

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

Various challenges, broadly labeled as sustainability, confront national, state, and local governments and other organizations in the United States. It is no different in Pennsylvania. The proposed South Central Pennsylvania Sustainability Institute will serve the region in assisting in the development of green initiatives, reduction in waste, more efficient processing of waste, and better use of water and energy, while balancing social and economic interests.

Much is being said about sustainability, but what is it? Sustainability is a focus on the long-term outlook based on our impact within our communities. It provides a systems approach to long term service delivery. A sustainable community goes beyond planning and development by looking at the long-term stewardship of the community in three primary areas:

- Environment (Climate Change, Energy, Transportation, Recycling, Buildings)
- Social (Diversity, Equality, Justice, Community Engagement)
- Economic (Smart Growth - Economic Development, Revitalization, Land Conservation, Zoning – and Fiscal Viability)

The South Central Assembly is developing the foundation for an Institute that would focus on enhancing sustainability in the eight county area. Preliminary programming has already been completed or is in process. For instance, the South Central Assembly (SCA) and the American Public Works Association (APWA) jointly hosted a regional sustainability workshop, “Sustainability: Balancing our Responsibilities”, last summer. At this workshop, sustainability tools and resources were introduced to help identify and guide attendees toward sustainability goals focused on economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and equity/social responsibility.

Another initiative is also underway. The Assembly is facilitating the development of a partnership among the Borough of Carlisle, the Army War College, PennDOT to use sustainability principles in developing solutions for storm water management. The United States Army has crafted new sustainability objectives, and the Army War College is enthusiastic about adding this to their ongoing sustainability projects.

The Institute is envisioned as having several key elements to achieve its mission of enhancing sustainability efforts in the region. Among these are:

- Workshops and other educational events to inform participants of the sustainability perspective, with applications to issues of interest to attendees
- Facilitating development and implementation of sustainability initiatives within communities
- Sustainability consulting services would be provided, to assist individual businesses and organizations and government units to address sustainability challenges at a more local level

Proposed Budget:

Institute Director Salary	\$19,500 (\$25/hr X 15 hrs/week)
Fringe benefits	\$3,900
Program-related expenses (Publications, Workshops, Library)	\$15,000
Travel (Director)	\$10,000
Administrative (rent, phone, computer)	<u>\$15,000</u>
TOTAL	\$63,400