

## BLACKSTONE RANCH INSTITUTE-FUNDED INITIATIVES 2006-2016

On the following pages is a complete compendium of all the gatherings and initiatives we have funded, either as a first funder or group of early funders.

### 2006

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE URBAN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS GATHERING

**Rocky Mountain Institute  
NOVEMBER 2-3, 2006**

A group of 15 city sustainability directors met in a gathering organized by RMI. It led to the formation of both Green Cities California and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.

### 2007

#### CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS AT GREEN GULCH FARM

**California Urban  
Sustainability Directors  
MAY 17-18, 2007**

This was the first follow-up to the national meeting of sustainability directors in Boulder in 2006. Government environmental sustainability directors from ten leading California cities met to develop a statewide agenda.

#### SPONSORSHIP OF HOLLYHOCK SOCIAL CHANGE INSTITUTE

**Hollyhock Social Change Institute  
MAY 24-28, 2007**

An annual gathering of more than 100 environmental and social change leaders from British Columbia, Ontario, Washington, California, and Hawaii met to refine skills and make new connections. Hollyhock is the leading experiential learning center in Canada.

#### SPONSORSHIP OF HOLLYHOCK SOCIAL VENTURE INSTITUTE

**Hollyhock Social Venture Institute  
SEPTEMBER 5-9, 2007**

In an annual gathering, more than 100 emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and social change activists from Canada and the United States met to merge their business ambitions with environmentally sound practices.

#### COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF SANTA BARBARA: FOSSIL FREE BY '33 INITIATIVE

**Community Environmental Council  
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2007**

More than 20 representatives from local governments, academia, and the environmental community in California reviewed a plan to develop a fossil free energy infrastructure for the Santa Barbara area. Many of the discussions were prescient forerunners of current discussions in various communities around the country.

#### FORMATION OF GREEN CITIES CALIFORNIA

**California Urban Sustainability  
Directors  
OCTOBER 4-5, 2007**

In the follow-up to the initial meeting at Green Gulch, vanguard California cities formalized their association as Green Cities California. It became the leading regional network in the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN).

#### ANNUAL BIONEERS CONFERENCE

**Bioneers  
OCTOBER 19, 2007**

In one of the leading annual gatherings in North America dedicated to environmental and sustainability work, leading innovators, educators, thinkers, and civil society leaders came together to advance practical and visionary solutions to environmental challenges.

#### U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION SUMMIT

**NOVEMBER 1-2, 2007**

More than 100 mayors met to promote solutions to global warming at local and national levels. They were among more than 660 mayors who had so far adopted the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement of 2005, a commitment to significantly cut climate pollution in their cities.

#### CALIFORNIA-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Bren School of Environmental  
Science and Management,  
and Johns Hopkins University's  
Center for Transatlantic Relations  
NOVEMBER 13-15, 2007**

A small group of senior government representatives and members of the business and academic communities from Europe and California drafted an agreement on climate change action emphasizing local action and new energy models. It was distributed through the varied networks of participants.

#### FORMATION OF GLOBAL CARBON MEASUREMENT COLLABORATIVE

**National Geographic Society  
NOVEMBER 28-29, 2007**

Leading global scientists and conservation organizations gathered at National Geographic to form an initiative with projects in Guyana, Kenya, Indonesia, Rwanda, and Uganda aimed at mapping carbon stocks as a basis for forest preservation and reduction of carbon emissions. It is now an established global program.

#### THE BIONEERS: LAUNCH OF DREAMING NEW MEXICO

**Bioneers  
WINTER 2007**

A diversity of civic organizations started work on a comprehensive, long-term sustainability plan for the state of New Mexico, one of the poorest in the United States. Early exchanges focused on food and farm policy. It was intended as a model for other states.

#### FOREST ETHICS DO-NOT-MAIL CAMPAIGN: CORPORATE AND NONPROFIT DIALOGUES

**Forest Ethics  
WINTER 2007**

An ambitious attempt to reduce the volume of junk mail followed the organization's earlier and highly successful campaign to get leading mail-order companies to switch to recycled paper.

