



Sustainable Twin Ports announces:

Level 3: Practices in Sustainability

Call for Applications

2010 training in The Natural Step framework for Sustainability

Sustainable Twin Ports invites organizational applications for the next round of training in sustainability principles and strategic action planning, scheduled for March – October 2010. Entities of any size or makeup are welcome to apply, including but not limited to municipal units of government, businesses, community groups, educational institutions, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

This annual training cohort of local organizations committed to implementing sustainable practices began in 2008 with a pilot training, the Early Adopter Project, using The Natural Step framework for sustainability. Information about the background and outcome of that training is available at www.sustainabletwinports.org/earlyadopt.htm.

Submission instructions are on the application form. Details for the 2010 Level 3: Practices in Sustainability training are:

Timeline for Application:

- December 4, 2009 Applications due electronically (no paper applications will be accepted)
- January 4, 2010 Selected applicants announced
- February 8, 2010 Signed Memorandum of Agreement and training fee due
- March 11, 2010 Training begins

Criteria for Selection:

- Demonstrated leadership in the Twin Ports community
- Commitment to implementing sustainable practices
- Collectively, the 2010 cohort will represent the broad Twin Ports community

Training Fee:

- Each organization will be invoiced upon selection for \$3,500 for their team of two-to-five members. This fee is due on February 8, 2010, along with a signed Memorandum of Agreement committing to the training agenda.

Benefits of Participation:

- Participation in a comprehensive sustainability training and planning program for two-to-five staff;
- Ongoing expert support and coaching in developing a sustainability action plan;
- Participation in a sustainability learning network with representatives of other local organizations;
- Social capital built among employees, other community stakeholders, and citizens by participating in the program and sharing a common language for sustainability;
- Ability of participating organizations to market their sustainable achievements;
- The satisfaction of doing well while doing good;
- Benefits reported by previous training participants include: reduced energy costs, reduced carbon emissions, improved use of strategy in decision making, access to tools and resources for measuring impact, improved energy efficiency, improved public relations/image, improved internal communication relative to organizational sustainability, access to global network of sustainability practices/policies/case studies, and strengthened networking relationships between cohort organizations resulting in synergistic opportunities for moving toward sustainability.

Training Calendar:

All training sessions are scheduled on the second Thursday of the month. The introductory session is two full days and includes an optional evening session on Thursday. All subsequent training sessions are half-days, from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

- March 11 – 12 Introductory session
- April 8 Half-day session
- May 13 Half-day session
- June 10 Half-day session
- July 8 Half-day session
- August 12 Half-day session
- September 9 Half-day session
- October 14 Final public showcase/outreach

Time Commitment:

Training sessions represent approximately 45 hours. Team working sessions between trainings will require approximately the same amount of time as the training sessions. Total time commitment is estimated at 90 hours per team member over 7 months.

Team Commitment:

Members of each team are committing to being ‘pioneers’ in creating an implementable, sustainability action plan for their organization. They will be researching, visioning, planning and championing their plans and will need upper-level support to implement these sustainability strategies at an organizational level.

Team members commit to:

- Attending all scheduled training sessions;
- Learning about The Natural Step Framework and implementing it in their organizations;
- Completing team assignments between training sessions, estimated to require four hours per month;
- Documenting their sustainability action plan and its implementation;
- Sharing this information with other participating organizations and the broader community.

Participating Organization Commitment:

Selected organizations commit to:

- Signing the Memorandum of Agreement and paying the training fee in full by the deadline;
- Establishing a team of two-to-five people within their staff;
- Having senior management attend an introductory session;
- Committing the time for all team members to attend all training sessions to the fullest extent possible, and time for completing team assignments;
- Playing a leadership role in the community with respect to sustainability following completion of training;
- Implementing the action plan created as a result of the training;
- Participating with other trainee organizations in community outreach to promote the lessons, stories and benefits of their experiences with sustainability, with a goal of creating a culture of sustainability in the Twin Ports.

Training Organization Commitment:

Sustainable Twin Ports, as training provider, commits to:

- Providing comprehensive sustainability training and strategic action planning for up to five staff;
- Ongoing support and coaching in developing a sustainability action plan for the duration of the training;
- Arranging and organizing opportunities to learn and share information;
- Including training participant organizations in public outreach opportunities, media opportunities, and case study dissemination via The Natural Step network and other sustainability forums.