



## Education Work Group Report July 20, 2016

TO: Susan Summers, Chair

FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Peter G. Conrad, Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: July 20, 2016

Since the last workgroup report in May 2016, the Education Work Group held one regular meeting on June 7th and is working on the following projects:

### **1. Reinvest Maryland**

The Education Work Group has supported outreach to organizations with existing, relevant educational programs to discuss possibilities for joint development and/or promotion of courses, and to invite them to participate in the development of an overall Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) education and training initiative. This new education and training initiative would also support the Reinvest Maryland educational strategy. Phase I Interviews have been completed with 17 organizations being reached. Several organizations have expressed interest in collaborating with this effort. Along with the chair, Jim Kruger, staff met with adult education experts from CCBC Catonsville to discuss possible collaboration. Planning is in the process of creating a summary of the findings from these interviews.

### **2. Children in Nature Initiative**

DNR and Planning staff have continued a series of meetings on this initiative. The program takes a holistic approach to looking at ways to encourage, support and program increased outdoor experiences for children. DNR will be looking to engage state agencies as partners in this initiative. DNR convened another meeting on July 13 where implementation strategies were discussed. The Chair, Jim Kruger, set up a meeting with Sandi Olek from DNR and Chiara D'Amore, a "Children in Nature" practitioner to exchange ideas.

### **3. Sustainable Growth Challenge**

With the 2015 -2016 SGC now completed we are preparing for the Fall. Planning prepared and distributed the initial announcement for the 2016-2017 Challenge on July 5<sup>th</sup> to 188 individuals.

The timeframe for the 2016-2017 SGC is:

1. Summer 2016 – Outreach to professors (through normal channels, as well as more targeted, personal outreach)
2. September 2016 – Deadline for commitments to participate in the challenge
3. October – November 2016 – Work Group members visit classes to discuss Reinvest Maryland and provide early feedback on proposed projects
4. December 2016 – Deadline for submissions
5. December - January 2016 – Review of submissions and invitations to present
6. January 2016 – Presentations to panel
7. To Be Determined – Awards ceremony