## 2008

### **GLOBAL MAPPING FOR LANGUAGES, CULTURES, AND BIODIVERSITY**

**National Geographic Society  
FEBRUARY 21-22, 2008**

Participants from fields of geography, linguistics, conservation biology, bioinformatics, and genetics met at National Geographic. They explored the connections between the global distribution of languages and patterns of biodiversity, and worked to involve indigenous communities in five global hotspots of biodiversity to save their languages.

### **CASCADIA REGION GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL REGIONAL GATHERING**

**Cascadia Region  
Green Building Council  
APRIL 10, 2008**

Cascadia Region Green Building Council hosted two meetings in 2008 of municipal representatives in the Cascadia Region of the Pacific Northwest. Participants worked to consolidate rapidly developing green building practices in a regional approach intended to serve as a national model.

### **BIOLOGISTS AT THE DESIGN TABLE TRAINING**

**Biomimicry Institute  
MAY 31, 2008**

The Biomimicry Institute, a global leader in promoting the application of nature's design principles to architectural and manufacturing design processes, launched a series of gatherings for biologists, design professionals, and practitioners in the pioneering field of green chemistry. This was the earliest incarnation of what evolved into a global student design challenge.

### **CHILDREN AND NATURE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO CAMP**

**National Geographic Society  
OCTOBER 8-12, 2008**

Approximately 20 youth worked with a small team of top National Geographic photographers to document nature's beauty in Taos, New Mexico. This was part of an annual series of photographic workshops for underserved communities around the world.

### **NATIONAL GREEN PLANS AT ANNUAL BIONEERS CONFERENCE**

**Bioneers  
OCTOBER 16-20, 2008**

At their annual conference, Bioneers offered professional intensives before and after the main conference on national green plans around the world. Blackstone Ranch Institute was a special sponsor of the intensives and hosted a panel on California's green cities initiatives.

### **ORION SOCIETY AT GHOST RANCH IN NEW MEXICO**

**Orion Society  
NOVEMBER 6-9, 2008**

A group of writers and environmental activists from Orion's grassroots network and literary magazine met to articulate a new vision for action on major environmental issues.

### **FOREST ETHICS DO-NOT-MAIL CAMPAIGN CORPORATE DIALOGUES**

**Forest Ethics  
FALL 2008**

Forest Ethics continued its dialogues with mail order and catalog companies in an attempt to reduce the volume of junk mail in North America and give consumers discretionary control over the catalogs they receive. The campaign did not succeed in achieving its objectives, largely because the postal service workers were paid according to how much mail they processed.

### **FORMATION OF GRASSLANDS CARBON WORKING GROUP**

**Holistic Management International  
DECEMBER 1-5, 2008**

Holistic Management International, an organization that promotes sustainable land management practices in the American West, hosted a global working group of leading soil carbon and agricultural scientists, business representatives, policy experts and representatives from farmers organizations. They identified management practices that might increase the capacity of grassland soil to sequester carbon. The group subsequently developed an affiliation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

## 2009

### **DREAMING NEW MEXICO: FORMATION OF GREEN JOBS COLLABORATIVE IN THE AGE OF RENEWABLES**

**Bioneers  
JANUARY 21-22, 2009**

As part of the Bioneers' Dreaming New Mexico, a group of civic leaders in New Mexico formed the Green Collaborative, dedicated to developing green jobs and renewable energy in the state. Designed to work closely with the governor's Green Cabinet, it had representation from the state university and college systems, organized labor, industry, and the environmental community.

# BLACKSTONE RANCH INSTITUTE-FUNDED INITIATIVES 2006-2016

## FORMATION OF NATIONAL BUSINESS-ECOSYSTEM LEADERSHIP GROUP

**World Resources Institute  
FEBRUARY 11-12, 2009**

The World Resources Institute hosted an initial gathering of managers from a small group of Fortune 500 companies dedicated to developing better practices as stewards of the lands they owned or leased. The group included Staples, John Deere, Plum Creek, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Syngenta North America, and Eko Asset Management Partners. By 2015 more than 300 members and associated organizations were conducting reviews of ecosystem services, and a similar group had started in Brazil.

