

# Building a Sustainable Community

## GreenTown Elgin 2011

Presented by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) – Illinois Chapter, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) – Illinois Chapter, and Farr Associates  
April 28, 2011

Building a sustainable community is no easy challenge. It takes education, new thinking, smart implementation and a commitment between municipal leaders, planners, their constituents and the construction and development community. Learning key principles of smart urban planning; the goals and point system that constitute the LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) rating system; and the specifics of the GO TO 2040 seven county regional plan, are your first steps. Welcome!

**1:00 PM – 2:15 PM**      **A Sustainable Community: Defining it, Mapping it and Creating an Action Plan.**

This session is an introduction to and a discussion of new urbanism, LEED-ND, and the GO TO 2040 Plan.

**Moderator:**

**Megan Lewis, AICP, Strategic Communications Consultant at JFNew**, is a regional planner with more than 20 years of experience in land use planning, design and conservation. In her more than 10 years with the American Planning Association's (APA) research department, she tackled many areas including land conservation, climate change, and energy efficiency. Megan established APA's multi-year energy and climate change initiative and was managing editor of "Planning and Urban Design Standards". Other sponsored research work has addressed neighborhood indicators, brownfield redevelopment, smart growth codes, and parks and open space system planning. She earned a BA in economics from Indiana University and a Master's in regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Panelists:**

**Susan Mudd, Consultant for Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation**, advises and assists the Chicago-based foundation on environmental issues. She filled a similar role with the Brico Fund in Milwaukee. For over 15 years, she was Wisconsin Director for Citizens for a Better Environment. Her extensive work experience includes air and water quality, transportation and land use. She serves on the boards of the Center for Neighborhood Technology and Earth Share of Illinois. Representing the Congress for the New Urbanism, Susan helped develop LEED for Neighborhood Development serving on the core and partner committees. Susan has a J.D., an M.A. in Public Administration and Public Policy, and a certificate in Energy Policy.

**Jamie Simone, LEED AP, Senior Associate, Farr Associates**, has returned to the Chicago-based architecture and planning firm, itself the first in the world to design three LEED Platinum building. She began as an Urban Designer and Planner at Farr Associates. Between her two stints at Farr, Jamie was the Program Manager for Wicker Park Bucktown (WPB), the Special Service Area for these Chicago neighborhoods. Her leadership culminated in an award-winning master plan. Jamie is the Professional Development Officer for the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. She earned a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Doug Widener, LEED AP BD+C, Executive Director, USGBC – Illinois Chapter**, is responsible for the management of USGBC Illinois including formulation of new policies in concert with the Board of Directors, the daily implementation of Chapter programs, events and initiatives, and oversight of financial planning and budgets. Doug holds a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning



**FARR ASSOCIATES**  
Architecture | Planning | Preservation

**Bob Dean, Deputy Executive Director for Local Planning, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP),** served as the project manager for the GO TO 2040 plan, and has worked at CMAP since 2007. He previously worked as a transportation and land use planner for suburban communities in the Chicago region, including the City of Naperville and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. Bob earned his degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

**2:15 PM – 2:30 AM**      **Break**

**2:30 PM -3:25 PM**      **Hurdles to Sustainable Community Planning**

A panel discussion and audience Q&A addressing zoning challenges and other hurdles to neighborhood sustainability efforts.

**3:25 PM - 3:35 PM**      **Break**

**3:35 PM - 4:45 PM**      **LEED for Neighborhood Development Case Studies**

A look at two LEED for Neighborhood Development projects: Whistler Crossing, Riverdale, Illinois, a 500-unit housing and retail development, and Prairie Crossing, a nationally recognized conservation community in Grayslake, Illinois.

**Moderator:**

**Megan Lewis, AICP, Strategic Communications Consultant, JFNew**

**Panelists:**

**Adam Lund, LEED AP, Project Manager and Designer, Farr Associates,** has been with the firm since 2006. He is experienced in master planning, architectural design and construction at a variety of scales, including LEED-ND, LEED-NC and LEED for Homes projects. As project manager for Whistler Crossing, he led its design, construction, and LEED-ND certification. His work at Farr also includes the Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center LEED Platinum rehabilitation and three phases of transit development master planning, design, and construction in East St. Louis, Illinois. Adam holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Minnesota. He is an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and an active member of the USGBC-Illinois Chapter.

**Will Drucker, LEED AP, Conservation Research Institute,** is assisting the Institute on an initiative to promote ecologically restorative farming practices and provide equitable access to food throughout the Midwest. He began his career at Farr Associates working as a research assistant to Doug Farr and later coordinated the LEED-ND certification of Whistler Crossing in Riverdale, Illinois. Will was selected to beta test the LEED-ND exam and is currently one of fewer than 10 LEED-ND accredited professionals in the state. He graduated from Middlebury College in 2009 with a degree in Neuroscience.

**Benjamin Ranney, Co-founder and Principal, Terra Firma Co.,** and his Chicago-based real estate investment and development firm offer a strategic focus on the best practices of sustainable development. Terra Firma recently completed the Fountain View of Lincoln Square, a LEED-certified mixed-use development of residences and retail shops and is currently working on several redevelopment projects near transit stations. Prior to forming Terra Firma, Mr. Ranney served as the Director of Development for Prairie Holdings Corporation, the developer of Prairie Crossing conservation community in Lake County, Illinois. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Chicago District Council of the Urban Land Institute. He is a graduate of Northwestern University.