



A Harvest from

Seeking Green Revolutionaries Workshop

April 16, 2009 at Museum of Visual Materials in Sioux Falls

The Invitation

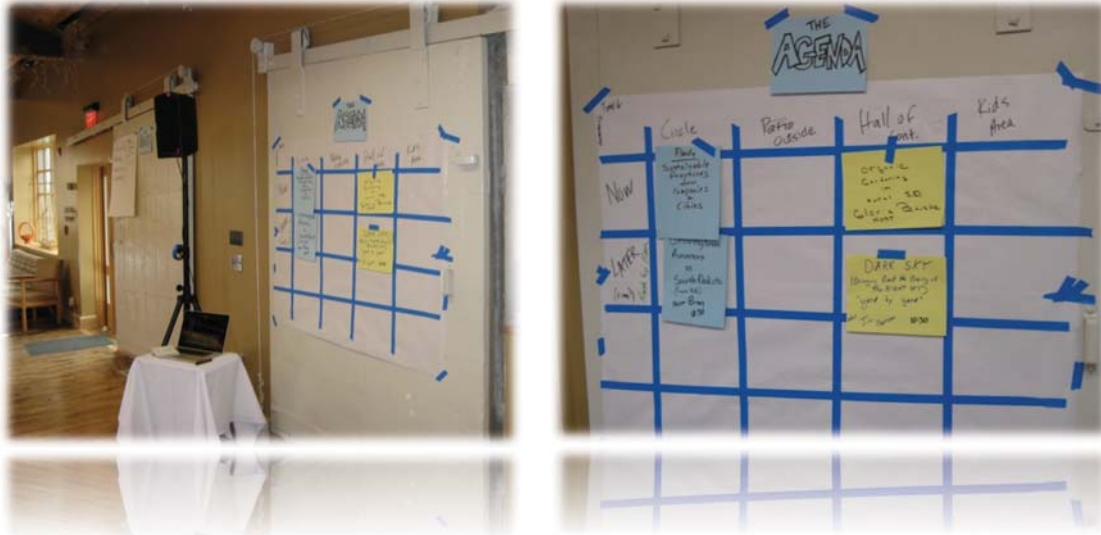
Seeking Green Revolutionaries: A community space for green dialogue and action.
A Pre-conference workshop hosted by Sioux Falls Green Project.

Join this guided dialogue for anyone interested in exploring something green you care deeply about. A community forum that starts the moment you register--where you decide the agenda on the spot. Together, we'll identify all the issues most important to participants, voice passions and concerns, and learn from each other as we design projects and actions in this time of swirling change.

(Upon registration, all participants will receive an email invitation to an online community where the workshop begins. Scholarships to this session are available: contact joe@siouxfallsgreenproject.com. Plain Green 09 registration not required.)

Overview

Ten participants from seven communities gathered for an informal conversation about leading change in the movement toward sustainable communities. Joe Bartmann of the Sioux Falls Green Project hosted the session. The group first spent some time in circle, holding conversation about the focus question: **“What is my burning green question?”**



Later, the group self-organized to create four mini-workshops hosted by participants around green topics they chose to dig into together. Below is a brief harvest of those four conversations.



Sustainable Practices in Companies and Cities (Hosted by Randy Stratton)

Insights: SD is growing—we need things in place to create sustainable practices... At the time of the industrial revolution, we thought resources were infinite *and* we had no idea what impact we would have on the Earth... It's not Progress vs. Sustainability! We can progress in a sustainable way...

Patterns and Ideas: We need stronger standards in SD now that more companies are coming into our state... We need to map our assets in SD: natural infrastructure, experts, institutions, etc...

Questions that Remain: How do we get to the point where conversations are naturally occurring in businesses regarding creating sustainable practices?

Commitments: Randy Stratton will continue a conversation with participants about mapping South Dakota's sustainability assets.

Growing Organic Gardening in South Dakota (Hosted by Meredith Redlin)

Insights: It's not just about certified organic vegetables, etc. Need to encourage people to be buying certified organic seeds... Greener Omaha has done some good work around this... so has SD Cooperative Extension Service... Greenhouses are important to protect plants from sprays in rural SD... More than the vegetable garden: no chemicals in lawn, rain barrels, rain gardens, etc... Work with master gardeners and schools to build community gardens on private lots (to supplement city plots)...

Pattern sand Ideas: Start small learning on new little projects... partner with experts and students...

Questions that Remain: What does organic farming really mean?.. What is the means to organic farming?...

Commitments: Meredith will research and write articles on organic gardening projects in the Minnehaha Master Gardeners newsletter.

Bringing Back the Night Sky (Hosted by Jim Pearson)

Insight: New grassroots program starting in Yankton: Y.A.R.D.S. Group (Yankton Area Really Dark Sky): Bring back the night sky, yard by yard... Mostly about mindful lighting practices, toning it down, shielding, pointing light only where needed... Reduce harm to

plants and animals effected by night lights... Do this yard by yard as a challenge...

Patterns and Ideas: Start small learning on new little projects... partner with experts and students...

Questions that Remain: What impact could it make if we could see the Milky Way again!?!...

Commitments: All will visit International Dark Sky Association at darksky.org and do some research... Jim and Joe will research and organize to form a South Dakota Dark Sky Society...

Growing Green Awareness in South Dakota (Hosted by Brian Assam)

Insights: Bringing awareness to topics: agriculture, water quality, recycling, construction waste, food waste/compost, organic farming... Need to show waste instead of tell about waste... Need minimum requirements for companies at least—bring benefits rather than cost... We don't question enough where things come from or go... so many seemingly 'helpful' chemicals and processes are causing more harm than they are worth...

Patterns and Ideas: Utilize social networking as a tool (Facebook, twitter, etc)... Focus on awareness from a young age... Create more green research centers...

Questions that Remain: How do we as people approach government about these issues?.. How do we trust?.. Do we ask enough questions?.. Who is going to regulate?.. How do we educate?.. Shouldn't companies have at least minimum regulations?..

**Keep the dialogue and action going!
Join the community at**

<http://plaingreenworkshop.ning.com>