## SPONSORSHIP OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EXPLORERS SYMPOSIUM AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIRST NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-BLACKSTONE INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT

**National Geographic Society  
JUNE 8-12, 2009**

This was the first in a three-year series of symposium sponsorships and accompanying challenge grants to National Geographic's younger explorers. The grants were awarded to teams of at least two explorers who collaborated on innovative ways of responding to global environmental challenges. The program was started to encourage proactive collaboration among the explorers.

## NATIONAL CIVIC-ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN ON MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment  
SUMMER 2009**

The Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment initiated a national civic engagement campaign aimed at reducing the start-up costs for cities that wanted to develop similar campaigns by providing outreach campaign materials.

## CLEANING UP CANADA'S TAR SANDS: STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

**Forest Ethics  
FALL 2009**

Forest Ethics launched a multi-faceted civic campaign to start cleaning up the Canadian Tar Sands. The aim was to encourage companies that fueled their national transport fleets with tar sands oil to switch to cleaner sources and start to mitigate the environmental damage to the geographical area around the tar sands.

## CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (SCLA)

**Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC)  
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2009**

The ISC launched a national leadership academy to provide mentoring to municipal leaders who wanted to develop environmental sustainability initiatives in their cities. The gatherings were pilots for what became the SCLA, now a leading national program in urban sustainability.

## FORMATION OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS NETWORK (USDN)

**Urban Sustainability Directors Network  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**

A group of urban government sustainability directors and philanthropic partners launched a national network of 75 municipalities around the United States. USDN now has 150 member cities, has joined with C40 to work on global initiatives, and is one of the world's leading urban sustainability networks. USDN grew out of the 2006 gathering of urban sustainability directors sponsored by Blackstone Ranch Institute and the Rocky Mountain Institute that was held in Boulder, Colorado.

## FIRST NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-BLACKSTONE INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT: CONVERSION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE INTO USABLE ENERGY

**National Geographic Society  
FALL 2009**

The first National Geographic-Blackstone Innovation Challenge grant went to an initiative aimed at introducing microbes that survive in the cold climates of the arctic region into biogas digesters that convert organic household waste into a usable fuel source. The objective was to develop a way to expand adoption of the digesters from warm climates to more temperate regions. The grant recipients used the award to secure another grant to further develop their work.

## ALEXANDRA COUSTEAU BLUE LEGACY CAMPAIGN

**Blue Legacy  
FALL 2009**

Blue Legacy was an education campaign on global water resources launched by Alexandra Cousteau. A group of media experts and water conservationists met to plan the future of the campaign. Alexandra went on to develop several programs on global water issues for the Discovery Channel.

## BIOMIMICRY DESIGN CHALLENGE

**Biomimicry Institute  
FALL 2009**

The Biomimicry Institute followed its earlier gathering, "Biologists at the Design Table Training," with a group of 20-25 leading experts in green building and design to identify the most important biomimetic design challenges. This was another important early step in the development of what is now a well-funded annual global design challenge.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CURRICULA FOR MEDICAL SCHOOLS**

**Center for Integrative Medicine at University of Arizona  
OCTOBER 22, 2009**

The Center for Integrative Medicine in Tucson, Arizona, brought together participants from public health organizations, medical school administrations, and environmental groups to develop an educational module on the impact of the environment on patient health. It is now an established part of their larger program and has educated thousands of health care practitioners.

## **2010**

### **STEWARDSHIP OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN THE AMERICAN WEST**

**Diablo Trust and The University of Arizona Southwest Center  
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2010**

The Diablo Trust and University of Arizona Southwest Center brought together a small group of Western ranching families, rural land trusts, and rancher-based coalitions to consider how to market ecosystem services in ways that would preserve the financial and ecological integrity of Western ranches.

