

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Teen Research, Planning and Policies for Sustainable Communities

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION AND THE PROJECT

The California Center for Civic Participation conducts programs that engage teens in real-life research, planning and policymaking processes at the local, state and national levels. Because youth are in danger of being left out of these processes in the sustainability realm, we have established the *Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future (YLPSF)*. *Youth Planning Councils* drawn from California, British Columbia, Baja California and other states or provinces who “buy-in” will convene for a *San Francisco Planning Conference* on January 12-15, 2008 to shape the project. We are forming an *Adult Advisory Committee* of high level experts in the field to support the youth. Community Design, Energy, Transportation and Economic Development will frame the project, which is based on a successful youth engagement model established by the California Center in other policy realms. Beginning s in academic year 2008-2009, *Youth Action Teams* nested in several local organizations in each state and province will participate in a year-round cycle of activities engaging hundreds of youth. The California Center is providing seed funding for the first three Youth Councils. We hope to expand those Youth Councils and to attract support for establishing Councils in other states and provinces. Development costs will be covered through modest contributions from several sources. Those early investments will be leveraged to attract larger contributions from government, foundation, association, and corporate entities to support the broader project.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **JOIN OUR ADULT ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Adult experts and leaders from all sectors and dimensions of the sustainability movement are invited to serve on our Committee of Adult Advisors. To qualify, you must be passionate about the project and willing to bring personal and institutional resources to the table to support its development. Advisor responsibilities are flexible, and might include advice for staff, conducting a session at our December Conference, consultation and support for the Youth Planning Councils or Youth Action Teams, subject matter expertise, networking, or the provision of in-kind or financial support.
- **SUPPORT A YOUTH PLANNING COUNCIL** – Youth Councils of 7-15 teens from participating states and provinces will be formed in September of 2007 to insure that youth are engaged right from the start. After attending a December Conference, these youth will return home to conduct additional research, build relationships, make presentations on youth priorities, and work with their adult advisors to launch the project by establishing Youth Action Teams in their schools and communities. The Councils will then become a state level youth-led governing and policy board linked to local youth. The California Center will fund the first four youth from California, British Columbia, and Baja California. You can help us expand participation in those Youth Councils, or help us create one in your own state or province. It costs \$5,000 to sponsor an individual member and their activities, or \$20,000-\$25,000 to form and support a Youth Council from another state or province.
- **SPONSOR THE DECEMBER PLANNING CONFERENCE** – This Conference for the Youth Planning Councils will result in a newly informed cadre of youth who will help drive the effort to establish the broader project, and who will quickly become high profile youth experts in the sustainability field with a mission statement and action plan for their state or province. We are seeking tax deductible contributors at \$15,000 or more to leverage an initial investment by the California Center and its sponsors to organize and conduct the Planning Conference. Contributions to sponsor the Conference will be recognized on materials and at high visibility events throughout the planning phase. Support for the conference might be a prelude to a broader commitment to sponsor the project in a particular region or community, or in a single or several states or provinces.
- **HELP DEVELOP OR SPONSOR LOCAL YOUTH ACTION TEAMS** - Nested in a host school, government agency, community organization or coalition, these Youth Action Teams of 5-15 youth or more will become the basic “unit” of the Youth Leadership Project for Sustainable Communities in 2008-2009. Youth throughout each state and province will participate in a year-long cycle of activities including an initial training conference, followed by local research, education campaigns and projects, policy engagement, and a summer internship. We want to lay the groundwork for the establishment of these teams as soon as we can by identifying host organizations and sponsors. The cost of supporting a Youth Action Team ranges from \$15,000-\$25,000 depending on the number of youth to be engaged, and local in-kind or cash support. These funds cover youth travel to the training conference and other events, youth and adult coordinator stipends, a project budget, and a portion of support staff.
- **BECOME A STATE, NATIONAL OR PROJECT SPONSOR** – While pursuing an incremental, “spread the costs” development strategy, we are seeking compatible, prestigious, high profile sponsors willing to consider larger donations in the \$150,000-\$250,000 range. Support at this level will help expand the scope and accelerate the development of the project at all levels. Sponsor packages can be custom designed to align with the goals or your association, foundation or corporate giving program; or to enhance your company’s marketing, community or government relations goals in a particular state or region.

James Muldavin, Executive Director
California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development
916 443-2229; muldavin@californiacenter.org

THE YOUTH PLANNING COUNCILS

Engaging Youth as Planners and Advocates Right from the Start!

