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Join ICA Sustainable September Activities *SAVE THE DATES!!*

Sustainable September is underway!

ICA is in the midst of hosting a month of activities to raise awareness of global climate change issues. In this newsletter, you can read about the potluck for the [Great March for Climate Action](#) marchers, the [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) first hub activity, and learn about activities still to come!

Sustainable September will culminate by celebrating the diversity of the Uptown neighborhood and the installation of 483 solar panels on the roof of ICA GreenRise:



**Uptown Sharing Approaches that Work and
Solar Launch Event**

Wednesday, September 24th

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**ICA GreenRise Uptown Learning Lab
4750 N. Sheridan Road**



Terry Bergdall with Karen Weigert at the [2012 Share Fair](#)

Thursday, September 18th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

LIVE STREAM of [Preparing for Climate Change: The Chicago Story](#)

ICA is the Uptown Community virtual broadcast host site for this panel discussion moderated by [MarySue Barrett](#) of the [Metropolitan Planning Council](#). Panelists include:

- [Dr. Don Wuebbles](#), National Climate Assessment Convening Lead Author
- [Tom Skilling](#), WGN TV Meteorologist
- [Karen Weigert](#), City of Chicago Chief Sustainability Officer
- Mary Gade, former Region V Administrator for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[Click here to register for this event!](#)



Friday, September 19th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Communicating Sustainability in a Polarized Society: an Interactive Workshop](#)

Join ICA for a witty, insightful, and groundbreaking take on one of the most urgent questions of our time:

Why, despite overwhelming scientific evidence, do we still ignore climate change?

ICA is partnering with [animalia project](#) to host an interactive workshop with climate change communications expert, George Marshall.

The workshop is free; please consider donating to offset speaker expenses.

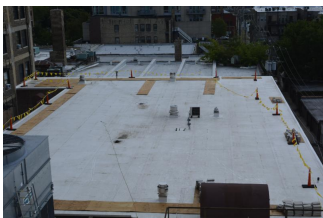
[Click here to register for this event!](#)

Support ICA Sustainable September!

47 generous donors have contributed to our very first indiegogo campaign!

Help us reach our goal and offset the costs of **Sustainable September** - donate today! Every little bit helps, you can:

- Get a poster or postcard
- Sponsor accommodation for a climate marcher
- Adopt a solar panel!
- Save the Animals - sponsor a meat-eater to go vegetarian!
- Save the Bees - sponsor a vegetarian to go vegan!





Fixing the Future: Two Approaches



Sustainable September launched Saturday, September 6, as ICA GreenRise hosted members of the [Great March for Climate Action](#) to celebrate their arrival in Chicago.

Early in the day many colleagues met the marchers in Oak Park, and marched with them through Fifth City, to a rally at Daley Plaza at 2:00 PM.

After the rally, the marchers headed to ICA GreenRise where they were met by Uptown community members and ICA staff. The marchers told their story, enjoyed the delicious food, and expressed gratitude to their Chicago hosts. ICA staff are grateful for those who supported the marchers on their stay here through the indiegogo campaign.

"We don't need another movement; we need the movements to move together."

On Friday, September 12th, Sustainable September festivities continued with the launch of the first [Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network](#) (CSLN) hub activity, a screening of the film [Fixing the Future](#).

CSLN members and allies attending included Jami Becka and Lara Oppenheimer of [The Chicago Time Exchange](#), Brian Bonanno of [eco-Andersonville](#), Sally Stovall of [Green Community Connections](#), Dick Alton of the [Interfaith Green Network](#), Chris Petit of the [Mutual Aid Network](#), and Terry Edlin of [New Community Vision](#).



Chris Petite talks about Mutual Aid Network.

