

2022 Annual Performance Report
for
APA Sustainable Communities Division

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Workplans, Financial Report and Budgets

Share the "big picture" efforts of your Division and what you accomplished this past fiscal year (beginning October 1, 2021).

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What are you most proud of?

Please share a brief summary of what your Division accomplished this fiscal year (beginning October 1, 2020). Help us learn about the highlights: the activities, education, outreach efforts, community engagement, mentorships, member enhancements, NPC leadership, and what you might like to submit for a Divisions Council Achievement award.

The Sustainable Communities Division (SCD) is most proud this year of its success at expanding the capacity of its executive committee (EC) with new volunteers, and also of its launch of the brand new SCD Annual Symposium. This new half day event offers in-depth exploration of climate and equity-related topics and is a major new offering to our membership and beyond. With new volunteer energy and ideas as well as this new venue for connecting and empowering the field of sustainability planning, we feel we are able to do more and make greater impact.

SCD will be most likely to submit for a DC Achievement award in the areas of: Overall Division Performance, Education Excellence, and/or Division Communications Excellence.

Workplan

Is there anything else we should know about your Division's workplan?

This year, the Division will prioritize **integration of equity considerations into all programming and operations**, with the intention of exercising leadership in fostering diversity in the sustainability planning field as well as cultivating a volunteer role dedicated to directing these various actions.

Budget

Is there anything else we should know about your Division's budget?

Now that the Division invested much of its past year surplus in boosting educational opportunities for members in FY22, it will focus in FY23 on **directing its more limited special project funds this year toward social equity initiatives**. SCD will also work on maximizing revenue, streamlining expenses, and refreshing its practices for member recruitment and gaining sponsor support for future program capacity.

Communications

So much of our time is spent communicating with members. How do you do it?

Does your Division send out a membership newsletter at least quarterly?

YES

Has your Division web page been updated recently?

YES

NEW SCD Tools added to the Website

- Climate Ordinance Database Tool
- Climate Development Review
- Climate Data Guide

NEW Website Updates and Features

- Climate Champions Page including a New Champion Videos, New Blog and Updated Story Map
- Updated NPC Page
- Updated Events Page
- Updated Leadership and Volunteers Page
- Updated Sustainability & Resilience Series Webinars and Presentation slides
- New Students & Emerging Professionals Blog

Division News Posted

- Ninth (2022) Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability
- 2022 Award Winners information
- Annual Business Meeting Minutes, Recordings and Presentation slides
- 2021-2022 Annual Report
- APA SCD Call for Mentorship
- APA Diversity Scholarships
- Updated 2021-2022 Sponsors and posted Sponsor Materials

NEw Division Resource Links/Documents

- Smart Cities PAS Report
- Climate Change PAS Report
- Climate Change Policy Guide

Does your Division use any social media to communicate with members?

YES

Current Numbers:

Facebook: 1,525 Followers

Instagram: 310 Followers

Twitter: 2,300 Followers

YouTube: 43 Subscribers

LinkedIn: 8,056 Group Members

Has your Division conducted a membership survey in the last two years?

YES

Yes - Climate Planning Survey conducted in July 2020 and re-vamped in August 2022

Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to new members?

YES

Does your Division conduct targeted outreach to student members?

YES

National Planning Conference Activities

The National Planning Conference is when everyone comes together. What did your Division organize at the NPC? Please identify any and all of your Division-sponsored activities at the NPC, both independent of, or jointly with other Divisions, Chapters, or the SRC.

Please share how your Division gets involved during the National Planning Conference.

This includes proposed sessions, accepted sessions, facilitated discussions, social events, involvement in or financial contributions to the Planners Day of Service or the Student Design Competition, etc.

SCD took an active role at NPC22 in San Diego. Under the leadership of NPC Coordinator Emma Strong, the division organized a well-attended reception and awards program at the San Diego Central Library on May 2nd, with fabulous views of the urban surroundings and the setting sun and ample opportunities for networking. Over 100 attendees enjoyed catered hors d'oeuvre and refreshments, a fun and spirited presentation about the division's accomplishments in the previous year, and the presentation of the annual Excellence in Sustainability Awards. Many awards recipients were in attendance. The new Climate Champions video was also shared, and two of the event's co-hosts - the City Planning and Management Division and the New Urbanism Division - also made short presentations (the National Capital Area Chapter also sponsored the reception). As the division's largest budgetary commitment of the year as well as one of its largest organizational commitments, the NPC reception has become a special annual event. In the coming year, the EC will be looking at ways to leverage greater partnership and co-hosting commitments to off-set its cost, which has increased substantially with post-pandemic supply and labor cost increases.