In September of 2007, adult leaders in the private and public sectors will be asked to nominate teens to serve on a 7-15 person Youth Planning Councils drawn from their state or province. Early formation of these Councils is crucial to establish the youth-led authenticity of the Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future. The Councils will provide an institutionalized high-level youth governance and advocacy component during the planning phase and each subsequent year of the project, when representatives of community based youth action teams will have an opportunity to serve. The December Planning conference in San Francisco will jump-start Council members' knowledge of the political, technical and economic landscape of the sustainability movement, and will provide a chance for them to develop a mission statement and set early priorities. They'll return home to conduct additional research, participate in conference calls, host discussions and make educational presentations. Finally, they'll develop and present a youth engagement strategic plan that includes a blueprint for the establishment of the broader Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future in their state or province. Council members will earn a \$250 stipend at the conclusion of the planning phase in June of 2008.

Council Activities and Time-Line

CONFIRM PARTICIPATING STATES AND PROVINCES (By August 30, 2007) - Youth Planning Councils will be formed in California, British Columbia and Baja California with seed funding for the first four youth members to be provided by the California Center. Sponsors are sought to expand participation in these three Councils, or to establish Councils in other states and provinces.

IDENTIFY HOST ORGANIZATIONS (By August 30, 2007) – Each participating State or Province will require a host organization (or coalition) to assume primary coordinating responsibility for the activities of their Youth Planning Council, and to serve as the liaison to the California Center and our Adult Advisory Committee. The California Center will organize all joint training conferences and events and will provide materials, time-lines and centralized staff support for the overall project. Host organizations will receive a \$1,000 stipend to cover local expenses for the youth and their staff during the planning period.

FORM YOUTH PLANNING COUNCILS (September 2007) – Youth Planning Council candidates will be nominated by adults from key organizations in each state and province. Each youth nominated will complete an application form and statement indicating they understand and support the goals of the project and accept related responsibilities. Whereas participants in the broader Youth Leadership Project will include youth who may be struggling or have unrealized potential, the Youth Planning Councils will be composed of established youth leaders who have a demonstrated commitment to their communities and their peers. Geographic and ethnic diversity will be considered, along with the support promised by the nominating adult and their organization

CIRCULATE SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES SURVEY (October-November 2007) – Each Youth Council member will circulate a survey among ten of their peers, and complete the survey themselves. A key accelerant in the education process of the youth, the survey will include sections embedded with best and promising sustainable practices in community design, energy, transportation and economic development, as well as sections on underlying values, change strategies and obstacles anticipated. The process of circulating, taking, compiling and discussing the results helps lay the foundation for a more sophisticated understanding of the field among the youth, enabling them to develop their own early priorities, and to operate on a more equal footing with adults.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE (January 12-15, 2008) – During this seminal event, Council members will learn about each other and their communities while receiving a grounding in the principles of sustainable enterprises and an introduction to social and political change. They'll attend sessions with adult experts in the areas of energy, economic development and community design; develop a mission statement and policy priorities, form committees, and create a framework for developing a strategic plan for the establishment of local Youth Action Teams in 2008-2009. After the conference, Youth Council members will be highly sought after youth "experts" invited to attend events, make presentations and support policies and programs that promote sustainability.

CONDUCT LOCAL RESEARCH AND OUTREACH (January–March 2008) – Through interviews, questionnaires, discussion groups, field observations and asset mapping activities, Youth Council members will take stock of the resources, activities and needs of their State or Province in the sustainable realm. What is happening in the government, business, schools and non-profit realms? How are youth being engaged? What new or expanded opportunities exist for youth to support, establish or create sustainable strategies?

PRESS AND VIP EVENT TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIC PLAN (April 2008) – To conclude their planning phase, Youth Council members will develop and present information to their adult advisors, and other business, government, academic and non-profit leaders interested in sustainable communities. This report will include the Youths mission statement and policy platform, what they learned about their state or province, top priority youth recommendations and a strategic plan to launch the broader Youth Leadership Project for Sustainable Communities in 2008-2009.

DECEMBER 2007 PLANNING CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Youth Planning Councils to Lay Foundation for Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future

On December 15-18, 2007, Youth Planning Council members from each participating state and province will gather in San Francisco to lay the foundation for the Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future in 2008-2009. During this event participating youth will learn about each other, the facts, values and concepts that drive the sustainability movement, and the best and promising practices in the areas of community design, energy and transportation, and economic development. Participants will attend sessions with each other, adult advisors and other experts, and youth activists. They'll venture out in teams for field observations, interviews and mapping activities. During a media event to conclude the conference, the youth will present a mission statement and policy platform, information about best practices they have learned about so far, and a research and action plan to establish the project in their state or province. A newly informed cadre of youth will emerge to drive the effort to establish the project, and who will become high profile youth experts on sustainable strategies, ready to participate in planning and decision-making processes on many levels.

