

Organizations and Resources

CNU Climate Change Summit, Alexandria, September 29-30, 2017

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[Note: Information is based on rapid review of websites and may be erroneous or incomplete – please send corrections and additions to sandysorlien@comcast.net]

KEY:

[M-GW] Mitigation of Global Warming (reducing our contribution to GW)

[M-Risk] Mitigation of Risk (e.g., flood control)

[A/R] Adaptation/Resilience

[D] Data and Modeling for Analysis, Planning, and Policy

[PD] Patterns of Development (Form-based Planning and Urban Design)

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

<https://www.cnu.org/>

MISSION: *The Charter of the New Urbanism (1996)*

<https://www.cnu.org/who-we-are/charter-new-urbanism>

The Canons of Sustainable Architecture & Urbanism (2008)

<https://www.cnu.org/charter-new-urbanism/canons-sustainable-architecture-and-urbanism>

https://www.cnu.org/sites/default/files/Canons_0.pdf

Our Tools - The Charrette, The Transect, The Lexicon, Codes ("more tools coming soon")

OPPORTUNITY: add to website Climate Change mitigation + adaptation tools, such as the Urban Footprint (Calthorpe) / LEED-ND / Sprawl Repair

<https://www.cnu.org/resources/tools>

Rainwater-in-Context Project

<https://www.cnu.org/our-projects/rainwater-context>

Center for Applied Transect Studies - the SmartCode and its sustainability modules

<https://transect.org/modules.html>

Project for Lean Urbanism - Lean Tool Survey; Papers

<https://leanurbanism.org/publications/>

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

Architecture 2030

<http://architecture2030.org/>

MISSION: "We're a non-profit think tank transforming climate change problems into solutions through the design of the built environment."

Net Zero carbon buildings. Buildings create nearly half of CO2 emissions [and buildings-as-urbanism can reduce transportation sector's contribution too]

http://architecture2030.org/buildings_problem_why/

2030 Challenge for Planning

http://architecture2030.org/2030_challenges/2030_challenge_planning/

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: Significant support and overlap with CNU. CNU has adopted the 2030 Challenge:

http://architecture2030.org/2030_challenges/adopters/

[D] [M-GW] [PD]

Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), Sustainability Innovation

<http://www.cnt.org/>

<http://www.cnt.org/climate>

MISSION: “*CNT delivers game-changing research, tools, and solutions to create sustainable and equitable communities.*”

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: There is already significant research support and topic overlap with CNU. Scott Bernstein contributes useful data frequently to discussions on CNU listservs. Great ideas: Cargo-oriented development / EcoDistricts framework / H&T Index

[M-GW] [A/R]

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

<https://www.nrdc.org>

<https://www.nrdc.org/issues/climate-change>

<https://www.nrdc.org/issues/communities>

MISSION: “*NRDC works to safeguard the earth — its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. We combine the power of more than two million members and online activists with the expertise of some 500 scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the wild.*”

Not much overlap with CNU; little attention to the form of the built environment. This phrase "encouraging smart growth" appears in a list, but no readily available details on how to do that, nor links to implementers like CNU.

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: The CNU approach to planning preserves open lands, forests, and wetlands, and reduces car use and impervious surfaces. NRDC could link to us.

[M-GW]

Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL)

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

MISSION: *We exist to create the political will for climate solutions by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power.*

Effective grassroots training and lobbying effort with one ultimate goal: get Carbon Fee & Dividend legislation (already written, [here](#)) passed through Congress.

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-fee-and-dividend/>

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: Speakers on CC-related issues are invited to CCL conferences. Their last

conference had very little about the built environment. ("The June International Conference is for a much broader audience interested in learning the CCL basics and gathering information on a broad range of topics related to climate change.") CCL also provides an excellent training model to empower citizens - a "many small" effort that CNU could emulate. (See also Citizen Planning Institute in Philadelphia, [here](#). Cannot vouch for CPI, have not done it, but I have done the CCL training and can vouch for that – very impressive.)

[M-GW] [A/R]

Rocky Mountain Institute

<https://www.rmi.org>

MISSION: "transforms global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future."

Both US and China. Applicable pages to CNU:

<https://www.rmi.org/our-work/buildings/>

<https://www.rmi.org/our-work/transportation/>

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: One of the goals stated at the Transportation link is "transforming personal mobility in US cities". This appears to be only aimed at creating/promoting lower-carbon-emitting personal vehicles. CNU members have warned that continuing to structure the built environment to accommodate cars can lead to fewer transportation choices, e.g., problems for pedestrians and cyclists and the demise of mass transit, as well as enabling sprawl. Good opportunity to discuss with RMI whether this has to be the case going forward. At the block scale, autonomous vehicles need drop-offs and storage and urban designers will be essential to making sure those don't undermine walkable patterns.

