

Creating Partnerships between Universities and Local Governments for Sustainability Goals and Societal Benefits

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Creating Partnerships

- ❖ What is a Partnership?
 - An agreement entered into by 2 or more parties for the MUTUAL BENEFIT of all
- ❖ Why is a local government - university partnership better than a business partnership?
 - Both parties receive more than a monetary benefit from the partnership
 - Gives students real world exposure and project experience in a municipal setting
 - Harnesses the collective curiosity, intellect, energy, creativity, and research skill set of university students under the direction of faculty members
 - Establishes potentially long-term professional connections, societal activities, and project collaborations between government officials and university faculty, staff and students

Partnership Networks



<https://www.epicn.org>



[https://www.usf.edu/
engagement/cspp/](https://www.usf.edu/engagement/cspp/)

- ❖ Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N)
 - International network to facilitate community and university partnerships
 - Leverages student innovation and faculty expertise to foster more sustainable cities

- ❖ Community Sustainability Partnership Program - USF
 - “We look at the program to be mutually beneficial, not only for the community but for our students to get real world experience. When we have a win-win situation, it is good for all” *Mazi Ferguson, CSPP Program Manager*
 - Links local government projects in the Tampa Bay area with interdisciplinary college programs at USF

USF Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships

Case Study: City of Dunedin, Florida



- ❖ 14 projects proposed
 - 7 projects completed
 - Projects completed across multiple colleges within USF system

- ❖ Projects completed
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Best Practices in Affordable Housing
 - Community Engagement (Outreach)
 - SR 580 Corridor Planning
 - Solar Energy Leadership
 - Carbon Footprint
 - Historic Preservation

Case Study: City of Dunedin, Florida



- ❖ **Solar Energy Leadership Project (Spring 2018)**
 - Goal of the project was to determine if public buildings in the City of Dunedin could go 100% renewable energy through applied solar power technologies
 - Teams of graduate students from the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS) worked with local energy experts, city officials, and university professors to create a city funded net zero solar feasibility study
 - Outcomes:
 - Signed Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign
 - Include solar energy technology installation in future government building planning
 - Amendment to green building code to incentivize use of solar energy technology
 - Future retrofitting Dunedin Community Center with solar energy systems

Partnership Benefits for the University

- ❖ Students
 - Gain hands-on, real life experience
 - Learn dynamics of working with local governments
 - Opportunity to interact and network with local government officials in their field
- ❖ Faculty
 - Ability to develop new or expand current research projects
 - Chance to test new service learning methods within a limited scope
 - Educate a wider audience
- ❖ University
 - Expand name recognition, expertise and goodwill
 - Foster positive working relationships with key government officials

Partnership Benefits for Local Governments

- ❖ Project Development and Management
 - Move to forefront projects that have been put on the back burner
 - Increased staffing to complete or accelerate project timeline
 - Foster innovative ideas and applications
- ❖ Department
 - Complete outstanding projects
 - Provide leadership and direction to students
 - Combine resources of government and university entities
- ❖ Local Government
 - Provided consultation services and reports at a fraction of the cost
 - Increase sustainable projects in the city
 - Work with the next generation of sustainability and project management professionals

Moving Forward

What to consider when initiating a Government- University Partnership Program

- ❖ Municipality
 - Determine the Purpose of the Projects
 - What are your Project Objectives?
 - What are your Desired Outcomes?
 - Do you have Resources to fund it?
 - How will the Engagement Process work?
 - What are the Expected Deliverables?

- ❖ University
 - What Administrative Unit would house a Community Partnership Program?
 - Are there Academic Departments who may be interested in service learning and civic engagement?
 - What courses and/or professors would be appropriate for partnership projects?

For Further Information Contact

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