



Houston Land/Water Sustainability Forum

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO INFORM AND EDUCATE

CIVIL ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • CITY/COUNTY POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS • COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPERS • LAND OWNERS • GENERAL CONTRACTORS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS • SITE WORK AND UTILITY CONTRACTORS • EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL CONTRACTORS • UNIVERSITIES • LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

**EXPLORING IDEAS, METHODS, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES
RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF LAND AND WATER IN THE
HOUSTON AREA'S GROWING URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

"Our Mission is to enhance, enable and integrate sustainable use of land and water for the Houston area's continued growth and economic vitality."

While often leading the way with groundbreaking sustainable practices inside the building envelope, local development and redevelopment projects rarely utilize innovative techniques in site design. Across this country and the world, new ideas, methods, materials and technologies aimed at positively impacting the sustainability of land and water resources have been widely adopted, some are being developed right here in Houston. This forum has been formed to provide exposure to the full range of these practices, to encourage their adoption, their adaptation where needed for the conditions found in our community—and to foster creativity in both the development of new solutions and the regulatory infrastructure that enables them.

Maintaining the pace of growth and development in the greater Houston area requires that those with a vested interest adopt new ideas and employ new methods that will insure that growth can be sustained. Land/water issues that might otherwise limit growth, or foster a climate that leads to political limits on growth, are broad in scope and varied in the constituents who might be directly affected. The forum will seek to engage the broadest possible range of constituent groups, from planners and design professionals to contractors, from policy shapers and regulators to permitting authorities, in a collaborative effort that focuses on practical application rather than abstract theory in the exploration of incremental answers to some of the Houston area's most significant land/water sustainability issues.

Monthly meetings of the Forum will be held at a rotating roster of conference facilities offered by supportive agencies and organizations located throughout the area. These meetings will be held during the lunch or breakfast hour. These educational sessions will present speakers who have expertise or experience to share on land/water sustainability issues, and many of the speakers will come from the constituencies that make up the Forum. We hope these non-commercial meetings will become a highlight on the monthly schedules of those who own, develop, design, build, regulate and permit development throughout the greater Houston area. Larger, multi-day events, with speakers and workshop leaders from across the country are envisioned as participation grows.

A Steering Committee, made up of respected individuals representing a cross-section of constituent groups, is charged with developing compelling topics and speakers for Forum programs. Steering Committee members and the organizations currently represented on the Steering Committee include:

US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL-HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER • INTERNATIONAL EROSION CONTROL ASSOCIATION-SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER • ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA-HOUSTON CHAPTER • AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS-HOUSTON • HOUSTON COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES • AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS-HOUSTON • BAYOU PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION • ENERGY CORRIDOR DISTRICT • AMERICAN SUBCONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION • AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS-HOUSTON/GULF COAST • RICE UNIVERSITY • HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL • MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOUSTON • WATERSHED PROTECTION GROUP, HARRIS COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT • HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

www.houstonLWSforum.org

SUSTAINABILITY From the verb to sustain, meaning: to hold up; to bear; to support; to provide for; to maintain; to sanction; to keep going; to keep up; to prolong; to support the life of. **SUSTAINABLE** Capable of being sustained; capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment.

2008 UPCOMING EVENT LISTING

May 13, 2008

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Houston-Galveston Area Council

[3555 Timmons Lane](#), Second Floor, Conference Room A ([click for map](#))

Houston Case Studies: Local Projects Utilizing Wastewater Reuse and/or Rainwater Harvesting Strategies

More information to come on this program that will take an in-depth look at local projects that have implemented innovative water reuse strategies.

Seating is limited 100, so please RSVP today.

■

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

KirkseyArchitecture, Conference Room

[6909 Portwest Drive](#) ([click for map](#))

The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Raising the Bar on Site Design in the LEED® Green Building Point System

This session will explore the new Sustainable Sites Initiative (www.sustainablesites.org), a joint effort by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the ASLA and the U.S. Botanic Garden, aimed at creating a comprehensive rating system and guidelines for sustainable development of all sizes, with or without buildings. USGBC has reportedly pledged to include this program in future versions of the LEED® Green Building Rating System.

SPEAKER:

Steve Windhager, Ph.D, Director, Landscape Restoration Program, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Seating is limited to 100, so please RSVP today.

■

September, 2008 (Day and location TBD)

2-Day LID Workshop

This two-day workshop is designed to give design professionals the tools to begin design and implementation of LID practices. The specific limitations and opportunities presented by local soil conditions will be a key component of this program.

SPEAKER:

Larry Coffman, nationally known pioneer and one of the nation's leading experts on Low Impact Development technology for water resources and ecosystem restoration.

Seating is limited to 100, so please RSVP today.

■

October, 2008 (Day and location TBD)

Houston Case Studies: Local Projects Utilizing LID Design Techniques

More information to come on this program that will take an in-depth look at local projects that have implemented innovative LID site design strategies.

■

November 17, 2008 (Location TBD)

Applied Stream Morphology Workshop

This one-day workshop which will familiarize participants with the principles, fundamentals and procedures of Watershed Assessment for River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS) methodology. The workshop will describe the various aspects of the procedure and its application to water resource management with a focus on urban watersheds.

WARSSS is a methodology designed for field practitioners to quantitatively determine the cumulative watershed impacts affecting sediment yield leading to river impairment. WARSSS identifies specific processes related to individual land uses by location to quantify hillslope, hydrology and channel processes potentially contributing disproportionate sediment supply. The method involves predicting bank erosion rates as well as annual sediment yield budgets.

The EPA has peer-reviewed and recommended the WARSSS methodology, and more information may be found at www.epa.gov/WARSSS.

WARSSS is also used for river restoration to identify the cause, extent and location of river impairment, and is also used for comprehensive watershed management and planning, cumulative effect analysis, fish habitat evaluation, riparian grazing management, flood studies and geomorphic studies.

SPEAKER: Dr. Dave Rosgen, Principal, Wildland Hydrology

Seating is limited, so please RSVP today.