The audience was captivated by the ideas in the film and opportunities to become involved in alternative economies in Chicago. Following presentations about how to join the Chicago Time Exchange ([register on their website](#)) and the Mutual Aid Network ([contact Chris Petit](#)), participants shared ideas for moving forward with alternative economies in Chicago. The next step will be a visioning workshop to explore the question: *What could a Mutual Aid Network look like in Chicago?*

If you are interested in joining this discussion or the CSLN, contact [Seva Gandhi](#).



Driehaus Foundation Uses ToP for Grantee Learning Circles



Sejal leading a learning circle.

"As a foundation, to tell our story well, we need to tell it through our grantees," explained Sejal Shah-Myers, Program Officer for the [Richard H. Driehaus Foundation](#). "We recognize that our grantees need more than money to be successful, so we asked ourselves, *What else can we do for them that's not resource dependent?*"

Sejal took the [ToP Facilitation Methods course](#) in November 2013. Since her training she has been using the ToP facilitation methods to lead Learning Circles for the Driehaus Foundation's smallest arts and culture grantees; those with an annual budget of less than \$500,000.

The Learning Circles bring together small groups of grantees to network and learn about a topic. This summer's topic would appeal to many nonprofits: donor retention. Sejal wanted to deploy her fundraising expertise in a way that engaged grantees in a participatory learning process where they would benefit from each other as well.

"I really liked the idea of being a facilitator, an encourager of others, a getter out of ideas,"

she said. "The ToP methods enable the group to think more, dig deeper and unearth ideas from colleagues that are practical and relevant." The Learning Circles have enabled grantees to share their successful strategies for donor retention and harness the great ideas they are already using that are working.

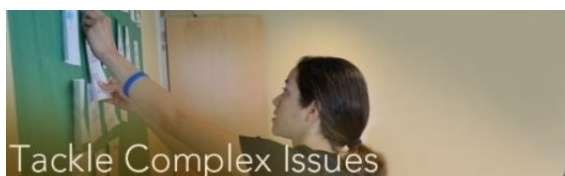
The grantees' response has been overwhelmingly positive; 100% found the Learning Circles informative, 92% will change their approach to donor retention and 77% felt the Learning Circle allowed for idea sharing and community building. As one participant said, "[I really enjoyed meeting] our community of EDs who are having the same issues to iron out without a sense of competition. Brainstorming always moves things around in the brain."



Register for a ToP Training Course

Do you want to effectively help a group think, talk and work together? ICA's ToP Training Program provides structured facilitation methods to help you lead.

[Click here to find a course near you!](#)



Find a Certified ToP Facilitator Near You

Do you need a neutral facilitator? A certified ToP facilitator can help with everything from strategic planning to team building for organizations or communities.

[Click here to find a certified ToP facilitator!](#)

ICA Colleague Spotlight: Meet David Zahrt!

David Zahrt is a long-time ICA colleague. Originally from Iowa, David and his wife Lin now live in Nevada. David has been marching across the country since March with the [Great March for Climate Action](#).

How did you find the ICA?

I first heard Joe Mathews speak in 1956 during Religious Emphasis Week at the State University of Iowa, but it was not until 1965 that I took a Pastor Leadership Course with the Ecumenical Institute. I was planning to be a pastor, but then I found out there wasn't an assignment for me in New Jersey. So my wife and I decided to do the Summer of 1966 at the Ecumenical Institute in Fifth City. We spent 20 years with the ICA before moving to Iowa to look after my parents and the family farm.



David with the solar panel that takes care of all of the March's electrical needs

What drew you to the climate march?

After 20 years running the family farm, we moved to Nevada to be closer to our kids and bought a house with my sister and her husband. We turned 2,000 square feet of lawn into a garden, turned our porch into a fruit cellar and put up solar panels; our electric bill went down to \$9 a month for two families! Yet I felt lost in Carson City. I just wasn't able to establish the kind of networks I had in Iowa or the kinds of colleagues I could meet with and work with. I decided this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and knowing what we see about climate change, I decided I wanted to do it so that my grandchildren would have a future.

What is an interesting fact about you?

I am the oldest one on the March. I'm only 77.