

Environmental Justice in the Local Communities 6/8/22

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- The iCAP states that we will develop a resilience plan; we know that there is general support and that we have connections to municipal staff but we are looking to go through the proper process (instead of just through informal/friendly connections) to develop and establish this.
- Rob: what need/void does this fill that is not currently being filled? There is a lot going on but how does this particular plan/effort fill in the gaps?
- Background context: We signed the Resilience Commitment in 2016; a task force developed a 2-page document outlining resiliency indicators but not a lot has been accomplished since
- ESG (environmental, social, and governance) is the corporate term but what does this mean locally and for our social environment? What does this mean for our community?
- Students are especially interested in environmental justice and what this means (e.g., food desert in Urbana). What is the role of the University? How can we be playing a part in this?
- We could go to the Sustainability Sub-Council about the Resilience Commitment and broaden the scope of the conversation beyond the Resilience Plan
- A great reason to set up the meeting is to understand what the municipalities are already doing. What is the appeal for the communities?
- Could this be a component of the Chancellor's Call to Action? We are teaming up with local law enforcement and also working with local entities to discuss procurement initiatives.
- How can we get to a point where something meaningful can be accomplished? What resources will be needed?
- iSEE leadership could meet with community leadership and perhaps this is a place to start, but we still need to address what the short and long terms goals are with these efforts and with the Resilience Plan?
- After we have a work plan, we could then involve in the mayors/city managers.
- A goal of the plan could be to address how could the students help the community and the cities?
- We know the leaders and staff from the cities, but the missing component is outlining what the role is of the university and what the cities can do? Everyone is busy and at limited capacity, but this still needs to be a collaborative effort.
- What are our short & long term goals in the community w/ regard to Resilience Initiative. Do we work with staff? We want buy-in from leaders, more than on a sheet of paper. They'd say we made a commitment; how would we achieve our commitment?
- **Next steps** – let's have another hour meeting with the four of us. In the meantime, Morgan, Stacy, and Meredith could develop a one-pager outlining the priorities of the plan, resources, action items, etc.
 - After we meet again, Bob could then pass this along to the appropriate leaders in the cities to move the process forward.
- On a side note, in the future it will be worth discussing how the university can support CEJA (Clean Energy Jobs Act) and workforce development in energy efficiency and renewables. Bob and Stacy will follow up on this at a later time.