

INVITATION to the Sustainable Urban Systems section workshop at ISIE-Berkeley

Dear SUS Community,

You are receiving this email as someone who has expressed interest or might be interested in the activities of the newly formed Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS) section at the International Society of Industrial Ecology (ISIE).

I am writing on behalf of the board of the SUS section to invite you to our very first International Workshop on Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS), planned for June 6, 2011 at Berkeley, CA, just prior to the International ISIE conference (<http://isie2011.berkeley.edu/>). I hope you will join us on June 6!

**WORKSHOP INVITEES:** We invite diverse participants to the SUS workshop including policymakers, urban planners, engineers, architects, industrial ecologists, urban ecologists, economists, environmental scientists, social scientists and others.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Get to know who is doing what, i.e., what are the major knowledge areas that comprise SUS and who is working in these various knowledge areas?
- Identify what are the key questions to be answered in these various knowledge areas, and what are the corresponding promising research methods, to inform and support SUS in practice.
- Create a community of members to help define the mission, vision, actions and goals of our new SUS section, enhancing our group's collective efforts to benefit cities and sustainability.

[The SUS board has developed a working description of the SUS section, and will provide a first draft of SUS mission, vision and goals for further discussion during the workshop]

**Workshop Format:** To achieve the goal of "Getting to know who is doing what?", the SUS workshop is envisioned as a series of four panel discussions (see below). We invite you to join our panel discussions so you can provide a quick birds-eye view of your work (or the work of your group) in no more than 4 quick slides, as you see it fitting within the panel topics below. Following each panel session, an open discussion session will help identify critical needs/questions/research methods in that knowledge area.

**PANEL 1: What do cities/policymakers want/need from SUS Researchers?**

(1 hour panel + 20 minute discussion session): Facilitator: Anu Ramaswami

- Invitation to a few city Mayors, NGO's who are using SUS research
- Suggested Invitees (Mayors and/or Sustainability Staff of Berkeley/San Francisco; World Bank Sustainable Cities Initiative; Clinton C-40 Initiative; Urban Age Institute, etc.)

**PANEL 2: Aggregated Urban Sustainability Metrics/Models – City-wide analyses**

(1 hour panel + 20 minute discussion session): Facilitator: Chris Kennedy

- Urban metabolism metrics; Carbon emissions footprints, water footprints; economic metrics, measures of poverty and health; hazards, climate risks and vulnerability

**LUNCH: Introduction to SUS draft mission and goals over lunch**

**PANEL 3 Disaggregated Urban Sustainability Metrics/Models – Spatial, temporal, sectoral or other disaggregation**

(2 hours total plus 30 minute discussion) Facilitators: James Keirstead; Helge Brattebo

- Dynamic and Spatial analysis (energy models, infrastructure models, dynamic vulnerability/resiliency models; urban form, urban typologies, spatial density influence)
- Sectoral analysis (role of housing, transportation, water and sanitation, waste management, industry sectors; sustainable asset management)

#### **PANEL 4: The Human Dimension and Complex Urban Systems**

(1 hour panel + 20 minute discussion session): Facilitator: Xuemei Bai

- Behavioral sciences and economics; Public affairs and political sciences; Urban planning, management and governance; Urbanization and urban-regional linkages; integrative urban frameworks linking ecological, economic and social systems; urban vulnerability/resilience; synergies and tradeoffs between mitigation and adaptation agenda etc.

**OTHER PANEL TOPICS** \_ If you do not find your work fitting any of the above, please write a short description of your work at the workshop registration site. We will try our best to accommodate the diverse interest of the community.

**CONCLUDING SESSION (5 to 5:30PM):** We will review the day's work, providing feedback on the SUS sections' draft mission, goals and 1-year action plan.

**POST-WORKSHOP WORKING DINNER!:** We also invite volunteer working groups to join us after the workshop for a working dinner to map out how the SUS section goals and actions can be implemented over the next year.

**TO REGISTER,** please sign up at this link by MAY 5, 2011, so we can get a headcount for further arrangements:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Register\\_SUS\\_Workshop\\_ISIE\\_Berkeley](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Register_SUS_Workshop_ISIE_Berkeley)

Workshop fees of \$30 USD (cash only) – to cover breakfast, lunch and tea on June 6 – must be brought directly to the workshop location on June 6, 2011. We look forward to seeing many of you at this workshop in Berkeley this summer!

Best,

Anu Ramaswami

Chair, Board of the Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS) section at ISIE

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