

SSDN STRATEGIC PLAN

2019



Our Core Values

Collaboration
Authentic Relationships
Transformation
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Collaboration is the way we operate and fosters integration of core values into our work. It allows us to strengthen the network and our communities.

We value **authentic relationships** that are predicated on shared experiences that develop trust, honesty, and integrity.

We support innovative efforts to enable **transformation** of the region into one that is sustainable and equitable.

We value **diversity** of perspectives, backgrounds, and knowledge as they strengthen our network and the field.

We put **equity** at the forefront of our work, and align our policies, practices, and resources so that all people have genuine opportunities to thrive.

We create an **inclusive** environment in which everyone feels valued and respected and is invited to participate.



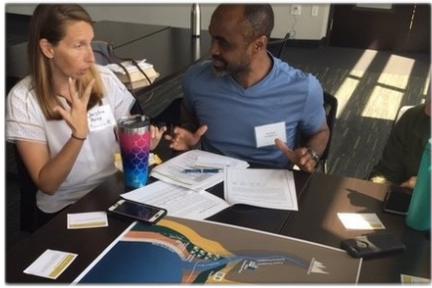
Southeast Sustainability Directors Network

The Southeastern U.S. is no different than the rest of the world when it comes to dealing with the problems associated with climate change. Extreme heat, rising seas, strengthening storms, flooding, drought and crop loss are just some of the challenges we face. Our regional network addresses these problems through sustainability efforts: work that creates a healthy, clean, and more stable environment for current and future generations. We connect local government sustainability professionals throughout the region to accelerate and scale implementation of best practices, so that communities are equipped to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Our Vision, Mission and Theory of Change

Vision: Local governments are continually integrating and institutionalizing sustainability best practices throughout all towns, cities, and counties in the Southeast.

Mission: We exists to accelerate and scale implementation of local government sustainability best practices through a member-driven network of professionals who collaborate to solve problems, innovate to create equitable solutions, and influence decision-makers.



Our Desired Impact

We want the Southeast to be a more sustainable region, and we believe that we will be successful when:

More communities have **increased knowledge of and access** to sustainability best practices.

There is **widespread adoption** of sustainability policies.

Practitioners **implement and adapt** sustainability best practices with greater consistency and ease.

The **field of sustainability evolves** and **matures** across the entire region.

Our network is recognized as a **national leader in sustainability field building** through exemplary management, operations, and financial health.

Images: SSDN members come together at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Nashville (page 1); Christina Perez (Dunedin) and Edwin Revell (Birmingham) strategize resilience planning (above); SSDN members listen to Nashville's mayor (right).

Theory of Change: When networks of professionals are equipped with knowledge and skills and supported to collaboratively learn and experiment, they can accelerate the field of practice toward scaled implementation and integration of sustainability in all communities across the Southeast.

Our Goals and Outcomes

Grow the Field: More communities commit to implementing sustainable solutions for all.

Outcome: Municipal leaders have a pathway for advancing sustainability with access to support and resources.

Build Capacity: Sustainability leaders have the capacity to implement sustainability best practices in their communities.

Outcome: We recognize local needs and customize capacity building tracks for members at all levels of their sustainability journey.

Align Practitioners: Members collaborate to develop solutions to scale sustainability best practices.

Outcome: Sustainability practitioners build trusting relationships with one another and have access to shared best practices and regional implementation examples.

Maintain a Strong Network: We are a vehicle of change through building and maintaining a thriving organization rooted in the network model.

Outcome: Our foundational structure is built on our core values and will build sustainability solutions for all in the Southeast.

Special thanks to our funders for their support of this plan: [Energy Foundation](#), [The Kendeda Fund](#) and to [Global Philanthropy Partnership](#) (SSDN's fiscal agent).