SCD devoted almost \$6,000 this year to providing 14 NPC attendance grants (both in-person and virtual) to a variety of constituents, as selected by lottery: SCD members, student members, and active volunteers. The NPC grant program was intended to enable participation and reward our members and volunteers for their involvement. In the upcoming year, we will be shifting grant funds towards supporting a similar EDI-based program of attendance grants, with the intention of increasing access to the learning and networking opportunities there.

Several EC members served as session reviewers for NPC22. Robert Kerns, one of SCD's founders and EC members, led several SMART Cities presentations as well as a mobile tour in Chula Vista. Several division members

Did your Division conduct an Annual Business Meeting this year?

YES

Annual Business Meeting

SCD held its annual business meeting separately from NPC22 this year, via Microsoft Teams on September 15, 2022, with approximately 29 attendees. Leaders of SCD's various work areas and initiatives spoke about the accomplishments of the past year, and an interactive portion allowed meeting participants to provide input on SCD's future priorities and plans through a JamBoard tool. The JamBoard record can be found at <https://bit.ly/3eP3WUf>.

Divisions Booth at NPC22

Did your Division participate in the virtual Divisions Booth during NPC21? If yes, please share any feedback. If no, please share why (it will help us understand how to improve the experience for everyone).

SCD EC members and Climate Champions staffed the Divisions Council Booth throughout the conference. It was a great way to make new connections and answer questions that conference attendees might have about division involvement. Our only suggestion for next year is to be sure to include seating in the Division Council Booth area, as this would allow visitors to linger for longer and would be easier on volunteers.

Year-round programming

What did you work on before and after NPC? Please identify any events or programs that were sponsored, endorsed, or created by your Division, including the number of participants, revenue generated (if applicable), and CM credits offered (if applicable).

Education programs (including webinars or events co-sponsored with other Divisions, Chapters, and allied professions.).

Education Events:

- **Awards webinars with our 2020 SCD Awards for Excellence in Sustainability winners**
 - **“Award-Winning Sustainability 2021: Part 1”**
 - 2/16/2022
 - 0.5 AICP CM
 - Speakers/Topic: Dallas Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan
 - 10 attendees
 - **“Award-Winning Sustainability 2021: Part 2”**
 - 2/22/2022
 - 1.0 AICP CM
 - Speakers/Topic: OurCounty: The Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan, and Kim Lundgren Associates
 - (# attendees unavailable due to technical error)

- **“Award-Winning Sustainability 2021: Part 3”**
 - 2/24/2022
 - 1.0 AICP CM
 - Speakers/Topic: Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework and Grove City Sustainability Plan
 - 10 attendees
- **“Award-Winning Sustainability 2021: Part 4”**
 - 3/1/2022
 - 1.0 AICP CM
 - Speakers/Topic: Etna Ecodistrict Plan and the Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan
 - 27 attendees

APA Sustainability & Resilience Series

SCD continues to take the lead role in the APA Sustainability & Resilience Series, which SCD volunteer Karla Ebenbach developed in partnership with representatives of more than a dozen other divisions to serve the educational needs of planners in this subject area, and in particular, the CM needs of AICP-certified planners fulfilling the Mandatory S&R credit (1.0 per reporting period is required). In FY22, the Series offered the following sessions:

6/10/22 “Federal Funding Tools for Sustainability”, with Seema Thomas (HUD), Robert Hanifin (USDOT), and Megan Susman (EPA) (1.5 AICP CM or 1.0 AICP S&R CM) **250 attendees**

5/13/22 “Technology Tools for Sustainability and Resilience”, with Doug Marcy (NOAA) and Dan Rizza (Climate Central) (1.5 AICP CM or 1.0 AICP S&R CM) **270 attendees**

4/22/22 “Climate Resilience Includes Health: Planning in Native American Communities”, with Sharon Hausam (SCCASC), Shasta Gaughen (Pala Band of Mission Indians) and Angie Hacker (Prosper Sustainably) (1.5 AICP CM or 1.0 AICP S&R CM) **250 attendees**

2/18, 2/25/22 “Climate Science and Planning”, The Basics with Matt Bucchin (Halff Associates) and Rachel Riley (Univ. of Oklahoma) **645 attendees**, Practitioners Roundtable with Caroline Cunningham (Stantec) and Katrina Kelly-Pitou (SmithGroup) **500 attendees** (1.5 AICP CM or 1.0 AICP S&R CM)

Networking/social events

NPC Reception (see above)

ABM information (see above)

SMART Cities Virtual Happy Hour in early 2022 to celebrate the APA Smart Cities PAS Report

SMART Cities Business/Networking meeting at NPC in San Diego

Students & Emerging Professionals Virtual Coffee Chat Meet & Greet in October

Awards you give out (student papers, scholarships, research fellowships, etc.)

