

A Local Sustainability Leaders Network

The focus of a **local sustainability leaders network** is to increase the capacity of community leaders to address sustainability barriers with creative and innovative measurable actions. These actions will be envisioned in light of their dialogue with the following regional plans: Sustainable Chicago 2015, GO TO 2040, Chicago Climate Action, and Regional Indicators and Livability Principles. As community actions are envisioned, the leaders and residents will strategize about how to link effectively with regional government and other large supportive institutions (e.g., corporations, foundations, etc). As leaders participate in the network they will create cross-sector collaboration that will be documented and give shape to goals and function that will be shared with community neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

Leaders who participate in the network will facilitate:

- A collective vision and voice representing bottom-up efforts that address key sustainability issues at the community level
- Peer-to-peer learning through cross-community site visits, resource sharing, and educational events inspiring new community practices
- Training on sustainability-related issues such as leadership training, facilitation and public relations, with topics TBD by the network.

The network will also implement and evaluate shared innovation projects: projects with the same goals carried out in multiple communities, using approaches tailored to each community. Network leaders will commit to using the skills and knowledge they gain through the network to advance their own work and train others in their community.

Community-Led Sustainability Roadmaps

A pilot sustainability roadmap action planning process will be carried out on the Westside of Chicago with a cluster or neighborhoods. This experiential model will serve as an approach for engaging a diverse spectrum of organizations and residents in building sustainable community cultures and taking ownership and leadership on key community sustainability issues.

Various leaders in the 29th Ward are interested in how to create a healthy future in their community by ensuring it is resilient and sustainable. Designing a roadmap toward this future calls for a dialogue between what is and what is possible, looking at both the ward's

current reality and its vision of the future with pilot projects and a written, community-driven 29th Ward Sustainability Roadmap Plan that maps out implementation through 2015.