

Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (INSS) – Atlanta, June 6-7, 2017

“Data In Action” Roundtable Descriptions

1 - Using Information Technology to Reduce Pre-Harvest Waste by Connecting Growers to Alternative Recipients

FACILITATOR: Liz Kramer, University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Katherine Kennedy, Concrete Jungle; Ben Burgess, Atlanta Community Food Bank

DESCRIPTION: Food loss and waste are often defined and measured post-harvest and along the food supply chain. A number of recent projects are using technology to find new markets for post-retail and post-consumer food waste. However, we know very little about how much food is lost on the farm pre-harvest, since food is not tracked until it enters the food supply chain. We know that there is loss at the farm due to a number of reasons including pests and diseases and weather events such as hail or drought. There are other losses that are potentially recoverable such as over production due to difficulty predicting demand, outgrading of produce because of blemishes, size or shape, or diminishing returns from harvesting. How much of production falls into these categories is not well known, but we do know that they require the same resources as those products that are sold to market. All of these products require land, water, energy, nutrients, and so forth, costing farmers and impacting the environment. Are these losses a result of an information gap between those willing to sell and those willing to buy? And if so, can we use technology to connect these groups to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the food system? The question becomes, can we build new markets for these edible products through data and cyber infrastructure that will connect growers to alternative users of perishable crops and create a more sustainable system?

2 - Local Data for Local Justice

FACILITATORS: Trinderlyn McWilson, Help Org Inc English Avenue; Amanda Meng, College of Computing/Public Design Workshop, Georgia Tech

DESCRIPTION: This roundtable will explore the question: How do community based organizations use data as a strategy for social change? Trinderlyn McWilson and her husband are long term English Avenue residents and lead data collectors for the Westside Atlanta Land Trust (WALT), a program of Help Org Inc. The WALT program seeks to serve and preserve in-place residents. They identified the Community Land Trust model as the best strategy to achieve permanently affordable housing for westside residents. Trinderlyn and her team of researchers collect data on the Westside's built environment and supplement this data with county tax data to both build up a CLT property portfolio and articulate a data-driven argument for a city-wide CLT policy.

3 - Measuring Equity in the Living Building at Georgia Tech

FACILITATORS: Chris Burke, Community Relations, Georgia Tech; Alissa Kingsley, Lord Aeck Sargent; Alex Trachtenberg, Southface

DESCRIPTION: How is equity measured in the built environment? Our roundtable will explore how to create a comprehensive tool for quantifying equity. Using the Living Building at Georgia Tech as a case study, this tool could become an exemplary model for the International Living Future Institute (which runs the Living Building Challenge), state and local governments, and general practitioners to measure and assess equity in sustainable building design, construction and operation, and general business practices. Using the International Living Future Institute's Equity Petal and work done to date by the GT Equity Petal Work Group to frame the discussion, we will explore how to assess if the building is successful at being inclusive and equitable.

4 - Neighborhood Nexus: Smart Data + Data Visualizations = Better Decisions

FACILITATORS: Mike Carnathan, Atlanta Regional Commission; Crystal Jackson, Atlanta Regional Commission

DESCRIPTION: Neighborhood Nexus is a community intelligence system providing over five thousand data variables, from the Census and many other sources, at different levels of geography. Bundled state-of-the-art visualization tools help users to understand and analyze these data. The goal of Nexus is to support a network of community leaders and residents, government and businesses, advocates and service providers with the information, tools and expertise to make data-driven decisions, help meet challenges, leverage assets, and create new opportunities for policy intervention in community problems. This roundtable will explore: How has Nexus been used to examine past and current socioeconomic and demographic patterns; assess correlations between the equity, health and climate of communities; identify and develop benchmarking metrics; and in so doing make better community decisions? How can this tool continue to build "Smart, Connected Communities?"

5 - Smart and Resilient ATL

FACILITATORS: Cicely Garrett, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Resilience; Janae Futrell, City of Atlanta SmartATL "Smart City" Program; Jennifer Hirsch, Serve-Learn-Sustain, Georgia Tech

DESCRIPTION: Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program focuses on building a strategy to combat the physical, social, and economic challenges cities face. In May 2016, Atlanta became the 100th Resilient City. During this roundtable, the City of Atlanta will provide updates on the city's use of data to inform its Resilience Strategy development as well as amplify SmartATL, an initiative which pre-dated 100RC designation but will be an invaluable contribution to the City's Resilience Strategy. We will explore the question, what are some ways in which Atlanta's 40+ institutions of higher learning could provide and synthesize data to make Atlanta resilient?

6 - Georgia's Coastal and Marine Planner (GCAMP)

FACILITATORS: Mary Hallisey Hunt, Strategic Energy Institute, Georgia Tech; Teresa Eldredge, TJSchell, LLC

DESCRIPTION: This roundtable will explore options (and opportunities) for using an ArcGIS StoryMap platform to navigate complex regulatory processes. The interactive web based example presented is GCAMP's hypothetical wind farm case study. It is built on a foundation of data layers allowing stakeholders a balanced benchmark of Georgia's offshore and coastal environment for the purpose of understanding what's involved in permitting an offshore energy related development. This roundtable will explore the question: As new state and local projects move forward, how can Arc GIS StoryMap platforms help communities, planners, developers, and other stakeholders make better, more sustainable decisions?

7 - Role of Air Quality Data in Community Health & Revitalization – SW Atlanta Case Study

FACILITATORS: Christian Braneon, Serve-Learn-Sustain, Georgia Tech; Camilla Warren, USEPA

DESCRIPTION: Past research studies and related data for Atlanta generally show a relationship between community health and air quality. This roundtable will explore those data and possible implications for action. The EPA EJSCREEN will be introduced as a powerful new GIS-based tool that integrates socio-economic and environmental quality data at the census block level.

8 - Better Building, Better Health: Insights from the Atlanta Better Building Challenge Program

FACILITATORS: Matt Cox, CEO, The Greenlink Group; Bonnie Casamassima, Program Manager, Atlanta Better Building Challenge, Southface

DESCRIPTION: In 2011, the City of Atlanta launched the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge; a free, voluntary commercial energy efficiency challenge. Focusing on the reduction of energy and water use in mid- and large-size commercial buildings, the Atlanta Better Building Challenge has been a national leader with high participation and saving levels. While the program's impact on energy and water conservation is well documented, its effect on public health has not been previously determined. The Southface Energy Institute, the administrator of the Atlanta Better Building Challenge, together with The Greenlink Group, performed an analysis aiming to better understand the public health benefit provided by the program using Greenlink's high-resolution artificial-intelligence driven power sector model, ATHENIA. The results highlight an important but commonly overlooked fact: better building energy performance leads to a healthier community. This roundtable will tease out social impact stories from the energy data, asking the question: what social impact stories would be of interest to communities and policymakers?

9 - Campus as a Smart City

FACILITATORS: Russ Clark, Matt Sanders, Jennifer Mullins & Akansha Gupta, Georgia Tech Research Operations Center, Institute for People and Technology (IPaT)

DESCRIPTION: This roundtable will explore the ongoing and future efforts to use the campus as a testbed for smart cities research and innovation. We will start with an overview of our experience through the GTJourney initiative to open campus data for student use in academics, research, and innovation. This includes work with GT facilities, Parking and Transportation, and other partners who operate services on the campus. We plan to focus the discussion on lessons learned addressing and balancing operational capacity and goals with the interests and capacity of researchers. We are particularly interested in learning more about how others would facilitate balancing timelines, points of view, and goals, which often lack alignment.