Transforming knowledge to practice

Cities
• Limited capacity
• Limited access to new knowledge
• Risk-averse

Universities
• Excess capacity
• Unlimited access to new knowledge
• Innovation-seeking

adapted from SCI, U of Oregon
Campus Community Sustainability Partnerships: A radically simply model

Connect existing faculty teaching existing courses with existing projects to real-world projects that address an individual community’s pressing social, economic, and environmental needs.
The Sage Project mission

• Students engage in meaningful, real-world projects and make positive contributions to a community in SDSU’s service area

• City gets creative ideas and resources that create momentum for stagnant projects
National impact:
The EPIC Network

• Founding member of Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC) Network
• Approximately 30 programs across the nation underway or in development adapting the University of Oregon’s original model
• The Sage Project serves as a resource for the Network and prospective members
Partnership:
City of National City (2013-14 and 2014-15)
Campus impact: Disciplines from every college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40,000+ hours of effort toward one community</th>
<th>2,000+ students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55 courses</td>
<td>35 faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 disciplines</td>
<td>18 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>1 univ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 city</td>
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Recipe for success

• Buy-in from city manager’s office and above
• Communication between city staff and council
• Understanding of city’s needs and what faculty and their courses can deliver
• City must have ‘skin in the game’
• University support
Benefits to cities

• Value add
• Expanded breadth of conversation
• Not consultants
• Sustainability overlay
• Increased community engagement
• Moving projects forward
• Energy

adapted from SCI, U of Oregon
Benefits to private sector

• Getting projects unstuck
• Educating future client on sustainability
• Tilling the soil for future projects
• Testing approaches
• Connecting with the university

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Our momentum: Positive press
Our momentum: Campus and community recognition

https://youtu.be/hKr5X6oDFLE
Yearly timeline

Nov – Feb: Request for Proposals / selection process
Mar – Apr: Match-making (faculty/courses/projects)
May – Jun: Contract
Jul – Aug: Course prep / communication plan
Aug - Aug: Courses / presentations / report writing cycle
April: Annual symposium

adapted from SCI, U of Oregon
Save the Date!

EPIC-N’s Sustainable City Year Conference in San Diego, CA

March 13-16, 2016
Thank you!

Contact:
Jessica Barlow, Director
The Sage Project
San Diego State University
619-594-3807
jessica.barlow@sdsu.edu