

Big Ideas

Ten Big Ideas for Washington's Future

APA Washington Chapter – October, 2014

What has happened?

Since 2011, Washington & Oregon working on ways to act locally on global challenges:

- Game Changing Initiative symposium, Oct. 2011
- Game Changing Action Agenda, February 2012
- Daniel Burnham Big Ideas Forum, May 2013
- WA member survey, October 2013

Our Future??

In Phoenix, a desert city well accustomed to blistering summer temperatures, record highs were set three days last week. Wednesday hit 116. This weekend, the thermometer is expected to hit around 113.

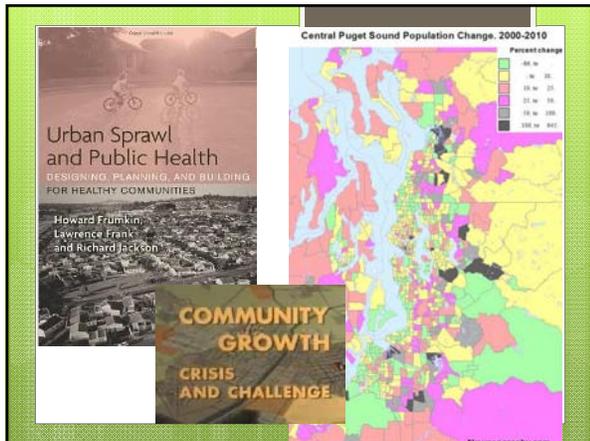
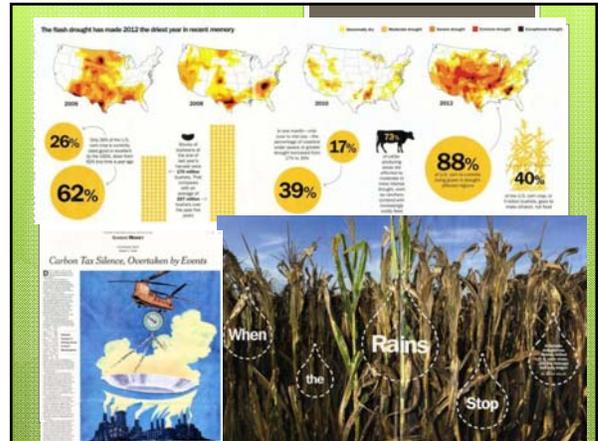
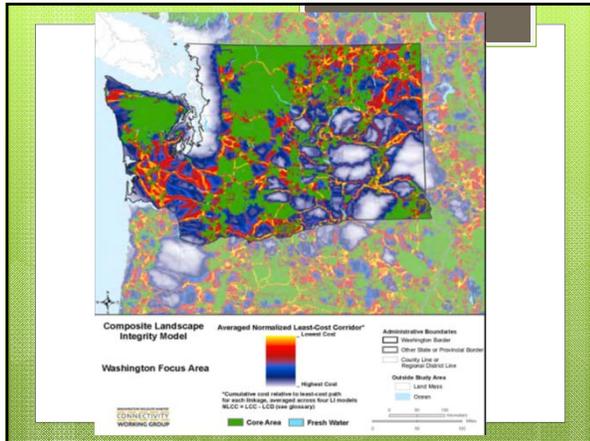
The Cost of Cool