[M-GW] [A/R]

ICLEI USA, Local Governments for Sustainability; Renewable Energy Team

<http://icleiusa.org/>

MISSION: "*We build and serve the movement of local governments pursuing deep reductions in carbon pollution and tangible improvements in sustainability and resilience. For more than 25 years, we have achieved results that have helped communities reduce emissions and become healthier, stronger, more equitable, and more prepared.*"

Great ideas: Five Milestones

<http://icleiusa.org/programs/emissions-management/5-milestones/>

EcoMobility - this page is good, touting walking and other sustainable travel modes. But no connection is drawn to the form of the built environment. See the crazy wide thoroughfare in the image!

<http://icleiusa.org/programs/energy/ecomobility/>

The built environment is mentioned on the Buildings page, but not urbanism, urban design, or patterns of development.

<http://icleiusa.org/programs/energy/high-performance-building/>

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: The CNU approach to community planning and urban design can provide the framework for both EcoMobility and High Performance Buildings.

[M-Risk] [A/R]

NYC Department of City Planning, Resilient Retail

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning>

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/resilient-retail/resilient-retail.page>

MISSION: "*Resilient Retail is a planning initiative to strengthen retail corridors throughout the City's floodplain with the goal of developing land use recommendations to help businesses and the neighborhoods*

they serve withstand and recover quickly from future storms and flood events."

One of the goals is:

"Promote retrofitting and rebuilding strategies that reduce flood risk to individual businesses, while ensuring they remain accessible, viable and able to meet community needs for critical goods and services."

Great idea: "[Flood Resilience Zoning Text Amendment](#), adopted in 2013, which removed zoning barriers to resiliency investments; and the [Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk](#) manual, released in October 2014, which provides practical guidance to property owners on how to retrofit urban buildings against flood risks."

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: Some of CNU's ideas, tools, and codes from the Mississippi Renewal Forum may be of help.

[M-Risk] [A/R] [PD]

FEMA and NYC Department of City Planning, Resilient Neighborhoods Initiative

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/resilient-neighborhoods.page>

MISSION: "*Resilient Neighborhoods is a place-based planning initiative to identify neighborhood-specific strategies, including zoning and land use changes, to support the vitality and resiliency of communities in the floodplain and prepare them for future storms.*"

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

US Green Building Council (USGBC)

<https://www.usgbc.org/>

Rating/certification systems and advocacy. "*At USGBC, we work with government, member businesses and allied organizations to support policies and programs that advance greener buildings and communities. Backed by the strength of tools, community and research, we use direct advocacy, strategic partnerships, campaigns and engagement to drive development of standards, programs and regulations that enable a greener, more resilient and prosperous future.*"

LEED-ND:

<https://www.usgbc.org/guide/nd>

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITY: CNU was involved in the LEED-ND rating system for many years. We can continue to make the program "leaner" and more supportive of urbanism.

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

Rebuild by Design

<http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/>

In partnership with 100 Resilient Cities. <http://www.100resilientcities.org/>

"*Rebuild by Design uses collaborative, design-driven problem-solving to help communities and cities build resilience. Communities can overcome existing creative and regulatory barriers by cultivating collaboration between designers, researchers, community members, government officials and subject-matter experts.*"

[M-GW] [M-Risk] [A/R] [D] [PD]

Urban Land Institute (ULI), Urban Resilience Program

<https://americas.uli.org/research/centers-initiatives/urban-resilience-program/>

About Us: << ULI's Urban Resilience program provides ULI members, the public, and communities across the United States with information on how to be more resilient in the face of climate change and other environmental vulnerabilities. The program seeks to provide technical assistance, advance knowledge, and catalyze adoption of transformative market practices and policies. Through advisory services, research, convenings, and support of District Council projects, the Urban Resilience program seeks to enhance community resilience with a focus on the built environment, real estate markets, and the land use policy sector. >>

<< The Urban Resilience program works to help communities prepare for increased climate risk in ways that allow a quicker, safer return to normalcy after an event, but also an ability to thrive going forward. A central goal is ensuring that development, land use strategies and infrastructure investments **not only make communities less vulnerable, but also strengthen cities overall, enhancing environmental performance, economic opportunity and social cohesion.** Through careful land use planning, wise investment in infrastructure, and smart building design, we can protect the value we've created in our cities and be more robust when facing adverse events.>>

Limited reference on this page to mitigation (reducing GHG emissions), other than "enhancing environmental performance" as noted above.

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: ULI's mission and purview are similar to CNU, but with more aggressive and wider global reach. The Urban Resilience Program is for the Americas. Katharine Burgess, the Director of Urban Resilience who will be speaking at our summit in Alexandria, was important to the CNU's work on the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans, and has many CNU connections.

Dan Slone was another CNU luminary on the expert speaker list for ULI's 2015 [Resilient Cities Summit](#).

ULI partners with the National League of Cities in the [Rose Center for Public Leadership in Land Use](#). CNU can invite mayors and others from this program to speak at our Congresses and Councils.

[Climate and Energy](#) page suggests that research may be nascent; may be opportunities for CNT, NEMAC, Architecture 2030, Urban Footprint, and others to partner.

