

Report from National League of Cities Congress of Cities November 28-December 1, 2012

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Resources:

I picked up hard copies of the following, and will be distributing them to the appropriate staff.

Flagstaff Sustainability Program. *City of Flagstaff Resiliency and Preparedness Study*.

(Flagstaff, AZ: City of Flagstaff, 2012) available at:

<http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/38841>

Gagnon, Monica and Nicholas Freudenberg. *Slowing Down Fast Food: A policy guide for healthier kids and families*. (Boston, MA: Corporate Accountability International, 2012)

available at: <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/resource/slowing-down-fast-food-policy-guide-healthier-kids-and-families>

Institute for Youth Education and Families and American Association of School Administrators. *Community Wellness: Comprehensive City-School Strategies to Reduce Childhood Obesity*.

(Washington, DC: National League of Cities, 2010) available at:

http://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Childrens_Programs/_files/CommunityWellness%20Report%20FINAL.pdf

Institute for Youth Education and Families. *Building Management Information Systems to Coordinate Citywide Afterschool Programs*. (Washington, DC: National League of Cities, 2012)

available at: <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/building-management-information-systems-to-coordinate-citywide-afterschool-programs-a-toolkit-for-cities>

Institute for Youth Education and Families. *Educational Alignment for Young Children: Profiles of local innovation*. (Washington, DC: National League of Cities, 2010) available at:

<http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/early-childhood/new-case-studies-on-educational-alignment-for-young-children>

Institute for Youth Education and Families. *Supporting Parents: Promising efforts to help young children succeed*. (Washington, DC: National League of Cities, 2007) available at:

<http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/early-childhood/assistance-to-cities/cities-supporting-parents-of-young-children>

Solar America Communities. *Solar Powering your Community: A guide for local governments*. (Washington, DC: US DOE, 2011) available at:

http://www4.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/resource_center/sites/default/files/solar-powering-your-community-guide-for-local-governments.pdf

Svara, James, Anna Read and Evelina Moulder. *Breaking New Ground: Promoting environmental and energy programs in local government*. (Washington, DC: IBM Center for the Business of Government, 2011) available at:

<http://www.businessofgovernment.org/report/breaking-new-ground-promoting-environmental-and-energy-programs-local-government>

Unger, Serena, Hannah Laurison and Christine Fry. *Green for Greens: Finding public funding for healthy food*. (Oakland CA: ChangeLab Solutions, 2012) available at:

<http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/green-for-greens>

Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Task Force. *Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests: A national call to action*. (New York, NY: New York Restoration Project, 2011) available at:

http://vcuf.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/vcuf_report.pdf

Workshops:

1. Mobile Workshop: Greenovating Boston

Boston has an energy efficiency goal of 20% by 2020 and 50% by 2050; Requires new construction over 50K sq ft to be LEED certifiable via their zoning code; requires LEED ND for multi-building projects; has introduced an energy disclosure ordinance; is working on climate adaptation.

2. Lets Move! Cities, Towns and Counties: Get Started, Take Action and See Progress

Heard from a number of cities. Some interesting ideas:

- evaluate drive-throughs from an air pollution and walkability stand point.
- “Rethink your Drink” campaign to encourage choice of non-sugar sweetened beverages
- Let’s Move! Cities and Towns - <http://www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org/>

3. Opening General Session

The Boston Youth Council has an impressive list of accomplishments and projects – see <http://www.cityofboston.gov/youthcouncil/>

Food for Thought: “Are you learning as fast as the world is changing?” – Bill Taylor

4. Energizing your Energy Efficiency Program

Presented on overcoming barriers to residential energy efficiency. Other presenters covered energy disclosure ordinances, net-zero schools, and working with your state energy office.

5. Utilizing Performance Tools to Measure Your Cities' Sustainability Efforts

Good discussion of metrics/indicators and how to choose them. Pasadena CA is adopting a multimodal LOS measurement for their transportation projects – we should consider this.

6. Integrating Green Infrastructure in Your Community

Heard about efforts in Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Franklin, MA. A major issue is whether or not a city has a combined sewer and is facing a consent decree from EPA. Cities without have less impetus to pursue green infrastructure.

7. World Cafe: Creative Approaches to Financing

Take away: everyone is looking for ways to fund things and few people have new ideas.

8. Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Promoting Community Resilience

Impressed with the process and product from Flagstaff; picked up a copy of their resolution re: resilience and preparedness.

9. Technology Solutions for Sustainable Infrastructure

Heard from a number of cities. Some interesting ideas:

- bike practice/training area where classes are held but there are also instructional videos available via QR code
- in-road bike sensors that trigger stop lights and have an indicator painted on top of them to tell bikes where to stop to trigger the light
- use of smart meters for education to promote conservation

10. Annual Business Meeting

Exactly what you would imagine a meeting of several hundred elected officials to be like, Robert's Rules and all.