



## We All Must Summon Courage, Commitment to Sustainability

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**H**ave you noticed all the unsustainable effects on communities—in just two months?

The hurricanes, the earthquakes, the fires, the melting of the polar ice caps and the melting of the sub-polar permafrost geography, rising sea levels and flooding, the migration of growing seasons from south to north, and extreme deadly heat conditions in India! (Indian social-scientists are predicting that there will need to be 700 million window air-conditioners installed in India by 2030, and 1.6 billion by 2050 for the population of India to survive the new heat-waves).

Think about the consequential interactive, unsustainable affects between people, energy, environment, and air emissions!!

And on the geo-political front, the number and location of terrorist attacks, the serious threat of a nuclear war, trade wars with China and other nations, and mass human migrations of thousands of people to escape religious and tribal persecutions!

And, the potential for America to become, not a nation of immigrants, but a nation of immigrant descendants who have lost their values for cultural heritages.

How can communities, the public and their leaders, plan for resilience first, and secondly for longer term sustainability in the midst of this turmoil? Who will lead? What tools will be available to them? What resources can they depend upon? How can we distribute the burden in equitable and just ways? And, how will we know we are making sustainable or unsustainable decisions?

How can this country, or any other nation, afford the cost of recovery from such human-made disasters? (In the natural world these are not “natural disasters” —nature is behaving as it has for hundreds of thousands of years).

Humans have likely caused acceleration of these natural events. Should all of us (through a federal government) pay for all the mistakes of poor—or no—planning for local development in unsustainable places?

Houston (and previously New Orleans) is the city now in question, where planning and zoning regulations have been eschewed for more than 70 years – with local pride in their “no planning” distinction.

In the path of these natural events what has happened to the small and mid-size communities? Almost all of the national media attention has focused primarily on the urban and metropolitan places, but St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, could be the poster child for the small and mid-size communities.

**We will only succeed using responsible expertise, new strategies, new tools, and a shared value of conservation over extraction, waste, and consumption.**

In the July 2017 issue of *Land Lines*, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy stated that “strong local leadership, a shared community vision, inclusive growth, creative problem solving, cross-sector collaboration, and placemaking are all important ingredients for success in (revitalizing) America’s smaller legacy cities.”

However, all of these process objectives will only succeed with knowledge, responsible expertise, new strategies, resources, new tools, and a shared value of conservation over extraction, waste, and consumption.

We all who have connections to the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities and our networks of colleagues should have the desire, the commitment, and the courage to be the ministers of this message for future, sustainable, prosperous, integrated, democratic, and safe small and mid-size communities.

**Please spread the word!**

Recent related links:

[Melting Permafrost could bring new Viruses](#)

[Permafrost Craters in Siberia](#)

[Hardest hit areas in Florida from Hurricane Irma](#)

[12 Worst Places to Live in the U.S.](#)



Registration ends today

### Local Foods for Local Tables Symposium

The Local Foods for Local Tables Symposium, a daylong event, will focus on Omaha’s food community and locally grown foods. The event takes place Oct. 28 at the Metropolitan Community College Swanson Conference Center, 5300 N. 30th St.

Among the topics covered during town hall and roundtable discussions: urban agriculture policies; agricultural education; food access and equity; environmental quality; and urban agriculture as an economic driver.

Ken Meter, a food system analyst, will deliver the keynote address.

The free event, including a local foods lunch, is open to the public, and registration is open until Oct. 10. [Click here](#) for information and to register.



### 2017–18 SLPS Season Begins; Benjamin Vogt to Headline Next Webcast

The 2017–18 Sustainability Leadership Presentation Series (SLPS) is under way, featuring a new partner and six compelling programs.

The next SLPS webcast will be *A New Garden Ethic: Cultivating Defiant Compassion for an Uncertain Future* with Benjamin Vogt, at 3:30 pm, Thursday, November 2.

SLPS programs feature experts on sustainability, energy, and the environment and how they apply to the lives of individuals. The programs are webcast live on the first Thursday of each month during the school calendar year. These programs are free and open to the public.

The Student Environmental Action Coalition at Hastings College is a new SLPS partner. Others include The Center for Urban Sustainability at the University of Nebraska–Omaha, Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Environmental Studies department at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and Nebraska Recycling Council as a presenting partner. Each SLPS will live streamed, so people across the state – and around the world – can watch the webcast in real time.

[Click here](#) for more information.



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