### **DREAMING NEW MEXICO: NEW MEXICO FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT**

**Bioneers  
MARCH 10-11, 2010**

In another phase of the Bioneers Dreaming New Mexico, participants worked on common strategies for expanding local food production and the cultivation of a wider collaboration among organic growers, farmers, and food distribution systems.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: GREEN JOBS FOR CITIES**

**Institute for Sustainable Communities  
MAY 24-26, 2010**

This was an early gathering of the Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy. Representatives from 12 cities met to work on the creation of green jobs. The meeting was an important early step in developing the protocols for future SCLA gatherings.

### **SPONSORSHIP OF 2010 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS SUMMIT**

**National Geographic Society  
JUNE 7-11, 2010**

The second year in a three-year sponsorship of the explorers summit at which the second challenge grant was offered to the most innovative collaboration between explorers.

### **SECOND ANNUAL GATHERING OF URBAN SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORS NETWORK**

**Urban Sustainability Directors Network  
SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2010**

This was the second annual meeting of cities that were part of the early development of USDN.

### **SECOND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-BLACKSTONE INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT: PROTECTING AND RESTORING THE WORLD'S ALPINE ECOSYSTEMS**

**National Geographic Society  
FALL 2010**

The 2010 National Geographic-Blackstone Innovation Challenge grant went to a group of explorers working to engage local communities around Mount Everest and global trekking companies to preserve alpine ecosystems and develop renewable energy projects for communities that support the trekkers.

## **2011**

### **SLOW MONEY ALLIANCE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORMATION**

**Slow Money  
FEBRUARY 3-4, 2011**

The alliance brought together 25 local leaders from around the country to develop guidelines for national management of local chapters. It was the first deliberate attempt to develop a national leadership system designed to preserve the alliance's decentralized character but allow for national coordination. By 2015, Slow Money was in 46 states and had raised \$40 million since 2010 to support more than 400 small food enterprises around the country.

### **SPONSORSHIP OF 2011 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS SYMPOSIUM**

**National Geographic Society  
JUNE 20-24, 2011**

This was the third and final year of sponsorship of the annual symposium and the announcement of the third National Geographic-Blackstone Innovation Challenge grant.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL ALERT SYSTEM FOR OCEAN TRASH**

**Ocean Recovery Alliance  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

A group of environmental scientists, futurists, and design companies met to develop a software platform that would allow local communities around the globe to monitor and prevent the flow of trash from river systems into the world's oceans. Despite great potential, the initiative never fully realized itself.

### **LAUNCH OF ECODISTRICTS INCUBATOR Portland Sustainability Institute WINTER 2011**

The Portland Sustainability Institute (now EcoDistricts) introduced a series of training workshops for cities around North America that wanted to create ecodistricts.

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## THIRD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-BLACKSTONE INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT: SUSTAINABLE SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**National Geographic Society  
WINTER 2011**

The three winners of the third and final National Geographic-Blackstone Innovation Challenge grant developed a solar-powered irrigation project for small farmers in Benin, West Africa. It was intended as a model for farmers in other parts of Africa. The challenge grant program provided early inspiration and a model for future challenge prize programs at National Geographic.

## DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK FOR LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE

**Living Future Institute  
WINTER 2011**

The Living Future Institute built a social media platform for its growing network and expanding adoption of green building standards embodied in the Living Building Challenge. The Institute is a global leader in advanced green building design, and has grown substantially since 2011.

## 2012

### FORMATION OF LOCAL ENERGY AGGREGATION NETWORK (LEAN)

**LEAN Energy U.S.  
FEBRUARY 9-11, 2012**

Utility and government representatives, energy experts, clean energy advocates, environmentalists, and energy investors launched a network dedicated to adopting a new energy procurement model that allows local governments to create their own energy companies and buy energy for their constituents. A primary goal was to increase the procurement of clean energy. The network started in California.