- Awards for Excellence in Sustainability: For our 2022 awards program (our 9th annual awards), we made awards in seven categories, as well as two merit awards.
 - State or Regional Award: Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan, Mid-America Regional Council (Kansas City Metropolitan Region)
 - Community-wide Award: Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan, City of Worcester and Larissa Brown + Associates (Worcester, Massachusetts)
 - Sub-area Award: Riverlife: Completing the Loop, evolve environment :: architecture, Fourth Economy Consulting, and Thread Strategies (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
 - Environment, Climate, & Energy Award: TransformTO Net Zero Strategy, City of Toronto and Sustainability Solutions Group (Toronto, Canada)
 - Quality of Life Award: Southern Nevada Extreme Heat Vulnerability Analysis, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (Southern Nevada)
 - Policy, Law, or Tool Award: Edmonton Carbon Budget, City of Edmonton and Sustainability Solutions Group (Edmonton, Canada)
 - Student Award: Equity Lenses – Targeting Equitable Community Investment Across Southern California, University of California Los Angeles Luskin School of Public Affairs and Southern California Association of Governments (Southern California)
 - State or Regional Award (Merit Award): Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Metropolitan Region, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Chicago Metropolitan Region)
 - State or Regional Award (Merit Award): Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan: Charting a Course for the Decade of Action (2020-2030), State of Hawai'i Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Statewide Sustainability Branch (State of Hawai'i)

Division management meetings

How does your Division's executive committee stay in touch?

The Executive Committee of SCD meets monthly via Microsoft Teams video conference. We welcomed new committee members this year, in the areas of Membership and Students & Emerging Professionals. Our meetings bring together sustainability planning professionals from all over the country to carry out SCD's programs. We have transitioned to reserving time at every meeting for focused discussion on timely action areas of interest to the division. The EC uses interactive tools as needed, such as JamBoard and other virtual tools to support creative collaboration. All minutes are recorded by SCD's Secretary-Treasurer. All meeting records are copied to a Google Drive for easy access and storage.

Other events

Membership

Membership changes in the past year

Please share your reflections on the ways in which your membership has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Have there been noticeable fluctuations in your membership?

- Membership increased from October 2021-September 2022 by 330 members
- We created a Membership Chair position to better track membership, keep members engaged, connect members with volunteer opportunities
- Revised annual membership survey, to be sent out soon
- Revised new member survey
- Releasing application for new EDI Committee Chair in coming weeks

Does your Division have any committees, task forces, or other groups? If so, tell us the name of the group, who's on it, and what they're working on.

Communications Committee

Teresa Townsend, Coordinator

Prahallad Badami

Larissa Via

Amelia Mansfield

Michelle Chen

Selina Angel

Bethany Bella

Education and Professional Practice Committee

Jennifer Koch, Coordinator

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

(Unfilled)

Membership Committee

Mollie Scott, Coordinator

National Planning Conference Committee

Emma Strong, Coordinator

Partnerships Committee

Shannon Roberts, Co-Coordinator

Donny Goris-Kolb, Co-Coordinator

Symposium: 1/13/22 Sustainable Communities Division First Annual Symposium: "Leadership in Climate Action and Resilience." This half day symposium included three sessions and allowed attendees to earn 3.5 AICP credits. The sessions included:

Session 1: Deep Dive - Sustainable Communities Division Leadership in Climate Action &

Resilience

Matt Bucchin (Halff Associates, Inc.) provided an Introduction to the PAS Report. This included an overview of what climate change is and why it is important to planners; an overview of mitigation and adaptation policy responses that are available for planners; and an overview of climate tools developed by planners for planners.

Scott Turner (Environmental Partners) provided an overview of the Climate Change Policy Guide. This included an introduction to the APA policy guides and how they are used; comparison of the current guide with previous versions; and discussion of the relationship of the guide with the Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places.