Saturday January 12, 2008

12:00-3:00	ARRIVALS AND REGISTRATION - Buffet lunch; Internet Café; Self-guided activity and tour options for early arrivals
3:00-3:15	WELCOMING SESSION – Introduction to participants and staff; Overview of project & conference goals, activities and materials.
3:15-3:30	ICE-BREAKER – A lively activity to accelerate learning and relationship building among participants.
3:30-4:15	COMMUNITY PROFILES – Presentations by each Youth Planning Council about their state or province and their communities
4:15-4:45	KEYNOTE SPEAKER – What is sustainability? Why is it important? What opportunities and challenges are presented?
4:45-6:00	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SURVEY – What did youth think? Their vision? Best community design, energy, transportation and economic strategies? Participants will discuss and report highlights, lessons learned and top priorities to full group.
6:00-7:00	DINNER – Healthy, mostly locally grown and produced! Brief introduction and discussion on sustainable agriculture.
6:40-7:00	JARGON JEOPARDY – Brownfield? Photovoltaic? Triple Bottom-Line? Carbon Footprint? What are you talking about?
7:00-7:30	SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES ROUND ROBIN – Participants rotate for ten minute introductions presented by subject experts
7:30-8:00	YOUTH COUNCIL PLANNING – Council members meet to digest first days' information and preview planning phase activities.

Sunday , January 13, 2008

7:30-8:15	BREAKFAST AND INTERNET CAFÉ – A handful of computers will be available for youth to check e-mails and do research.
8:15-8:45	YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – An interactive session on underlying goals of Youth Leadership Project.
8:45-9:45	ACTION PLANNING EXERCISE – When confronted with a political or environmental challenge, what are the options? What questions should be asked before deciding what to do? A lively full group activity that sets the stage for youth action!
9:15-10:00	YOUTH EXPERT PANEL – Local youth activists share their experiences working on health, justice, education & the environment.
10:15-11:15	ROUNDTABLES – Council Members lead structured discussion among themselves and guest youth to model local planning task.
11:30-2:30	FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND MAPPING – Observation of sustainable practices in urban and natural environments.
3:00-4:15	TOUR OF POLITICAL LANDSCAPE – Who cares about sustainability and why? Who has decision-making power? How do they decide? Discussion, followed by a panel with representatives of government, business and non-profits.
4:15-5:15	MISSION STATEMENT – Participants will craft the first draft of a mission statement reflecting their values and goals.
5:15-5:45	YOUTH COUNCIL PLANNING – Council members digest second day's information and work on local research and action plan.
5:45-6:30	DINNER – Sign-ups sheets will be distributed for key roles during Tuesday Media presentation.
7:00-9:30	CULTURAL ACTIVITIES – Together, or in small groups, participants will go out for music, drama and other cultural activities.

Monday January 14, 2008

7:30-8:30	BREAKFAST AND INTERNET CAFÉ – Additional time to review report outline and prepare for presentation
8:30-11:15	CITYSEARCH APPOINTMENTS – Participants will go on the town in small groups to interview experts working in a variety of capacities on sustainable strategies in community design, energy and transportation, economic development and much more.
11:15-12:00	CITYSEARCH REPORTS – Each team reports on their appointments. What was learned? What economic, political or technical strategies were employed? How does this new information shape the priority statement we'll present tomorrow?
12:45-2:00	PRESENTATION PREPARATION SESSION– After lunch, each investigative team will use this time to develop and give substance to an outline for their report on youth priorities in the topic area they examined.
2:30-3:30	INTERNATIONAL PANEL – International organizations and other countries report on sustainability initiatives. You are not alone!
3:45-4:45	GLOBALIZATION DEBATE – Is globalization a constructive or destructive force for sustainability? How can we be sure?
4:45-6:15	CONSULAR RECEPTION AND DINNER – An opportunity for Youth Council members to build relations with Consular Officials.

