



Milo Mumgaard, assistant to the Mayor of Lincoln, demonstrates the use of EcoSTEP® at JISC's Sustainability Leadership workshop

UN recognizes JISC initiatives as International Best Practice

The Joslyn Institute's activities in the Omaha and Lincoln corridor has been selected as a best practice by the Dubai International Award for Best Practices (DIABP), an award program jointly administered by UN-Habitat and Dubai Municipality. The cities of Omaha and Lincoln nominated JISC for its work on enhancing environmental decision-making capacity in the region.

Utilizing twin strategies of outreach and demonstration, JISC's three primary objectives in the region include the following:

- expand capacity to respond to regional growth/depoulation challenges through the use of information in decision making, research, and improved access and participation;
- develop a framework to measure progress toward a sustainable condition, and;
- expand engagement from region to state-wide, national and international audiences, training decision

makers and community leaders on use of the sustainability framework for regional planning, design, and administration.

JISC has expanded its outreach from an initial regional focus to state, national, and international activities. The publication of *Sustainometrics: Measuring Sustainability* (2011), and its translation into the Chinese language, illustrates the transferability of this suite of tools and strategies to an international context. (See right-hand column for more information on the book.)

More than 800 civic and community leaders throughout the state of Nebraska have participated in JISC training, capacity-building, and networking. These emphasize holistic land use planning, open space conservation, regional resource planning, and urban/rural linkages.

The DIABP award was established in 1995 during the United Nations International Conference that convened in Dubai to support transfer and exchange of knowledge

and expertise through peer-to-peer learning and networking. Of the 350+ submissions from around the world, JISC's is among 48 Best Practices that were shortlisted for recognition by this competitive award program.

The Award reflects the continuing policy and commitment of the Dubai Government and the United Arab Emirates towards sustainable development of human settlements on the basis of mutual international cooperation. The award is administered jointly with UN-HABITAT. To date, nearly 4,000 practices from 140 countries have been collected and documented. These are managed and disseminated via the Best Practices Database and are classified into one of four categories—Award Winners, Best Practices, Good Practices or Promising Practices. JISC is being recognized for Best Practices.

For a listing of the award winners visit the UN-Habitat [website](http://www.unhabitat.org). Look for JISC's submission in the database of UN-Habitat Best Practices later this year.

Farmers, ranchers must sign up for EQIP funds by Feb. 15

As farmers and ranchers across Nebraska begin thinking about the upcoming growing season, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reminds farmers and ranchers that now is the time to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Those interested in EQIP are encouraged to sign up before Feb. 15, 2013.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available to private landowners and operators. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help with

conservation practices on agricultural land.

EQIP has become the most widely applied conservation program in Nebraska with more than 7.7 million acres under contract. The goal of EQIP is to provide a financial incentive to encourage landowners to protect their natural resources, resulting in cleaner air, water and more wildlife habitat.

"EQIP provides a good option for working lands. These contracts protect natural resources on land still in production and generating income.

That's a win-win situation for all Nebraskans," Derickson said.

Individuals interested in entering into an EQIP agreement may file an application at any time, but the ranking of applications on hand to receive funding will begin Feb. 15, 2013. Producers are encouraged to sign up soon since all funding for EQIP in Nebraska could potentially be obligated by April 1, 2013. For more information about EQIP and the other available conservation programs visit your local NRCS field office or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

NPPD Sandhills transmission line subject of open houses

Nebraska Public Power District will invite the public to participate in a series of open houses to solicit feedback on a prospective route for the proposed 260-mile transmission line stretching from the Sandhills and into northeastern Nebraska. The line, dubbed the

R-Project, will be erected to mitigate congestion along existing lines and to enhance the overall reliability of the transmission system. The R-Project will also facilitate greater opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Locations and dates of the public

informational sessions follow: Tyron, January 14; Hershey, January 15; Halsey, January 16; Mullen, January 17; Chambers, January 21, and; Ainsworth, January 22.

Visit NPPD's [website](http://www.nppd.com) for exact locations and times.

ERRATUM

Due to ongoing negotiations with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the recent announcement regarding Joslyn Institute receiving the Net Zero Waste grant award is premature. The program is under consideration for the 2013 Waste Reduction grant cycle.

Guangdong partnership being explored

Professionals and faculty members connected with Guangdong University of Technology are currently negotiating a private business enterprise to open a Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities in Guangzhou. The intent is to promote and conduct sustainable development projects with both public and private interests in the Pearl River Delta region. Agreements and negotiations are under way and may be consummated sometime late this spring. More information as it develops will be published in our newsletter.



Sustainometrics to have Chinese edition in 2013

Sustainometrics: Measuring Sustainability, an essential guide for urban planners and administrators, will be published in a Chinese edition this year. The book, by W. Cecil Steward and Sharon S. Baum Kuska, also is being used in classes at the University of California. More information on the book and how to order it:

<http://www.ecospheres.com/sustainometrics.html>

City of Omaha launches online forum to engage the public

Have ideas about how to make Omaha a better community? Share your priorities and help set a 2013 agenda for the City of Omaha by submitting those ideas and voting on those generated by others on www.engageomaha.com.



Need to change your contact information?

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