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FARM PROJECT

**Futurefarmers  
SUMMER 2012**

A small group of nonprofit farming organizations and Region 9 of the EPA started a project to work with food justice and environmental groups on Native American reservations in the West to revive Native agricultural practices by planting community gardens. The initiative started with tribes in eastern California. By 2014, as many as 30 tribes were expressing interest in forming a coalition.

## FORMATION OF WESTERN LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE

**Wildlands Network  
AUGUST 29-30, 2012**

The Western Landowners Alliance, a group of privately owned, large-scale ranching properties in the American West, advances policies and practices that sustain working lands, connected landscapes, and native species. When formed in 2012, the group had the participation of landowners in 11 states and on approximately 10 million acres of land. By 2015 they had become a leading voice in the movement toward ecologically responsible management of western lands.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE CHALLENGE GRANT

**Center for Integrative Medicine  
at University of Arizona  
WINTER 2012**

The program was intended to stimulate innovative projects by alumnae of the Center for Integrative Medicine to advance the work started with their environmental education module. The first effort ran into administrative difficulties, and the program was discontinued.

## WATERSHED INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

**World Resources Institute  
WINTER 2012**

The World Resources Institute launched an effort to get municipalities around the United States to invest in local watersheds and green infrastructure as an alternative to expensive water treatment facilities. By 2015 they had built a growing network of national conservation groups and water utilities, and were starting to develop a global network.

## CONTINUATION OF FOREST ETHICS CORPORATE DIALOGS ON CANADIAN TAR SANDS

**Forest Ethics  
WINTER 2012**

The campaign to get leading companies to switch from tar sands oil as a fuel source for their transportation fleets continued to evolve. At least 20 leading companies had altered their corporate fuel procurement policies. The campaign played a major role in getting the government of the Canadian province of Alberta, home of the tar sands, to put a price on carbon emissions in 2015.

## ACCELERATING RESILIENT INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES (ARISE)

**Earth Council Alliance  
WINTER 2012**

ARISE is a new global finance model designed to develop blended financing approaches combining direct investment, loans, and philanthropic grants to new green infrastructure initiatives around the world. With early support from the Rockefeller Foundation, a number of leading global environmental and investment groups have begun to adopt the finance model to channel millions of dollars. It has been used by the Rockefeller Foundation to support projects in its 100 Resilient Cities program, and to support adoption of renewable energy in villages in India.

## 2013

### **LAUNCH OF BIOMIMICRY 3.8 STUDENT DESIGN CHALLENGE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM**

**Biomimicry 3.8  
SPRING 2013**

Biomimicry 3.8 (formerly Biomimicry Institute) worked with StartupNectar and Forest Fractal to introduce a program that helped winners of their student design challenge initiative turn their conceptual designs into entrepreneurial business ventures. It was an important step in the practical application of biomimetic principles to real-world design challenges.

### **SECOND ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN ECODISTRICTS INCUBATOR**

**EcoDistricts  
MAY 29-31, 2013**

This was the second annual gathering of the incubator. More than 50 leaders from 10 cities, and associated industry leaders, gathered at the launch in 2012. By 2015, it was a leading North American laboratory for innovative urban sustainability initiatives.

### **THE ARCHITECTURE 2030 DISTRICTS SUMMIT**

**Architecture 2030  
AUGUST 12-13, 2013**

This was the first national gathering of leading architects and other building professionals dedicated to the development of urban districts that would adopt Architecture 2030 targets for carbon emission reductions and energy use. There were four cities developing districts at the launch. By 2015, the initial group had grown to 11 and was expected to continue growing in the future.

### **LAUNCH OF ONLINE SOLUTIONS FORUM AND NETWORK PLATFORM FOR WOMEN'S EARTH AND CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**

**WECAN  
SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2013**

WECAN is a new network designed by and for women around the world working on a diversity of initiatives that address the growing need for food, energy, and water in local communities. The online solutions forum gives them a way to connect with one another, share project ideas, and generate actual projects. The forum and online platform has helped them scale up their initiative in their formative first years.

