

WHAT MAKES A RESILIENT CITY? CONFERENCE - APRIL 19, 2013 LUNCH COMMENTS

COMMENTS RELATED TO ACTIONS IN IDENTIFIED CATEGORIES

Individuals

- Self-reliance and individual actions toward resilience
- Recycle
- Stop Irrigating
- Conserve energy
- Carpool/ride share
- Bike
- Purchase only what you need – excess
- Less driving
- Talk about it!
- Get involved in policymaking
- Attitude: decide it is personal
- Everyday basic decisions, biking, reuse, TALK, bottom up, open/transparent government, embrace change, learn, participate, find common ground, use smart tech, hold your officials accountable

Communities

- Increase connectivity, network for broader community
- More connections, permeability between community organizations to temper frontier mentality and inclination to group like-mindedly (Texas mentality)
- Community empowerment for younger generations, foster “we” mentality, increase voting and involvement with city government, engagement, use of social media
- Involve churches
- Host conversations
- Use tech to facilitate inter-group communication
- Set example for members

Government

- Add DART station at City Hall
- Improved mass transit – better connectivity
- Incentives to not water
- Incentivize with economic gratification
- Code reform
- Change city codes – example grey water
- City regulations hamper development. Development → economic development → jobs.
- HOA regulations – allow solar panels, composting, clothes lines
- More creative parking lots – share lots
- Permeable parking spaces
- [Set an] example
- Sustainable processes
- Market good deeds
- Recycling for restaurants

Business

- Less packaging (2)
- Marketing to show sustainability of products
- Conscious capitalism
- Find balance of sustainability/capitalism
- Modify procurement practices
- Choice of suppliers
- Lead city leaders

OTHER CATEGORIES OF COMMENTS

Leadership, citizenship and collaboration

- Engage stakeholders – not just formally but with activism
- Engage the right people/stakeholders
- Public leaders must push these efforts
- Work with refugees
- “Hallmark Events” (e.g. Olympics) as method for bringing different groups together
- Engage with vulnerable populations on climate change
- Entities should collaborate for collective impact
- Take resilience conversation to community
- Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate.
- Expand public/private partnerships and collaborate better. Identify gaps to a resilient community and create solutions. Don’t hide facts. Inform and educate. Share information. This will help people better prepare for crisis.
- Information sharing – why not have some kind of competition similar to Bloomberg’s philanthropy program. Regional – “How would you make your city more resilient?”
- Difference between a resident and citizen:
 - Resident – city does it for them – comply
 - Citizen – takes responsibility, they participate, committed
- Let people know the difference between a resident and citizen. Get people more engaged.
- Have business owners encourage their staff to become true citizens, not simply residents.
- Educating the public is key to being a resident [perhaps he or she meant “citizen”].
- Responsibility is everyone’s duty
- Have certain “missions” to be coordinated between the Institute and the Dallas Morning News. “March to the Park” is an example. Note “The Reading Room at Klyde Warren.”

Regional action

- Regional collaboration
- Address the lack of a coordinated organizing mechanism
- How to give COG more authority (i.e. funding), translating vision into action
- Regional organizations need “teeth” to enforce
- Need for regional entity, minimize competition, increase collaboration
- Fostering leadership, “Council of Mayors” to share ideas and provide leadership
- Continue regional multi-stakeholder dialogue to build on Vision North Texas
- Regional action: Twin Cities example, Regional “bank” to encourage action, “Carrot” dangle
- Must have larger/broader conversations across the region. Design for site is needed – don’t do things in isolation.

Education

- Begin in elementary school (2)
- Education (children and adults) (4)
- Raising education and awareness at all levels, awareness of language we use (conservation vs. sustainability)
- Incorporate educational components
- Fund city education
- Use education of people about issues in order to affect change
- Education/planning is a big part of finding solutions. Invest in youth leaders of tomorrow.
- Education for resilience

Communication and messaging

- Define resilient vs. sustainability
- Respect local culture, balance global with local in non-threatening way
- Limit political debate and tie back to Texas values (don't use toxic words)
- Clear message and communication between all groups
- Economic business case for sustainable and resilient communities
- Identify costs and benefits of actions for the average person
- Overcoming silos (organizationally and topically), Spiral Dynamics
- De-politicize it
- Define or find the common denominator
- Utilize existing organizations and networks to spread message and effect change
- Create a collective sense of environmental stewardship
- Cartoons
- Billboards – Don't Mess with Texas
- Repetitive process
- Take lessons learned from local examples (e.g. Bishop Arts)
- Remember that keeping history part of the conversation/reflect on history helps us to know where we came from (depth to resiliency)

Water conservation

- Save water and encourage conservation with tiered pricing (2)
- Water: find the balance between conservation and supply. Use of existing concrete to add to conservation was found interesting.

Food and agriculture

- School gardens
- Food distribution: residential gardens, community gardens, encourage small production crops
- Food stores for city crisis/food emergency rations
- City ordinances that favor urban farming and food distribution
- Educational (community gardens) programs

Natural infrastructure

- Leverage watershed
- Plant more trees
- Trees: Statistics of tree loss – incredible! Give statistics to the public followed by an immediate call to action as a possible solution to fund the tree shortage.
- Walkability would be helped by more trees.
- Reduce impervious surfaces

Built environment

- Look at existing infrastructure and how we can retrofit – go underground and use parking lots for green space.
- Live downtown or vertically
- Refocus attention to living in downtown
- Space utilization (homes, developments, etc.)
- Re-evaluate patterns of development
- Brown golf courses
- Don't wait for a crisis – be proactive now in planning development re: patterns – for example water conservation

Other

- Fear of change as limitation
- Value chain accounts for diversity (not just traditional capital/economic definition but cultural value as well)
- Diversification of solutions
- Change our community thought process
- Let free enterprise flourish
- Are the decisions we are making today going to be what our grandchildren want in the next generation?
- Air quality
- Stop mowing
- Identify the one gap that is inhibiting us from becoming resilient: Identify root causes and gaps to create change
- City relevance to overall metroplex
- Get involved in little things

For the Executive Summary and Full Report of the conference, see www.anndrumm.com or email ann@anndrumm.com.