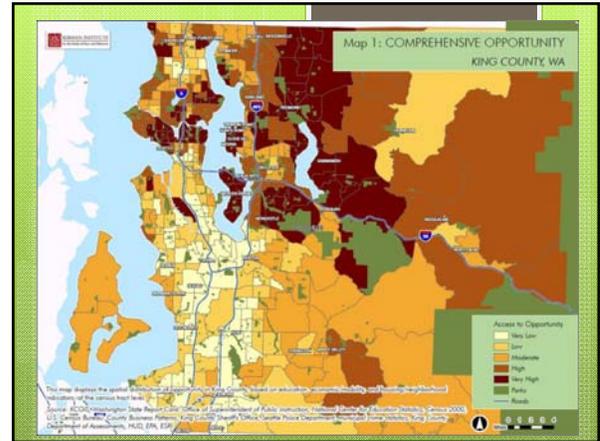
The air conditioning industry is a \$100-billion-a-year business, and it's growing. In 2008, the industry spent \$1.5 billion on advertising and promotion, according to the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI). The industry is also a major consumer of energy, and its growth is contributing to global warming. The industry is also a major consumer of water, and its growth is contributing to water scarcity. The industry is also a major consumer of ozone-depleting substances, and its growth is contributing to ozone depletion. The industry is also a major consumer of greenhouse gases, and its growth is contributing to climate change. The industry is also a major consumer of land, and its growth is contributing to land loss. The industry is also a major consumer of resources, and its growth is contributing to resource depletion. The industry is also a major consumer of time, and its growth is contributing to time loss. The industry is also a major consumer of space, and its growth is contributing to space loss. The industry is also a major consumer of energy, and its growth is contributing to energy loss. The industry is also a major consumer of water, and its growth is contributing to water loss. The industry is also a major consumer of ozone-depleting substances, and its growth is contributing to ozone loss. The industry is also a major consumer of greenhouse gases, and its growth is contributing to global warming. The industry is also a major consumer of land, and its growth is contributing to land loss. The industry is also a major consumer of resources, and its growth is contributing to resource depletion. The industry is also a major consumer of time, and its growth is contributing to time loss. The industry is also a major consumer of space, and its growth is contributing to space loss.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2009

State of Emergency in Washington State.....Record Rains, Flooding and Snow Melts, Mudslides and Avalanches...

*** Chehalis River Flooding***





What's this about?

Acting locally on Global Challenges, such as:

- The recession & changing economy
- Increasing economic & social inequities
- Accelerating degradation natural resources
- Global climate change



Big Ideas – about what?

- Address Climate Change
- Restore and Protect Eco-systems
- Infuse Health into Planning
- Support Economic Development
- Foster Social Equity
- Support Sustainable Ag and Healthy Food Systems
- Rebuild Infrastructure
- Build Social Capital
- Enhance Regional Decision-making
- Increase Local Government Capacity

Address Climate Change

– Lyn Keenan

- Global Climate Change is the overriding issue of our time.
- Need to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation) and prepare for a changing climate (adaptation).
- Local actions can make a difference.
- The sooner we address these issues, the easier it will be for our communities to successfully adapt

Climate Change: Outcomes

- Adaptation and Smart Growth Strategies (Report)
- Water Resources Overlays for Comp Plans
- Preserving Development Rights (Tools)
- On-going Regional Collaboration - ULI, NOAA, FEMA

Restore & Protect Eco-Systems

– Laura Hudson

- Difficult for our local plans to value and preserve the function of natural systems and also protect property rights.
- Environmental goals and regulations are in uncoordinated 'silos'.
- Need to recognize broader ecosystems and define the value of the services they provide.
- Climate change will reduce suitable habitat for many species and cause more extinctions.

Restore and Protect Eco-Systems: Outcomes

- Recognition of the value of natural systems and the services they provide.
- Statewide assessment of existing habitats and prioritizing critical ones for preservation and improving connectivity.
- Cooperative planning among local jurisdictions to plan to protect critical habitats and improve connectivity.
- Revision of environmental laws and administrative systems to improve both protection and development approval processes.

Infuse Health Into Planning

– Julie Bassuk

- Chronic diseases are the most significant, rapidly growing health epidemics of our time.
- Land use and design can help increase physical activity and healthy eating, and improve other aspects of physical and mental health.
- Many jurisdictions lack a policy framework for this work.
- Planners need a compelling way to start the conversation and build support with decision-makers.
- Interested planners can be easily overwhelmed with the amount of information available.

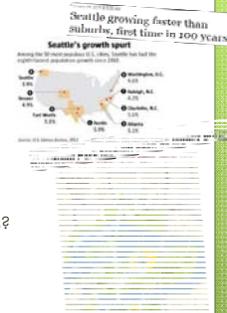
Infuse Health Into Planning: Outcomes

- Policy framework, to provide a strong rationale for planners to incorporate this as a best professional practice
- Messaging toolbox, to help planners start the conversation and build support for this work
- Resource guides, to help planners get started infusing health into planning

Economic Development

– Mark Goodman

- Washington still recovering from severe recession with on-going concerns about income inequality and gentrification.
- Evolving housing demand and consumer behavior resulting in changes in development patterns.
- How can planners and allied professionals work together to empower local economic initiatives?
- Enable communities to attract and retain family-wage employers, visitors, and residents.