### **LEAN ENERGY SECOND NATIONAL STRATEGY RETREAT**

**LEAN Energy U.S.  
NOVEMBER 11-13, 2013**

This was the second annual gathering of clean energy investors and local government representatives building a network to advance local procurement of clean energy. By 2015, 25 municipalities in California were in the process of adopting their model.

### **FORMATION OF GLOBAL BIOGAS EDUCATION TEAM**

**Solar Cities  
DECEMBER 16-18, 2013**

Solar Cities is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the introduction of small-scale biodigester technology to urban leaders in developing countries. The gathering brought together leading experts in biodigester technology from Israel, Palestine (West Bank), Egypt, Italy, India, Kenya, Portugal, and the United States to form a core group of educators for the initiative.

### **REGIONAL ADOPTION OF FOOD SOL COMMUNITY TABLE**

**Babson College  
Social Innovation Lab  
WINTER 2013**

The Babson College Social Innovation Lab has brought together entrepreneurial students and supportive community members from business, government, and civil society working on business and social ventures oriented toward sustainable food systems. Their goal was to spread the adoption of their model, Food Sol Community Table, to other institutions of higher education outside of their home in Boston. By 2015, the model continued to spread in the Boston area, had been adopted in New York and Rhode Island, and stimulated early interest in Vermont.

## 2014

### **GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATURE 2014 CONFERENCE IN ECUADOR**

**Global Alliance for the  
Rights of Nature  
JANUARY 13-16, 2014**

The meeting in Quito, Ecuador, was intended to consolidate an emerging movement in different countries (including Ecuador, South Africa, India, Australia, Nepal, and the United States) aimed at endowing nature with rights that can be defended in a court of law against resource extraction practices that are damaging to the environment and local communities. The meeting catalyzed a civic campaign in Europe, and an International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature was formalized against the backdrop of global climate talks in Paris in late 2015.

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## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS TRAININGS FOR WOMEN

**WECAN  
SPRING 2014**

The Women's Earth and Climate Action Network is building upon the successful launch of its online solutions forum by starting a series of online trainings. An initial group consisted of 40 women from nine countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and by late 2014 there were waiting lists for the training programs.

## SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

**Sustainable Purchasing  
Leadership Council  
MAY 20-21, 2014**

SPLC recently launched an initiative to support production and purchasing practices that accelerate the transition to a sustainable future. Membership includes dozens of leading corporate businesses, universities, government agencies, and civic organizations. The annual meeting was held to start work on the development of professional production and purchasing standards and to assemble technical working groups.

## NATIVE LAND SUMMIT

**Center for Whole Communities  
and Land and Culture Consulting  
MAY 20-22, 2014**

The Center for Whole Communities and Land and Culture Consulting convened a historic gathering of national and Native land trust leaders to begin a collaborative process of integrating parts of the more than 2 billion acres of Native lands into the broader land trust effort in North America. Initial steps were being taken by late 2015.

## RESTORING THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

**Biomimicry 3.8 and  
National Geographic Society  
AUGUST 13-15, 2014**

Biomimicry 3.8 (formerly the Biomimicry Institute) and National Geographic held a planning meeting to form an ongoing collaborative relationship. Their first collective effort was to focus on ways to restore the Colorado River Basin. Major management changes at National Geographic in 2015 shifted organizational priorities and ended the collaboration on the Colorado River initiative, but the two organizations continue to talk about ways to work together in the future.

## COLLABORATING FOR RESILIENCY IN NORTH AMERICAN CITIES

**Sustainable Communities  
Leadership Academy  
and Consensus Building  
Institute of MIT  
OCTOBER 14-16, 2014**

The Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy and the Consensus Building Institute launched an 18-month project to help cities and their regions work more effectively across agencies, sectors, and jurisdictions. They selected St. Louis and Knoxville as the two pilot cities. Trainings on collaboration skills and strategies are now a fundamental part of SCLA's ongoing work with cities.

