

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**GREENING HISTORIC COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM
JUNE 15-16, 2011
HOTEL DU PONT, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

MEETING SYNOPSIS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the Agency) – specifically, the Agency’s Region 5 (Chicago), Region 2 (New York), and Region 3 (Philadelphia) offices – convened a Symposium on “Greening Historic Communities: What Works, What Doesn’t, and What Should Change?” at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware, on June 15 to 16, 2011. It was the second EPA Symposium of its kind, building off of the first one held in Indianapolis, Indiana, in January 2010. Exhibit 1 lists the planning committee partners of the June 2011 event.

The day-and-a-half symposium featured presentations and panel discussions that gathered a broad spectrum of experts from the field of green historic preservation. Group exercises also allowed participants to exchange ideas, share experiences, and make policy recommendations to overcome barriers at local and national levels. The event aimed to achieve the following three overarching goals:

Exhibit 1

Symposium Planning Committee Partners

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
 National Trust for Historic Preservation
 New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office
 The College of New Jersey Municipal Land Use Center
 Delaware State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 APEX Direct, Inc.
 Delaware Valley Green Building Council
 Goody Clancy
 U.S. National Park Service

1. Open communication and building collaboration
2. Identification of needed changes to local policies and processes
3. Identification of needed changes to national policies

The Symposium began with welcoming remarks from EPA Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin and City of Wilmington Mayor James Baker. Ms. Yolanda Bouchee, Symposium Coordinator and Historic Preservation Specialist from EPA Region 5, provided an overview of the event by describing the purpose and history of the Symposium, and how it fits into the goals of the federal interagency partnership between EPA, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Transportation.

The following individuals delivered keynote addresses on the specified topics during the Symposium:

- Mr. Kaid Benfield, Natural Resources Defense Council – “Defining Green Historic Communities”
- Mr. Donovan Rypkema, PlaceEconomics – “No Historic Preservation = No Sustainable Development”
- Delaware Governor Jack Markell – “Welcome to Delaware”
- Ms. Kristen Hughes, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy – “Sustainability and Climate Change”
- Mr. Steve Hammell, The Green Mountain Studio – “Sustainability and Climate Change”

Moderated panel discussions among subject matter experts focused on the following topics:

- Maintaining and Growing a Strong Sense of Place
- Sustainable Communities Technical Assistance Project - Concord, NH
- Green Historic Communities Start with High Performing Old Buildings
- What’s Working, What’s Not (Successes and What to Avoid)
- Policy Town Hall

In addition, respectively, Ms. Theresa Gallagher from EPA Region 3, and Mr. Tom Liebel of Marks Thomas Architects, led participants on “virtual tours” of the Roebling Steel Company and Miller’s Court.

Participants also had the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas during three participant exercises facilitated by Ms. Carla Bruni, APEX Direct, Inc., project team member.

During the day-and-a-half symposium, presenters and panelists shared the following poignant thoughts around sustainability and preservation:

“How do we look at our children and grandchildren and promise to leave them a better world, and we’re not even trying?”

- Mayor James Baker, City of Wilmington

“[There is] very little that is more sustainable than doing something beautiful.”

- Mr. Dave Hollenberg, University of Pennsylvania

“If you don’t start a new living tradition, it leaves with you.”

- Mr. Steve Mouzon, The New Urban Guild

“A building is not a machine, but a series of decisions driven by the way people use them. If we want high performance buildings, we must be high performance people.”

- Ms. Jean Carroon, Goody Clancy

“Preservation is an inherently conservative discipline (the less you do, the better), where green building is about the more you do, the better. The point of policy is to integrate the preservation ethos into other arenas.”

- Mr. Cory Keigerise, Maryland Historical Trust

Throughout the symposium, participants were encouraged to reflect on what’s working, what’s not, and what needs to change. The following are key themes that emerged from the presentations and discussions:

- There is an urgency to these issues that wasn’t there 20 years ago. Cities and regions are taking an increasingly proactive and innovative approach to promoting more sustainable development patterns that encourage higher densities, mixed-use development, and increased walkability.
- There needs to be a culture-shift towards a culture of re-use, stewardship, and a focus on future generations. Efforts need to look beyond buildings to the communities, recognizing their context and acknowledging their role in maintaining a sense of place.
- Standards and policies, both local and federal, need to reflect stronger values around sustainability and preservation, particularly in the face of climate change. Our standards and policies should prevent or disincentivize tearing down older buildings to build new LEED certified buildings.

At the end of the Symposium, the following members of the planning committee shared their overall observations of the event:

- Ms. Yolanda Bouchee, EPA Region 5 (Moderator)
- Mr. Antonio Aguilar, National Park Service
- Ms. Patrice Frey, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Mr. Jim Van der Kloot, EPA Region 5 (Great Lakes Office)
- Ms. Druscilla Null, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Ms. Nancy Schamu, National Conf. of State Historic Preservation Officers
- Ms. Lorna Rosenberg, EPA Region 3