Support Economic Development: Outcomes

Economic development guide: *Empower sustainable economic development and incentivize local business growth*

- Strengthening peer and community support networks for businesses
- Revitalization of empty storefronts and commercial centers
- Comprehensive plans and the Economic Development Element
- Alignment of regulations with needs of modern users and new typologies
- Business Recruitment for Planners: Visioning and place making as tools for recruitment

Foster Social Equity

– Rachel Miller

- Displacement of families and small businesses is an unintended consequence that often comes alongside growth and improvement.
- Providing affordable housing is a challenge for many Washington communities.
- Meaningful public engagement with minority & disadvantaged groups is increasingly needed.

Foster Social Equity: Outcomes

- Inclusionary Zoning Toolkit
- Social Equity Research Packet
- Des Moines Comprehensive Plan social equity public engagement project with UW students
- APA WA awards criteria for meaningful engagement
- APA 2015 mobile workshop on equitable development

Sustainable Ag & Healthy Food Systems – Kara Martin

- Despite GMA, prime agricultural land is being lost.
- Additional challenges: increasing cost of land, aging farmers, climate change, lack of farming infrastructure
- Ensuring that healthy food is accessible to all our communities is also a challenge

Sustainable Ag & Healthy Food Systems: Outcomes

- Developed guiding definitions
- Reporting on GMA impact on farmland
 - Part 1 – synthesis of existing reports (finished)
 - Part 2 – county-level analysis
- Mobile tour “ Farm to Kitchen: Sustainable Agricultural Policies in the Northwest” at National APA Conference
- Developing resource directory

Rebuild Infrastructure

– Rhys Roth

- In Washington, we face a growing 'infrastructure deficit' -- costs to repair and restore aging facilities and handle growth (sewers, water, roads, bridges, etc.) outstripping funding.
- Innovation is needed – and opportunities abound with a wide range of smart, distributed, and clean technologies now available.
- Long term investments in infrastructure need to consider long term issues like climate change. □

Rebuild Infrastructure: Outcomes

- Produce a practical toolkit or checklist that helps planners to proactively encourage smart, affordable, resilient and sustainable infrastructure systems, including:
 - transportation systems,
 - electric and natural gas utility facilities,
 - water, sewer, & stormwater and
 - waste collection, recycling & disposal systems.

Build Social Capital

– John Owen

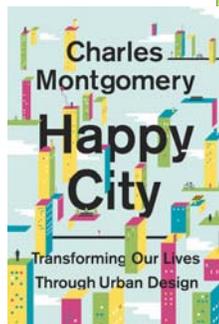
Social Capital: The collective value of social networks and the resulting inclinations to do things for each other

- Effective democratic governance depends on “social capital” - the connections among individuals and social networks.
- Planners can play a big role in fostering the social capital that will facilitate more effective and inclusive governance.



Build Social Capital: Outcomes

- Support Futurewise *Happy City Lab* event
- Conduct follow-up effort related enhancing social capital through planning activities.
- Evaluate the event and follow-up effort



Regional Decision-making & Local Government Capacity

– Yonn Dierwechter / Jill Sterrett

- Pressing planning challenges at regional scale - need for regionally based strategies
- Many local governments lack the internal or financial capacity for planning - State financial support and revenue sources diminishing.
- Current structure inadequate or poorly aligned with the problems
- How to align or collaborate?

Regional Decision-making & Local Capacity: Outcomes

- UW Tacoma class conducting research on existing regional decision-making structures
- Symposium planned for regional leaders & local government leaders early in 2015
- Symposium recommendations may include recommendations for regional actions, local collaboration, funding, and legislative proposals

Today's Discussion

- Choose one or two of the 10 ideas
 - Discuss issues & outcomes
 - Review outlines or draft products
 - Share ideas to expand or improve the products
- SCHEDULE**
- 2:00 Intro & Overview
 - 2:30 Table Discussions
 - 3:10 Q & A
 - 3:20 What's Next?
 - 3:30 Close

What's Next?

- Groups will continue working on products
 - Products released in March 2015 or sooner – posted on APA website
 - Proposed "deep dive" session at April 2015 national conference
- VOLUNTEER TO HELP!**
- Sign up to participate or review products
 - Provide your business card to the discussion leader at your table

Where do we go from here?

