IGEN Sustainability Conference
Partner Presentations
SMHEC Link and Leverage
January 27, 2016
Mission
To help create an effective workforce, enhance our region and share our knowledge

Goals
Support student success
Optimize resources
Support region development
Our Sustainability Journey
Joint Presidential signing of the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact
September, 2010
Sustainability Journey

Sustainability Conferences - 2010 - 2014
  Internal to institutions
  Established baseline of activities 2009 - continued gathering data on annual basis
  Engaged administration, faculty, staff and students across institutions

Transitioning to Link and Leverage
  2014 - Invited 1 community group to present - “We need help”

Link and Leverage Forums
  Quarterly
  Non-profits, businesses, cultural institutions - few municipalities
  Teamed up with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus - Greenest Region Compact2
Elements of Collective Impact as operationalized by the Link and Leverage Forums

1. **Common goal** - To make the south and southwest suburbs the Greenest, most resilient region in the metropolitan Chicago area.

2. **Shared measurement** - Greenest Region 2 Compact - Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

3. **Mutual Reinforcing Activities** - recycling, energy savings, water conservation, stormwater management, land use, advocacy, asset mapping

4. **Continuous Communication** - quarterly meetings, sharing meeting evaluations, LinkedIn page

5. **Backbone support** - SMHEC
The role of Higher Education
Why people participate

- Opportunities to network and develop partnerships
- Leverage relationships
- Acknowledging and promoting work done by others
- Expanding knowledge
- Insight on what other public organizations and agencies are doing
- Information sharing
- Connections to solutions

“Meet new organizations & people & learn”
Challenges

- Building momentum takes time
- This is no one’s top priority
- Resilience vs sustainability
- Understanding who should be involved - internally and externally
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