

Focus Group #3- Building Materials and Construction

May 16, 2018



Focus Group Contributors

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Vision Statement (Biggest Idea):

- ▶ We envision/wish that there was reduced energy consumption in building construction and use/lifespan in Indiana County.

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- ▶ **Assets:** Existing weatherization programs, Building supply stores, Grant opportunities, Contractors, Developer community, Opportunities for renovation/redevelopment
- ▶ **Needs:** Funding, Trained contractors, Public education, Case studies, Local examples, Research-exploration of all possibilities
- ▶ **Potential Partnerships:** Indiana County Community Action Program, Indiana-Armstrong Builder's Association, Supply stores, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development, Municipalities, Energy providers, Indiana County Conservation District, Sustainable Pittsburgh, Evergreen Conservancy, Realtor's Association, Developers, Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ **Actions:**
 1. Research/visit Eco-village at Cornell University and Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics (CBPD) at Carnegie Mellon University.
 2. Identify/pursue grant opportunities.
 3. Develop partnerships.
 4. Develop/host workshops for contractors/homeowners/developers.
 5. Market to innovative companies.
 6. Partner with business community.
 7. Develop a energy consumption reduction campaign.
 8. Work with a "champion" community as an example for others.
 9. Promote reseach and innovation through all outlets/partners.
 10. Develop and implement a robust public education plan.

Big Ideas for Education:

- ▶ We wish that S.T.E.M. programs throughout Indiana County were greater in number and current in curriculum.
- ▶ We wish there was an “innovation center” for developing new products and practices in sustainable building materials and construction/land development.

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- ▶ **Assets:** ICTC, School Districts, IUP Adult Education, Existing grant programs, Challenger Program, Existing program at the Indiana Free Library
- ▶ **Needs:** More technology in schools, Funding, Public Support, Support/Buy-in from School Boards and educators
- ▶ **Potential Partnerships:** ICTC, IUP departments, School Districts, Challenger Program, Libraries
- ▶ **Actions:**
 1. Understand what currently exists in our Schools
 2. Research existing case studies and other information
 3. Develop Partnerships
 4. Develop a S.T.E.M. Plan with Partners and Implement

We wish there was an “Innovation Center” for developing new products and practices in sustainable building materials and construction/land development.

- ▶ **Assets:** IUP Eberly College of Business and Information Tech, School Districts, Municipal Properties, Available Sites, Entrepreneurs, Grant Opportunities
- ▶ **Needs:** Investment, Innovators, Success Stories, Planning/A Project, Local Buy-in
- ▶ **Potential Partnerships:** ICTC, IUP, School Districts, Indiana/Tri County Manufacturing, Municipalities, Indiana County Conservation District, Indiana-Armstrong Builders Association, Carnegie Mellon University
- ▶ **Actions:**
 1. Research/Understand what an “Innovation Center” typically is and what it would/could include.
 2. Develop partnerships and work with partners to develop a plan/project.
 3. Develop a budget.
 4. Develop a funding package utilizing grants and/or investors.
 5. Implement the plan for the project.

Big Ideas for Economic Development:

- ▶ We wish there were incentives to utilize sustainable materials/ implement best practices throughout Indiana County.
- ▶ We wish that there was a reuse/recycle center for construction materials in Indiana County.

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- ▶ Assets: Enabling legislation (Municipalities Planning Code), Existing case studies/examples, Cost effective tool, Existing relationships with municipalities throughout Indiana County.
- ▶ Needs: Research/Case study examples, Public support, Municipal understanding/Buy-in
- ▶ Potential Partnerships: Municipalities, Developers, Builder's Association.
- ▶ Actions:
 1. Understand/evaluate any current incentive in place.
 2. Research existing case studies and other information.
 3. Develop Partnerships.
 4. Promote/advertise an inventory of LEED Certified buildings in Indiana County.
 5. Develop recognition mechanism through our own Indiana County "Sustainable Certification" program.
 6. Promote existing training/host a workshop for municipalities.

We wish that there was a reuse/recycle center for construction materials in Indiana County.

- ▶ **Assets:** Existing Recycle Center, Local construction/development community, is active (existing demand), Renovation and redevelopment are common (supply), Existing grant opportunities
- ▶ **Needs:** Location, Community support, Municipal support/Buy-in, Funding, Planning/Project Management
- ▶ **Potential Partnerships:** Solid Waste Authority (Recycle Center), Municipalities, Large companies, Contractors, Builder's Association.
- ▶ **Actions:**
 1. Develop relationships/partnerships.
 2. Research existing case studies and other information.
 3. Develop idea/project further (location, costs, etc.).
 4. Find potential funding sources.
 5. Garner support from the community
 6. Implement project.

Big Idea for Job Training and Workforce Development:

- ▶ We wish that there were training and placement programs directly related to Sustainable Building Construction/Materials in Indiana County.

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- ▶ **Assets:** Indiana County Workshop (ICW), ICTC programming, Library, Indiana County Conservation District programming, Opportunity to create/expand a business.
- ▶ **Needs:** A Spokesperson/Champion for the project, Funding, Technical Assistance/Education.
- ▶ **Potential Partnerships:** ICTC and School Districts, Universities (local and regional, Municipalities, Builder's Association, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development (ICOPD), Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ **Actions:**
 1. Develop relationships/partnerships.
 2. Work to include in existing programming where possible.
 3. Develop new training opportunities.
 4. Marketing.
 5. Partner with Indiana County Conservation District at their new location.
 6. Explore the potential opportunities associated with "Honeywell Energy Solutions" program.



Thank You!