**EcoDistricts Summit Research Forum**

*Information Informing Action*

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

HOSTED AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY | 640 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW

**THE FORUM**

District-scale sustainability initiatives are catalyzing exciting projects in cities around the world and sparking new research, much of it driven by the projects themselves. Too often researchers and practitioners play in different arenas, with theory and practice evolving along parallel paths.

How is research informing urban innovation at the district scale? What are the unique knowledge barriers to working at the neighborhood-scale in cities? How is research being conducted at this scale? How can research produce the knowledge necessary to spur action? The questions may seem simple, but the answers often feel out of reach.

During the Forum we will explore the state of research on neighborhood-level sustainability during a day of interactive dialogue between researchers and practitioners. More than a traditional research forum, this day is about grounding research in ongoing community-based projects, and informing research with project-based case studies. By building new connections, we seek to develop a roadmap to advance research on neighborhood-based sustainability initiatives.

The Forum is a companion event to the 2014 EcoDistricts Summit, which will bring together urban leaders and change agents from cities across North America and around the world to share work and inspire each other in the emerging practices of neighborhood-based sustainability.

Organized by EcoDistricts, Georgetown University, EPA Sustainable & Healthy Communities Research Program, and Portland State University, the Forum builds on previous events at Portland State University and Northeastern University. The Forum is a unique opportunity to progress toward greater impact through partnerships, knowledge sharing, and research.

We look forward to your participation and contribution to the dialogue!

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## FORUM AGENDA

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 8:00  | Registration & Networking Breakfast                                       | Uwe S. Brandes, Georgetown University  
Melissa McCullough, EPA Sustainable & Healthy Communities Research Program  
Richard Bradley, DowntownDC Business Improvement District |
| 9:00  | Welcome & Introductions                                                  | Uwe S. Brandes, Georgetown University  
Melissa McCullough, EPA Sustainable & Healthy Communities Research Program  
Richard Bradley, DowntownDC Business Improvement District |
| 9:30  | Snapshots of Practice: EcoDistricts Target City Projects                 | Lynne Barker, EcoDistricts  
Uwe S. Brandes, Georgetown University  
Melissa McCullough, EPA Sustainable & Healthy Communities Research Program  
Richard Bradley, DowntownDC Business Improvement District |
| 10:00 | Panel & Dialogue: Evolving Research Methodologies                        | Moderator: Shyam Kannan, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
Anita Chandra, RAND Corporation  
Barbara Deutsch, Landscape Architecture Foundation  
Laura Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Brian McCabe, Georgetown University  
Michael Nye, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| 11:00 | Break                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
| 11:15 | Panel & Dialogue: Project-Based Research As Driver of Innovation         | Moderator: Jess Zimbabwe, Urban Land Institute  
Mark Abraham, DataHaven  
Jennifer Allen, Portland State University  
Deborah Bey, Code for DC  
Chris Leinberger, George Washington University  
John Thomas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| 12:15 | Lunch                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
| 12:30 | Roundtable Dialogues                                                     |                                                                                                    |
|       | The afternoon dialogue is structured in a roundtable format co-chaired by discussion leaders. Each participant is encouraged to make a 5-minute presentation summarizing recent findings and ongoing research activities. The group will then engage in an innovation dialogue to identify new opportunities for directing applied research and partnerships. Table topics and discussion leaders are as follows: |                                                                                                    |
|       | Creating Mixed-Use, Walkable Communities                                 | John Thomas, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Ellen Jones, DowntownDC BID |
|       | Climate Change & Resiliency                                              | Jim Bererton, Integral Group  
Llewellyn Wells, Living City Block |
|       | District Governance & Finance Mechanisms                                 | Bracken Hendricks, Urban Ingenuity  
Gerry Witticombe, DowntownDC BID |
|       | Waterfronts, Watersheds & Green Infrastructure                          | Alan Mountjoy, NBBJ  
Kate Zyla, Georgetown University Climate Center |
|       | Social Equity & Housing Access                                           | Jennifer Allen, Portland State University  
Ellen McCarthy, District of Columbia |
|       | Energy & Water Efficiency                                                | Francis Slakey, Georgetown University  
Scott Pomeroy, DowntownDC BID |
|       | Metrics, Data Access & Performance Reporting                             | Roger Frechette, Interface Engineering  
Mark Abraham, Data Haven |
|       | Anchor & Campus Driven Districts                                         | Audrey Stewart, Georgetown University |
|       | Human Health, Nourishment & Wellbeing                                    | Whitney Gray, Cannon Design  
Christine Mondor, EvolveEA |
| 2:30  | Roundtable Reporting & Group Dialogue                                    |                                                                                                    |
|       | What’s Working? How is research or new information informing best practices? |                                                                                                    |
|       | What’s Promising? How are communication strategies informing behavior change? |                                                                                                    |
|       | What’s Needed? What research partnerships are necessary to advance new best practices? |                                                                                                    |
| 3:50  | Conclusion & Next Steps                                                  |                                                                                                    |
| 4:00  | Adjourn to Networking Reception: Wine & Cheese on the Balcony            |                                                                                                    |