



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: CORE TEAM UPDATE

Champions: Tim Houle, Dan Frank, Phil Hunsicker, Molly Zins, Stacey Stockdill, Deanna Hemmesch, Cheryal Hills, Tad Erickson, Melissa Rademacher, Bob McLean.

Date: From October 14, 2014 to January 13, 2015

FUNDING:

See attached Investment Calculation – Over \$31 Million Dollars leveraged to Date

Upcoming opportunities with Northwest Area Foundation for local food and Distributed Leadership Model evaluation & project support for Local Food Value Chain and with MN Power and USDA on energy related projects.

Policy:

Bike and Car Sharing paper from William Mitchell School of Law. Please see attached.

Soon to be published:

The *Local Foods Planning and Zoning: Understanding Challenges and Best Practices* student research project was led by SPROUT MN Food Hub, the Region Five Development Commission and the University of Minnesota Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Funded by the Initiative Foundation and the University of Minnesota Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, the student research was sponsored through the University of Minnesota Community Assistantship Program (CAP). The research report identifies: challenges local foods producers are facing in rural Minnesota as a result of zoning ordinances; planning and zoning best practices that have been used to support or promote local foods in rural communities throughout the United States; and lessons learned among the communities that have successfully implemented ordinances which support local foods.

Champion Training: nothing new this quarter

Upcoming:

**Blandin Broadband Community – Recommendations from the Steering Committee
March Meeting agenda, Champions determine time (2-5, 3-6 or 4-7)
Consider idea for future Champions speakers for Theme deeper dives
TedX update**

OUTREACH/Presentations:

Arlene, Cheryal and partner Ellie Lucas invited to speak at an upcoming workshop, "Growing the Local / Regional Food System: Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development." This **event** is specifically designed for HUD Sustainable Communities grantees and EPA technical assistance recipients. The workshop, organized by the [Environmental Finance Center Network](#) and the [NADO Research Foundation](#) as part of the [National Sustainable Communities Learning Network](#), will take place on **February 18-19, 2015 in Louisville, KY.**



Growing the Local / Regional Food System: Strategies for Sustainable and Equitable Economic Development

Workshop for Sustainable Communities Grantees
February 18-19, 2015 | Louisville, KY



Sustainable Communities
Learning Network



Participants will come together to discuss strategies for growing the local and regional food system as a tool for building economic prosperity and creating healthy, inclusive communities. While the agenda is still under development, likely themes include: boosting local food manufacturing entrepreneurship, filling gaps in distribution networks and processing / storage infrastructure, gathering and using food system data, encouraging food businesses to locate in downtown or transit-accessible locations, increasing healthy food options in underserved areas, and creating food system jobs for low-income workers. The event will include opportunities for networking, as well as mobile tours to explore exciting food systems initiatives underway in Louisville.

Kansas Association of Regional Development Organizations –*Hills facilitated training in November 2014.*

Video's : All available at <http://www.resilientregion.org/testimonials/>

NADO Video – produced by the National Association of Development Organizations, Hills was interviewed about the Resilient Region project – coming out SOON. ☺

Broadband video – sponsored by NJPA for \$2.mill broadband grant application with CTC, WCTA and rest of Resilient Region Virtual Highway taskforce. Target audience: DEED. Featuring residents from our region making our case of need and capacity.

Choose Health video – sponsored by Hunger Free Minnesota for Choose Health program with Lakewood Health, SPROUT, Todd County Public Health, UofM Extension, EnSearch & R5DC. Target audience: anyone interested in replication. Featuring partners and participants of this program sharing process and value.