## BATTERY BALANCE OF SYSTEM CHARRETTE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS STORAGE OF SOLAR ENERGY

**Rocky Mountain Institute  
NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

RMI brought together leaders from battery manufacturers, solar companies, the Department of Energy, and utilities to catalyze work on reducing costs associated with production of solar photovoltaic modules. While the cost of the batteries was already dropping dramatically, the costs of permitting, installation, and inspection were still high. By late 2015, RMI was working with a number of partners on the initiative.

## 2015

### ENERGY SHIFT

**Resolve  
JANUARY 11-13, 2015**

Resolve, an organization that specializes in unlocking intractable policy logjams, brought together a group of representatives from leading energy and extractive sector companies, technology companies, investors, entrepreneurs, and environmental nonprofits to identify systemic leverage points that would accelerate the adoption of renewable energy. Several innovative initiatives came out of the gathering, but the larger goal of systemic change has not yet been achieved. The initiative continues to be managed by Resolve, which is trying to attract donor support for its continuation.

## **LAUNCH OF ACADEMY FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

### **Academy for Systemic Change JANUARY 26-30, 2015**

Twenty young leaders from around the world met with Academy mentors to start developing an ongoing collaborative network to educate future leaders and initiate collaborative action. Their range of interest is broad, covering food and agriculture, education, sustainable cities and communities, marine ecosystems and fisheries, tropical rain forests, freshwater, and business and finance.

## **CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR ISLAND NATIONS, COASTAL COMMUNITIES, AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS: FORMATION OF BLUE GUARDIANS**

### **Earth Council Alliance FALL 2015**

Earth Climate Alliance put together a team of leading ocean and environmental organizations, satellite and global information companies, and investors to channel millions of dollars to renewable energy and ocean conservation projects in the more than 30 nations that are part of SIDS Dock, an alliance of leading island nations that is part of the United Nations.

## **MOBILITY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM**

### **Rocky Mountain Institute WINTER 2015**

RMI brought together innovation leaders in urban transportation to develop a national strategy to integrate the emerging diversity of transportation options in cities that includes automobile travel, public transport, ride sharing, bicycle paths, and smart management. Denver and Austin were selected as the pilot cities. Lessons learned from those two cities will be widely disseminated to other cities around the world.

## **FORMATION OF DISTRICT ENERGY ACADEMY**

### **EcoDistricts WINTER 2015**

EcoDistricts will start offering programs for its national network on the development of district energy initiatives as a way to advance to adoption of renewable energies. There are currently about 700 district energy utilities around the country, but few offer renewable energy to their customers.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE MODULE FOR 100 MILLION HEALTHIER LIVES CAMPAIGN**

### **Center for Integrative Medicine at The University of Arizona WINTER 2015**

The Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona will develop The environmental medicine component of a larger online program in integrative medicine that is part of a recently launched effort by leading philanthropists and organizations to educate citizens around the world to be more proactive in the cultivation of personal health. It will move the focus of attention from health care practitioners to citizens.

## **EARLY 2016**

## **DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMY FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE GLOBAL HUB SYSTEM**

### **Academy for Systemic Change SPRING 2016**

Building upon its launch in early 2015, the Academy is now ready to start developing a global hub system to launch its action initiatives. Initial hubs are in China, Mexico, and British Columbia.

## **LAUNCH OF SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN**

### **Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council FALL 2016**

The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council is launching a challenge to all of its members to collaborate on selected initiatives. It moves the focus from the individual behavior of member organizations and companies to collective action.

## **LAUNCH OF PRESIDIO GRADUATE SCHOOL ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT**

### **Presidio Graduate School FALL 2016**

Since the founding of the school in 2003, Presidio has graduated over 800 alumnae in its MBA, MPA, dual degree, and professional development programs. Now it is ready to expand its global reach by offering those programs online to students who cannot travel to the San Francisco Bay Area to be part of its residency programs.