Tuesday January 15, 2008

7:30-8:30	BREAKFAST AND COUNCIL PLANNING – Youth Councils will finish preparation of their local research and action plan.
8:30-10:00	FINAL PREPARATION – Investigative Teams will complete preparation of their report.
10:30-11:30	YOUTH PRESENTATION AND MEDIA EVENT – Who are the Youth Councils? Why do they care about sustainability? What is their mission? Their policy platform? What ideas do they like best at this stage? What are they going to do to establish the Youth Leadership Project in their state or province? What help do they need from their adults?
11:30-12:30	CLOSURE AND DEPARTURES – Go forth and prosper!

THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Program Model and Cycle of Activities for the Full Project to be Launched in 2008-2009

The Youth Leadership Project for a Sustainable Future (YLPSF) will be launched in each state and province in academic year 2008-2009. With support from foundations, corporate sponsors, policy-makers and our community partners, this scalable youth and community development model developed by the California Center has supported youth engaged in state and national policy initiatives focusing on education, public health and community design. The basic unit for the model is a *Youth Action Team* a team of five to fifteen youth, aged 14-19 who are nested in a community, school, organization, or regional coalition. Each Youth Action Team is supported by a local adult coordinator, usually a young professional or graduate student who receives training and support from our staff and a stipend. There are several Youth Action Teams in each state or province, and sometimes more than one in a particular community. Each Youth Action team participates in a year-long cycle activities including an initial community assessment and training conference, local outreach and research, projects and education campaigns, policy engagement and a summer internship. Youth Action Teams are linked to state and national policy efforts through representation on their state or provincial-level youth council and related committees. The YLPSF will include a demographically diverse body of youth participants, including youth drawn from communities experiencing high levels of social and economic disparities. Participants earn a stipend, a certificate and a modest stipend, and valuable college and job references in return for fulfilling their commitment to the project.

Proposed Cycle of Activities for Full Project

PRELIMINARY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (Sept. 2008)– Participating Youth Action Teams will conduct an initial assessment of their community's sustainable enterprises and practices prior to attending the initial training conference. This information will jump-start participant's knowledge about their community and will be shared as part of a community profile report at the training academy. During these early meetings they'll begin to establish a working relationship with each other and their adult coordinator.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES SURVEY (Sept. 2008)– Each Youth Action Team Member will circulate a survey (similar to the one to be used by the Planning Councils) among ten of their peers, and complete the survey themselves. A key accelerant in the education process of the youth, the survey will include sections embedded with best and promising practices in community design, energy and transportation and economic development, as well as sections on underlying values, change strategies and obstacles anticipated.

TRAINING ACADEMY (Oct. 2008) – Participants will attend an annual training conference to launch the program year. The YLPSF Academy will include an initial, broad-based grounding in the principles and practices of sustainable enterprises and policies; an introduction to social and political change strategies; sessions with adult experts in the areas of energy, economic development and community design; skill-building workshops for youth and their adult mentors; networking and bonding opportunities; and opportunities for each youth-adult team to make familiarize themselves with their work plan and related opportunities.

LOCAL RESEARCH AND OUTREACH (Oct 08-Jan 09) – Participants return to their community to gather information through research, surveys, interviews, discussion groups and other activities to deepen their knowledge about their community, sustainable practices, and their area of interest (energy, economic development or community design). This information will help determine what project, policies and internships they might pursue.

LOCAL PROJECT AND PRESENTATIONS (Jan-May 09) Each Team will organize a local project to promote, establish or develop a sustainable enterprise, program or policy in their community. These projects will reflect the interest, proclivities and innovation of participating youth, as well as the resources and support extended by their host organization, adult mentor and other partners. A premium will be placed on projects that engage additional youth, or that educate adult decision-makers in their community or state.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT (March–June 09) Participants will incorporate their research, local project experience and growing knowledge to develop and support policy ideas on the local, statewide and national levels. Adult mentors, host organizations and YLPSF national staff will identify and infuse participants into a variety of opportunities to promote youth perspectives on sustainable practices such as presentations at policy conferences, press events, testimony at hearings, participation in local and regional planning processes, and service on boards and commissions alongside like-minded adults.

INTERNSHIPS AND CAREER COUNSELING (June–July 09) To conclude their program year, participants will serve as a summer intern or employee with an organization promoting or developing sustainable practices, or they will work on a project that they initiate. Participants will also receive information about related college and career opportunities from their mentors and national staff.

EVALUATION AND CELEBRATION (June-July 09) - Participating youth and their adult advisors evaluate their progress as individuals, a team and a community in order to develop a plan that will build on that success during the next year. Reports are forwarded to the California Center, funders and other partners. Participants, parents and others gather to celebrate and enjoy each other company.