

Advancing Climate Adaptation in Minnesota's Colleges and Universities

University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center
January 31, 2017

Workshop Agenda

9:00 am Registration, Refreshments and Networking – Upper Lobby

10:00 Welcome, overview of climate trends, introduction to climate adaptation – Room 135
Kirk Koudelka, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jessica Hellmann, Director, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota
Kenny Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist, Minnesota State Climatology Office
Paul Moss, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

10:20 Case study 1 - University of Minnesota Twin Cities – Room 135

Presenter: Gary Johnson, Professor/Extension Professor of Urban and Community Forestry

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus takes climate change seriously by setting examples of adaptation strategies. These strategies range from incorporating engineered soils that act as stormwater run-off collectors yet promote healthier and longer lived tree canopy, the introduction of new climate adaptive tree species to the campus, and converting traditional high maintenance landscapes to those that are more sustainable and tolerant of climate stresses.

10:40 Case study 2 - Bemidji State University – Room 135

Presenter: Erika Bailey-Johnson, Sustainability Director and People and the Environment Coordinator, Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College

Bemidji State University has a unique sustainability model that includes a wellness component. Learn how their model connects the campus and community to climate adaptation projects and programs.

11:00 Break and networking – Upper Lobby

11:15 Interactive breakout sessions (choice of 3 topics)

1. Integrating climate adaptation into formal class curricula – Room 156

Facilitators:

Daniel Griffin, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota
Christie Manning, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies,
Macalester College

Recorder: Dan Shaw, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota and Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

2. Research, data collection, and modeling on climate adaptation – Room 32

Facilitators:

Kenny Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist, Minnesota State Climatology Office
Peter Snyder, Associate Professor, Department of Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota

Recorder: Laura Millberg, Principal Planner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

3. Colleges and universities as agents of outreach and education to Minnesota communities – Room 155

Facilitators:

Kathy Draeger, Statewide Director, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, University of Minnesota

Steve Kelley, Senior Fellow, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Recorder: Joel Light, Graduate Program Director, University of Northwestern

12:00 Lunch and networking – Dining Room

12:45 Case study 3 - University of Minnesota, Morris – Room 135

Presenters: Troy Goodnough, Sustainability Director, University of Minnesota, Morris, Office of Sustainability, and Kelly Asche, Program Coordinator, University of Minnesota, Morris, Center for Small Towns

For the past three years, the University of Minnesota, Morris has worked with city, county, local and statewide partners to grow our community resilience efforts. As a charter signatory of the Second Nature Climate Resilience Commitment, we are committed to campus-community resilience planning and action. Our public engagement work is deeply engaged in growing student leadership. We will discuss several complementary initiatives that support these efforts. Our work was recognized with Environmental Initiative's Award for Community Action in 2015.

1:05 Case study 4 - Carleton College – Room 135

Presenter: Martha Larson, Carleton College Manager of Campus Energy & Sustainability

In 1910, Carleton College created a centralized district energy plant to provide heat, water and electricity to all campus buildings. Over 100 years later, the College is now planning another major utility transition to update aging plant equipment and distribution systems, support the campus master plan, increase resilience, and accelerate Climate Action Plan progress. Transitioning the heating distribution system from steam to hot water and incorporating a variety of energy technologies - geothermal, solar thermal, combined heat and power (CHP), wind turbines, heat pumps and high efficiency condensing boilers - will significantly reduce Carleton's carbon footprint and provide much greater flexibility for future generations.

1:25 Break and networking – Upper Lobby

1:40 Interactive breakout sessions (choice of 3 topics)

4. Increasing resilience of campus facilities and grounds – Room 156

Facilitators:

Emily Ziring, Sustainable Facilities Program Manager, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Troy Goodnough, Sustainability Director, University of Minnesota, Morris, Office of Sustainability

Recorder: Alex Miller, Sustainability Program Coordinator, Carleton College

5. Project based opportunities for students: service learning, student entrepreneurs, and volunteering- Room 155

Facilitators:

Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Sustainability Manager, Macalester College

Kevin McDonald, Supervisor, Business Assistance Unit, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Recorder: Mike Greco, Director, Resilient Communities Project, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota

6. Involving campuses in social justice aspects of climate adaptation – Room 32

Facilitators:

Beth Mercer-Taylor, Sustainability Education Coordinator, University of Minnesota

Molly Zins, Executive Director, Central Sustainable Development Partnership, University of Minnesota

Recorder: Kelly Asche, Program Coordinator, University of Minnesota, Morris, Center for Small Towns

2:25 Transition to Room 135

2:30 Discussion and next steps: Where do we go from here? – Room 135

This discussion will bring together key points from today's breakout sessions, describe a useful framework for campuses (Second Nature's Resilience Commitment), and explore opportunities for follow-up after the workshop.

Paul Moss, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Troy Goodnough, Sustainability Director, University of Minnesota, Morris, Office of Sustainability

3:00 Optional networking, interest groups – Room 135, Upper Lobby