in unit sale value?
 - Cost of materials
 - Knowledge of material sources.
 - Contractor knowledge of SITES
 - Clients opinion of cost/benefit
 - Existing regulations exceed SITES/LEED
 - Client education and cost
 - Return on investment
 - Landscape Architects educating themselves, time to research
 - How does it apply to single family residential?
 - Advantages to expediting public plan approval process
 - Better integration of SITES, LEED and ENVISION
 - Direction that sounds good but negatively impacts maintenance
 - Not enough metrics to sell the 'way' for economics
 - Lack of knowledge in the industry that SITES exists
- **What solutions would you propose?**
 - Bridge science papers to practice
 - Drop the word 'sustainable' from sustainable design.
 - Willingness to customize the process to promote innovation.
 - Views, retaining existing trees.
 - Check with Siri and google
 - Social media
 - Involvement in local regulatory environment
 - Draft code/manual
 - Masterplan assistance
 - Client organization presentation on benefits. Parks & Rec, ULI etc...)
 - Needs stronger marketing campaign for awareness
 - Needs more incentives for clients to want it
 - Needs more adoption by cities as requirement

Question 2

- **What sustainability policies and programs are available in your city?**
 - Cincinnati green roof
 - Turf concerns – long term cost.
 - **Will Howard with Stack Rock Group mentioned a Case Study** on turf removal he would be willing to share/discuss.
 - Austin Functional Green Program, Ecosystem services and Value
 - **Heather Venhaus may be willing to discuss** this with our PPN if asked.
 - IGCC – mandatory
 - LEED and SITES – voluntary
 - Tree saving, stormwater quantity (not Quality) – mandatory
 - In Anne Arundel County MD, many strict regulations exist for development within the ‘critical area’. Nothing is individual in code for SITES but it should be.
 - Green Factor – City of Seattle (plant based) -mandatory
 - State water code ordinance ‘MAWA’ - mandatory
 - Bay Friendly landscapes (mostly ecology and plant based) San Francisco – mandatory for guidelines/voluntary for rating system.
 - Living building challenge in Seattle
 - Greenpoint or LEED for new buildings has a landscape baseline.

Question 3

- **What do you see as the direction of sustainable design across the country?**
 - How do we become more carbon neutral?
 - **Greg Simmons in Park City UT has Carbon Calculator knowledge** and experience from a Range land project he may be willing to share with our PPN. Contact info can come from Will Howard at Stack Rock Group.
 - Pushing nursery trades and soil specification to improve overall practices
 - Focusing on coastal adaptation and flood management
 - Define SITES role in value engineering stage
 - Better integration and feedback of research and analysis to evaluate scoring in SITES as adaptive management
 - Sustainable design and redesign are the only way to maximize existing amenities
 - Trend – ROI – also quicker sales minimizing initial capital outlay or investment.
 - Interest and understanding is continually growing
 - Trend – disinterest in LEED
 - Trend – Client just interested in getting certified.
 - Bifurcation and then consolidation
 - Bigger picture thinking versus/plus sustainable site design
 - Restoration versus green building
 - Difficulty between ‘smart growth and density’ versus ‘green infrastructure and open space’
 - More focus on water quality.

- Sustainability needs to include resiliency to climate change and increased storm frequency and loads.
- Need for more parks and awareness
- Regional need to look at green infrastructure
- Impacts from disasters, climate, insurance
- Focus related to air quality, heat island, fires, sea level rise
- Adopting principles of SITES will increase as we understand it is needed
- Break out of silos – regions, disciplines, government sectors
- Trend – Climate mitigation planning
- Trend – More sustainable design projects
- Trend – Knowledge of drought, more purple piping, water is a valuable resource