[Planning & Design](#) research is more established.

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

Habitat III

An excellent overview of Habitat III is in the Huffington Post [here](#), written by attendees from the University of Melbourne. There were 36,000 participants, with a large youth contingent.

"Although Habitat IV will not take place until 2036, a four-yearly review process has been agreed upon, building on the biannual [World Urban Forum](#)."

The 24-page Habitat III New Urban Agenda Draft (adopted Oct 2016) is [here](#).

<http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/Habitat-III-New-Urban-Agenda-10-September-2016.pdf>

Numerous prominent New Urbanists were involved in this effort, including Michael Mehaffy, Joanna Alimanestianu, and Hank Dittmar. The Agenda is lengthy (compared to the CNU Charter and Canons), aspirational, detailed, and comprehensive.

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: The Agenda provides leadership and framework as well as raw material (e.g., language) for any efforts CNU might undertake. Sprinkled throughout are references to initiatives and resources to implement the Agenda. Excerpts:

QUITO DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOR ALL

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives, have gathered at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, with the participation of sub-national and local governments, parliamentarians, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, professionals and practitioners, the scientific and academic community, and other relevant stakeholders, to adopt a New Urban Agenda.

....

PLANNING AND MANAGING URBAN SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT...

93. We acknowledge the principles and strategies for urban and territorial planning contained in the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its 25th session in April 2015.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION...

143. We support access to different multilateral funds, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Investment Funds, among others, to secure resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, policies, programmes, and actions for sub-national and local governments, within the framework of agreed procedures. We will collaborate with sub-national and local financial institutions, as appropriate, to develop climate finance infrastructure solutions and to create appropriate mechanisms to identify catalytic financial instruments, consistent with any national framework in place to ensure fiscal and debt sustainability at all levels of government.

[M-GW] [A/R] [PD]

Perkins + Will, Global Resilience

<http://perkinswill.com/>

Net zero architecture. Work shown on the website is primarily large single buildings and campuses.

<http://perkinswill.com/purpose/sustainability>

<< Sustainable Communities

Our practice is active in the pursuit of sustainability at all scales. In order to achieve true sustainability, it must be addressed as a holistic system and at a community scale. Our Urban Design practice is pioneering the latest thinking in vibrant, sustainable cities and [health districts](#). We engage communities in the design and development of urban frameworks that restore and sustain the environment, also integral to our client's goals.>>

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: The Perkins+Will goals stated above may be met by utilizing some of the neighborhood and regional design tools and expertise of CNU. See the Health Districts link above for their initiative linking hospitals with their neighborhoods. Good idea and something CNU also does well.

<< The key to the La Crosse plan, however, was in the transitional zone between the medical campus and the neighborhood. An 80-foot wide state route and parking lots separated the two. This area was selected, at community meetings, as the target area for the "mixed-use catalyst development." Our market study demonstrated such development to be economically feasible with the use of affordable housing tax

credits—an ideal rental option for medical support staff who would like to walk to work. It would also include a small café / restaurant: no more deliveries crowding up the hospital drop-off at lunch-time! >>

[M-GW] [A/R] [D] [PD]

Calthorpe Analytics, Urban Footprint

<http://calthorpeanalytics.com/>

“Calthorpe Analytics is a software and urban modeling company founded on 30 years of global leadership in metropolitan planning and analysis. We've taken our legacy and combined it with cutting edge technology to create a set of tools and methods designed to address today's critical confluence of data, technological, and social change.” ...

“Our UrbanFootprint and RapidFire platforms facilitate data management, scenario development, and powerful analytics. We are building tools that test existing conditions and alternative land use and policy futures for impacts on a range of critical indicators, including carbon emissions, travel behavior, energy and water use, fiscal impacts, public health impacts, and land conservation. “

Case study:

“Sonoma County wants to understand how land use patterns impact critical conservation, carbon, energy, and health challenges.

“We are working with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the county’s Regional Climate Protection Agency to set up and deploy the UrbanFootprint platform for a multi-agency scenario development and analysis process. Sonoma is keenly interested in the intersection between land conservation, urban development, and climate impacts and wants to inform county-wide conservation, climate action, and energy and water resource planning with a comprehensive view of the impacts of land development and preservation choices.

“UrbanFootprint’s modeling capability will also be enhanced in this process to include more robust measurement of ecosystem services, habitat, carbon sequestration, and other key conservation metrics.”

SYNTHESIS OPPORTUNITIES: Peter Calthorpe as a founder of CNU, with continued interaction with Congresses, is certainly on the cutting edge in planning and implementing sustainable regional development patterns and walkable mixed-use communities. However, CNU members may not be aware of the Analytics as tools to quantify how New Urbanism can mitigate global warming, meet carbon targets, and adapt to climate change impacts.

New Urbanists can also contribute to the development of the open source Urban Footprint, as described [here](#).

<http://calthorpeanalytics.com/index.html> - software