Karla Ebenbach (Ebenbach Consulting LLC) reviewed the new APA Sustainability/Resilience CM requirement. She provided Information on the new mandatory AICP credit in Sustainability & Resilience and introduced the S&R Series: a webinar resource available to planners to fulfill credit requirement.

Session 2: Climate Migration Keynote

Carri Hulet (CH Consulting/Climigration Network) gave the keynote address for this symposium on climate migration. As one of the founders of the Climigration Network, Carri now runs her own practice focusing on building collaborative processes for climate projects. Carri seeks to build every project she works on around principles of equity and justice, and is increasingly creating or taking on work that is directly seeking to increase climate justice.

Session 3: Intersectionality of Climate Change & Equity Panel

Carri Hulet moderated this important panel discussion and was joined by Chris Reed (STOSS), Ladd Keith (University of Arizona), and Edith Hannigan (CAL FIRE). Ten-minute presentation from each panelists followed by discussion. They discussed how our changing climate is exacerbating inequities through flooding, extreme heat, and fire.

More than **550 individuals** registered to attend this virtual seminar.

Coordination with various outside organizations, including the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)

Policy Leadership Committee

Tamara Cook, Coordinator

Projects:

- (1) Climate Champions Group: The SCD Climate Champions program expanded by 4 members this year to 22, representing 16 states. The Climate Champions conducted 4 business meetings, three Strategic Planning sessions, and three leadership group meetings. A leadership team was established to guide activities resulting in two Climate Champion videos for use at the 2022 APA Conference and on the SCD YouTube channel. A new Climate Champion Program Vision and Mission statement was adopted and a draft strategic plan completed to guide initiatives of the Climate Champion group in 2023.

- (2) PAS Report - Matt Bucchin -

The recently published APA Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Planner Advisory Service (PAS) Report provides an overview of the basics of climate science, climate mitigation, and adaptation. It introduces how planners can move forward with climate mitigation and adaptation action to help lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduce community risk and vulnerability. It concludes by providing planners with a climate planning framework, principles for taking climate action, and

available tools and resources for moving forward.

(3) AICP Sustainability & Resilience Series - Karla Ebenbach
(See above under Education)

(4) APA Inclusive Growth and Equitable Economic Development Policy Guide - Karla Ebenbach - Participated in the early planning and drafting of material for the guide. Will not be able to continue contributing time to the project in the next fiscal year.

(5) SMART Cities - Robert Kerns Jr.:

The **APA Smart Cities Interest Group**, working in collaboration with the Sustainable Communities Division, has had another productive year. Our accomplishments this year are as follows:

- Completed an update to the APA Smart Cities Whitepaper - located on our SCD website
- Assisted APA in publishing the recent APA Smart Cities PAS Report - located on our website
- Hosted a Virtual Happy Hour at the beginning of 2022 to celebrate the APA Smart Cities PAS Report
- Held a Business/Networking meeting at the APA NPC in San Diego
- Completed several APA NPC presentations and a mobile workshop in Chula Vista
- Developed a new structure for leadership going forward.

(6) Planning 2050 - Julio Carillo - SCD has provided support to this nascent planning collaboration effort

The Planning 2050 (PLG2050) initiative gained momentum throughout 2022. The initial concept was developed by Julio Carillo. In 2022, Julio established social media accounts, a website (<https://planningcommitment.org>), spoke about the effort on a March webinar, assisted with production of a video about PLG2050, and hosted a NPC22 session. In May, an advisory board was established and Julio worked to build support for the effort from other collaborating organizations (as of December 2022 six partner organizations have joined). Several meetings of the advisory board occurred, in addition to establishment of a Development Working Group that meets monthly. In late 2022, presentations about PLG2050 occurred with other countries, including Australia and Peru. In November 2022, the first commitment letter was received from the City of Las Vegas.

PLUS Various speaking roles throughout the year, representing division initiatives and leadership projects, e.g.: 10/29/21 Matt Bucchin and Karla Ebenbach, Panelists, "Meeting Local Climate Goals – Tools and Resources for Local Planners", S. New England APA Annual Conf. 2021.

Students & Emerging Professionals (S&EP) Committee

Ashley Waggoner, Co-Chair

Rebecca Peinert, Co-Chair

Projects and Initiatives:

We strived to provide an enriching experience for our Students & Emerging Professionals through offering scholarships, webinars, programs, and activities. A survey will be sent out to members to gather

feedback to help understand the needs of our members.

We began an SEP blog that members can submit articles to. We have blog posts for July, and October. The blog has been a popular outlet, which has received a high volume of inquiries. It is a great way for students and emerging professionals to showcase their work related to sustainability and climate change.

