



Integrated Network for Social Sustainability



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INTRODUCTION

- National Science Foundation-funded Research Coordination Network on Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability
- Founded in September 2012
- Approximately 100 members
- Principal investigators, steering committee, charter stakeholders
- Academics, government, industry, non-profit participants
- Involvement of undergraduate and graduate students

GOALS

- To clarify the many concepts, values, and expectations attached to social sustainability
- To articulate the extent to which decisions about social sustainability are always subjective

Sub-goals:

- have participants **actively engage in dialogue** to better define and examine social sustainability through reference to **real-world case studies** to focus on the practical elements of sustainability
- help to create a **shared language** around social sustainability that can be used across professional sectors and that can lead to **more uniform assessment**
- build on the **professional expertise** of multiple and **diverse individuals and organizations**
- draw upon a **diverse set of literature** to create a set of guiding ideas and outcomes from the network activities.

Ultimately:
bring social sustainability
into greater visibility as a
pillar of sustainability

CURRENT PRODUCTS

- Inaugural INSS Conference, May 2013
 - ✓ Charlotte, North Carolina
 - ✓ 70 in-person attendees: universities, non-profit organizations, government, students
 - ✓ 10 online attendees
 - ✓ Large group discussions
 - ✓ Small group discussions

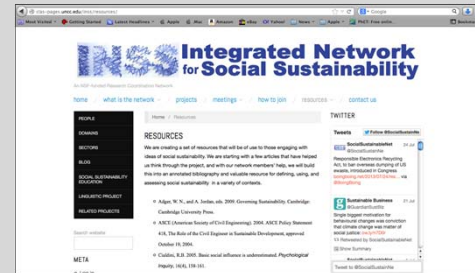


✓ Formal and informal gatherings

- ✓ 2 days long
- ✓ Field trips



- Website: Blogs, Resources, Projects, Meeting information, About the network



- Twitter feed



- Conference participation
 - ✓ Society for Economic Anthropology
 - ✓ U. North Carolina, Charlotte Ethics Center Symposium
 - ✓ 3rd International Congress on Sustainability Science & Engineering

BLOGS IN www.socialsustainabilitynetwork.org



From intersection to interaction: reconceptualizing social sustainability



Defining social sustainability



The challenges ahead

Social sustainability and social institutions



Thomas Jefferson on sustainability



PLANNED PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Revamp the **website** and other communication media
- Devise strategies and **materials for workshops** at professional meetings
- Produce an **inventory** of current social sustainability **assessment tools** to identify gaps and problems
- Develop a handbook of **course curricula**, communicating experiences with social sustainability
- Develop ways to **engage the general public** in social sustainability conversations through art and other means
- Initiate a **research agenda** for funding.

ASSESSMENT

After the 2013 Inaugural Conference:

- almost 97% of attendees said that their understanding of social sustainability was improved by the conference.
- Attendees found the event intellectually stimulating (91%)
- Attendees met new contacts they will likely use (79%)
- Attendees met new potential collaborators (57%)
- Attendees could see ways that social sustainability related to their work that they did not see before (50%).

HOW TO JOIN THE NETWORK

- Go to www.socialsustainabilitynetwork.org
- Click on "how to join"



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