



Science for Sustainability

The Science for Sustainable (S4S) Working Group, established in 2002, provides input to CSREES programs, working groups, and educational activities to advance the knowledge and application of sustainability principles in CSREES programs and procedures.

S4S: 2005 Highlights

- CSREES incorporated sustainability topics into twelve competitive funding programs, including programs in the Science and Education Resource Development (SERD) program, the National Research Initiative (NRI), and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.
- S4S members worked in partnership with sustainability committees, interagency working groups, and roundtables to expand the research, education, and extension efforts in sustainability, including the newly expanded Sustainable Forests Partnership, the USDA Council on Sustainable Development, and the Lawns and Environment Steering Committee.
- CSREES program staff presented talks, published papers, and developed educational tools to inform professional and end-users on current sustainability practices. S4S also sponsored seminars and discussions at CSREES to expand expertise among program staff and administrators about sustainable agriculture, forestry, and community development.



S4S: Grant Programs and Funded Projects

- Sustainability was added as a new targeted expertise area in the National Needs Graduate Fellowships program.
- Sustainability was included in the wording of the funding preferences and relevant disciplines of the Multicultural Scholars Request for Applications (RFA).
- The NRI Agroecosystem cluster emphasized agricultural practices that sustain yields and rural prosperity while minimizing negative environmental impact on surrounding natural ecosystems.
- SBIR grants promoted sustainability and profitability of small and mid-size farms and ranches, as well as explored energy recovery using environmentally sustainable methods, such as methane digestion.
- The Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program provided approximately 200 grants, including a new Sustainable Community Grants program in partnership with the regional Rural Development Center.

S4S Working Group Members

Competitive Programs:

Leslie Gilbert
Pat Hipple
Diana Jerkins
Pushpa Kathir
Alexandra Raver
Siva Sureshwaran
Andrew Wilson

Economic and Community

Systems

Jill Auburn
Fen Hunt
Sally Maggard
Patricia McAleer
Henry Bahn

Families, 4-H and Nutrition

Mary Gray
Susanne LeMenestrel
Nancy Valentine
Joe Wysocki

Natural Resources and Environment

Greg Crosby
Lisa Duriancik
Eric Norland
Mary Ann Rozum

Office of the Administrator Dennis Kopp

Plant and Animal Systems

Carmela Bailey
Herb Bolton
Jim Green
Dick Hegg
James Kotcon
Richard Reynnells
Dan Schmoltdt
Ann Marie Thro

Science and Education Resources Development

Hiram Larew
Audrey Trotman
Mike McGirr

S4S: Partnerships

- S4S worked with the Sustainable Forests Partnership (SFP) team to organize, facilitate, and document the activities of the SFP Expansion Conference and a special annual meeting to review new governance documents and the Memorandum of Understanding.
- S4S members worked in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team, Core Group, and Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. This collaboration brought members of industry, government, and the non-profit sector to provide recommendations for the international sustainability forestry protocol known as the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.
- S4S led the Extramural Programs for Research on Invasive Species (EPRIS) Interagency Working Group in collaboration with CSREES, NOAA, EPA, NSF, and ERS. The working group coordinated research on invasive species.
- S4S provided leadership and collaborated with State and Federal agencies and Land Grant Universities on sustainable integrated pest management demonstration projects.

*Anyone who leads a program related to sustainability is invited to attend S4S meetings.
For details contact Alexandra Raver - araver@csrees.usda.gov*

S4S: External and Internal Education Opportunities

- "Information and Knowledge Management in Support of Sustainable Forestry: A Review," coauthored by Dan Schmoltdt at the Sustainable Forestry in Theory and Practice Conference in Edinburgh, UK, April 5-8, 2005.
- "Aiming for Safety and Sustainability in U.S. Agriculture and Biotechnology" by Don Doering of Winrock International, May 31, 2005 at the CSREES facilities in Washington DC.
- "Achieving Energy Security Through a Bioeconomy with Sustainable Rural Landscapes and Communities" was presented by Robert Brown, Richard Cruse, Steve Fales, Carl Herndl, and Gene Takle of Iowa State University, September 20, 2005 at the CSREES facilities in Washington DC.
- "Sustainable Community Innovation Grants" by Jerry DeWitt of Iowa State University, December 6, 2005 at the CSREES facilities in Washington DC.
- In December 2005, the USDA/CSREES in coordination with the USDA/ARS hosted a roundtable discussion in Beltsville MD on composting cafeteria food waste and biobased cafeteria-ware for use in landscaping compost for federal facilities.

*Check out our Web site:
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/susdev_if_working.html*