We hosted a Virtual Coffee Chat Meet & Greet in October to connect with our members. We had 3 members join the chat and discussed opportunities the committee has to offer, ideas to offer members, a trivia segment, and answered further questions. It was a great networking opportunity.

Lastly, we have been working on starting up a student mentorship program to connect our student members with our professional members who want to get involved.

Division Programs

What are your Division members doing for the community? Tell us all about it!

Did your Division plan or implement any programs related to equity, diversity, and inclusion? If not, how will your Division plan for this in the coming year?

For more information about APA's commitment to advancing strategic goals related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, please follow this link: <https://www.planning.org/equity/>

Along with climate action, SCD identified social equity as a primary strategic action area in its 2021 Strategic Planning process. At that time, it was decided to better integrate equity considerations into all operations and programming. Since then, the Division recruited a volunteer to lead these various efforts but the individual did not, in the end, have time to devote to the role. As a result, the Division is preparing to recruit for this position anew and revisit strategic planning objectives in this area as the new year goes forward and the division devotes funds to a few equity-related actions.

Did your Division provide support to other APA Divisions, Chapters, students, staff, or general membership? Please provide the date, topic, and Division member(s) who participated.

SCD supports and collaborates with other divisions, chapters and general APA membership through its Sustainability & Resilience Series and other educational events, through its Partnerships Committee, and through the development of tools and networks (as through the Climate Champions program) that it has supported. The division provides substantial support to students through its free membership opportunity and its events, communications, grants, and programs designed specifically for students throughout the year.

Did your Division respond to external requests from journalists, allied professionals, or researchers? Please provide date, topic, and Division member(s) who participated.

NO

Were any of your members quoted or cited in a publication? (We recommend you highlight it to your whole Division too!)

PAS Report: A Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Primer for Planners (Matt Bucchin)

SMART Cities PAS Report (Robert Kerns)

Are you conducting your own research? If so, please identify any Division-sponsored research

activities, and/or publications (provide a web link for all publications).

NO

Divisions Council Meetings

Who represented your Division at the Divisions Council meetings at the National Planning Conference and Fall Leadership meetings? If your Division was not represented at one of these meetings, please explain why and how this will be corrected in the future.

Merrill St. Leger, SCD Chair, and Karla Ebenbach, SCD Secretary-Treasurer both participated in DC Council meetings during the past year, including at the mini-retreat session at NPC.

APA Strategic Priorities

During FY21, APA announced four strategic priorities and intended outcomes: APA's inclusive and diverse membership, elected leadership, volunteer and staff workforce lead the way to more equitable communities; The role of planners is understood, valued, and sought after by decision makers and influencers; Planners have the knowledge, insight, and skills to help communities effectively manage change; and APA's digital business focus ensures it remains relevant. Please identify any specific efforts your Division undertook to specifically support these priorities, or ideas you may have about how to do this in the coming fiscal year.

SCD supported APA Strategic Priorities this year by way of its efforts - though not fully realized - to implement dedicated equity leadership on its Executive Committee - as well as through numerous educational events it fostered, as through the Sustainability & Resilience Series. Notably, the April session entitled "Climate Resilience Includes Health: Planning in Native American Communities" focused on public health and equity, which had been identified by DC as an important priority for the year.

Division Challenges

Has your Division had any challenges this year? Tell us what happened and let's see how the Divisions Council or other Divisions can help. Historically, Divisions have struggled with membership, finding active volunteers, and limited funding. Tell us if your Division dealt with any of these, any other emerging issues, and how you addressed them.

SCD was challenged this year by the difficulty of adequately and meaningfully addressing equity, as it had intended, in its operations and programming but is striving to make further progress in the coming year. This year we will participate in APA's Change Ambassadors Group and renew its effort to locate a volunteer to oversee improvements in our recruitment, offerings and processes.

We were also unable to fulfill some of its budgeted climate leadership or engagement projects due to insufficient volunteer capacity. We bit off more than we could chew!

The annual Divisions Council Achievement Awards cycle is fast approaching! Are you interested in submitting for any of the awards below? If so, please let us know so we can follow up with you and help promote your accomplishments!

- ✓ Overall Division Performance
- ✓ Education Excellence
- ✓ Division Communications Excellence
- Best Practice
- Best Newsletter Article

Overall Contribution to the Planning Profession

I'm not sure but would like to learn more!

We've decided not to submit this year.