



EcoDistrict Practitioners: Accelerating District-Scale Sustainability



SUMMARY

As the need for a community and district-scale approach to sustainability becomes more important, so does the need for skilled practitioners who are specifically trained to deal with this level of planning. The one-day *EcoDistricts Practitioners* workshop is taught by Adam Beck – a recognized sustainable cities leader who is at the forefront of the EcoDistricts movement. This workshop is aimed at equipping professionals and communities with the knowledge they need in order to build comprehensive green neighborhood initiatives.

The course will be of interest to individuals involved in sustainability planning on the community scale, including:

- Municipal staff
- Architects
- Planners
- Developers
- Non-governmental organizations
- Neighborhood organizations

Participants will acquire skills and practical tools that can assist in launching an EcoDistrict in their own community. Course content will be reinforced with hands-on activities, allowing participants to actively apply what they are learning.

The workshop will also allow participants to take advantage of the knowledge gained by sustainability innovators, network with like-minded individuals, and help you get started on determining how to impact and accelerate change in and around your region.

DESCRIPTION

This one-day workshop has no prerequisites and was designed so that participants will gain a solid understanding of the EcoDistricts Framework and its application. This refers to a four-step process management framework that includes:

- Engagement and governance;
- Assessment;
- Project development; and
- Project management.

It also covers strategies to address challenges such as: organizing stakeholders; financing staff and projects; providing municipal policy support; and assessing a district to develop informed project priorities.

Drawing upon EcoDistricts' experiences in Portland, as well as the experiences of Canadian projects, this workshop gives participants the opportunity to learn how to



develop an EcoDistrict strategy. The day will include an interactive and engaging combination of lecture, discussion and hands-on activities. Valuable materials will be provided during the course, as well as post-course. Participants will receive the EcoDistricts Toolkit, the EcoDistrict Action Guide, copies of the presentation slide deck, and the course workbook.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Following this course, participants will be able to:

- Define an EcoDistrict, as well as its outcomes and benefits.
- Identify key opportunities to develop an EcoDistrict strategy in their community.
- Evaluate organizational models for engagement and governance in EcoDistricts.
- Understand funding mechanisms that support EcoDistricts.
- Analyze public policy that has been crafted to support EcoDistricts.
- Apply methods for assessing EcoDistricts to determine project priorities.

BENEFITS

Participants will gain in one day the concrete knowledge and skills that can assist in launching an EcoDistrict in their own community. They will learn how to gain access to practical tools in the areas of governance, engagement, assessment and project development; access knowledge accumulated from other successful EcoDistricts in North America; and will be able to network with like-minded individuals.

The workshop is led by Adam Beck, a recognized leader at the forefront of the EcoDistricts movement and approach, who has over 17 years of experience in environmental and social planning, with a passion for developing and implementing sustainability tools for built environment projects. Prior to joining EcoDistricts in 2013, Adam spent over three years with the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) developing the Green Star – Communities rating tool in collaboration with government and industry.

WHY CaGBC?

CaGBC is a proven training expert in the field of green building, with thousands of individuals having taken CaGBC education. Our in-class courses provide current and relevant information, while our instructors are carefully selected experts with practical industry experience, who are able to provide in-depth knowledge and real-life examples.

EcoDistricts is also a natural fit with the CaGBC's goal of building sustainable communities on a more holistic scale by helping municipalities and the industry shift its thinking from green building at the single building scale to the neighbourhood and city-wide scales. There is great potential for the development of these types of projects in Canada. This is why the CaGBC is offering this training as the first of its kind in Canada, in an effort to assist both municipalities and grassroots community groups in fostering and advancing EcoDistrict initiatives in communities across Canada.

LEVEL / CEUs

Seven (7) GBCI CE hours; also qualifies for OAA ConEd learning hours.

**PUBLIC
WORKSHOPS**

For more information, contact the CaGBC at 613.288.8064, toll-free at 1.866.941.1184, ext. 1033, or via email at education@cagbc.org.