



COALITION FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

# 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REGIONAL LIVABILITY SUMMIT

LEADING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY: CREATING COLLABORATIONS FOR ACTION

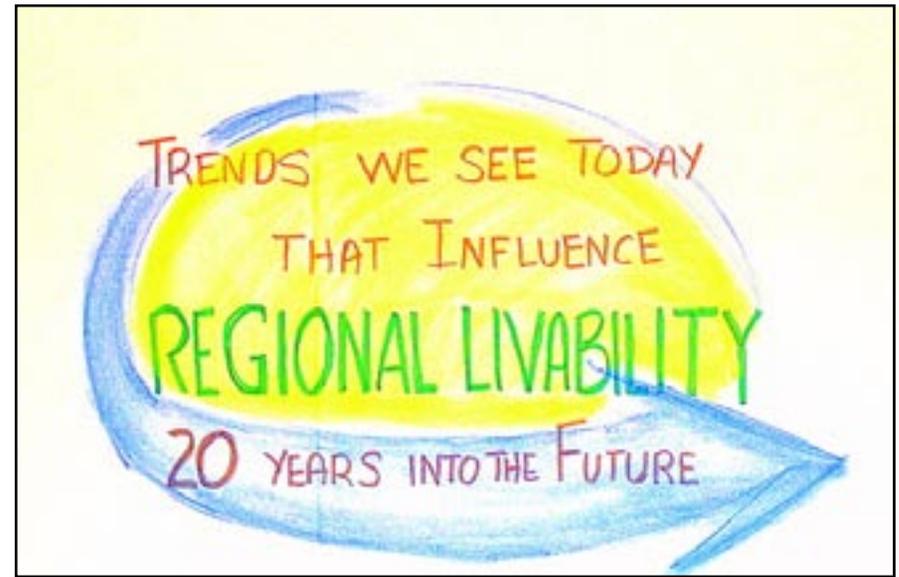
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**Portland State University**  
**Portland, OR**  
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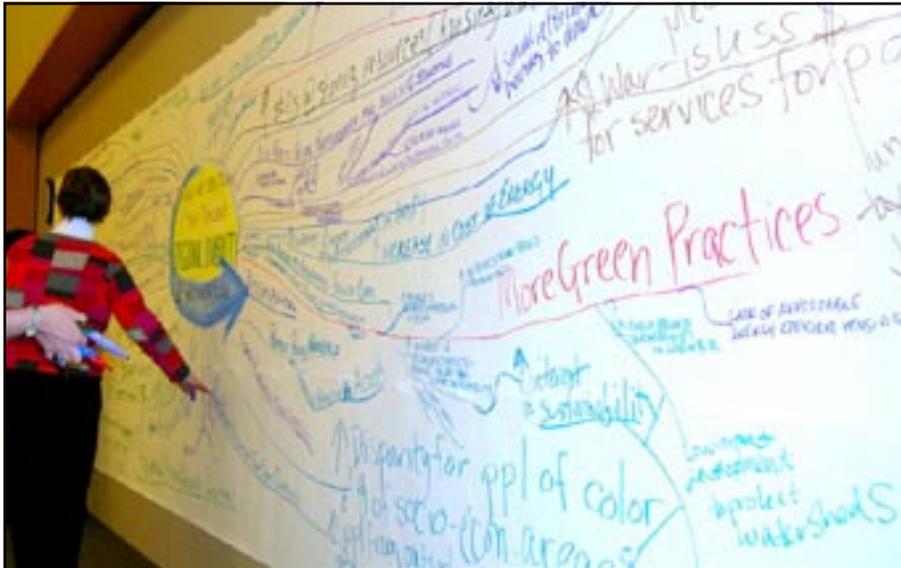


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The **Coalition for a Livable Future** unites over 90 diverse non-profits and businesses and hundreds of individuals to promote healthy and sustainable communities. By connecting issues, people and organizations, CLF empowers communities to take action together to shape the big decisions affecting the Portland region's future. The Coalition was created in 1994 by a diverse group of Portland area nonprofit organizations, including land use and transportation organizations, affordable housing providers, social justice groups and conservationists. Since its formation in 1994, the Coalition for a Livable Future has worked to empower its member organizations find a common focus and forge partnerships by making clear the strategic linkages between and among the wide range of issues involved in creating a sustainable and just future for the Portland-Vancouver region.



Mind mapping exercise at the 5th Annual Regional Livability Summit

## ABOUT THIS EVENT:

### *What is the Regional Livability Summit?*

An annual gathering of new and established community leaders to strategize about the challenges and opportunities related to growth and development in our metropolitan region. The strength of the Summit comes from the variety of participants and speakers who cross disciplines to share experiences, insights, strategies and valuable tools to encourage sustainable and equitable development in our region.

Collaboration doesn't happen automatically; people need to spend time together, sharing their ideas and perspectives, and thinking strategically about what they can accomplish together that they cannot do as individuals or separate organizations. This year's program engaged participants in developing collaborative strategies-for-action to address critical issues facing the Portland-Vancouver region. The Summit sought to tap the energy galvanized in the November 2006 election and to engage participants in considering how we take sustainability to the next level: *What trends are emerging? What opportunities for leverage do we see in these trends? What can we accomplish or set in motion by working together that we cannot achieve by ourselves?*

### *Who Was There?*

This year's Summit brought together representatives from a wide range of sectors and diverse interests and backgrounds – including conservationists, advocates for affordable housing, transportation alternatives, education, healthy communities, and social justice. Participants included: leaders from non-profits, government agencies, and businesses; middle school-college students; teachers and professors; faith community leaders; elected officials; and concerned citizens from across our region.

### *What Major Themes that Emerged?*

- *Communication is essential. To lead sustainability in the 21st century, we must reframe the core messages we use to communicate with different audiences. Our language must communicate the true costs of different actions and decisions we make, but it must also be a message that articulates a positive vision for the future, rather than the list of dire problems we are facing.*



- *We must seize the great political opportunity that exists right now! In light of the political shifts that occurred locally and nationally after the 2006 election, participants sense that there is a unique opportunity to advance many of the progressive issues that they are working on at the local, state and national levels.*



## THE PROCESS & AGENDA

### •Summit Information Fair & CLF Regional Equity Atlas Map Gallery

Participants browsed through the “Equity Atlas Gallery” featuring maps from the CLF Regional Equity Atlas Project and pick up information about events and activities of CLF member organizations and other community groups. The Equity Atlas is a collection of maps and data that illustrate “equity conditions” in the metro area. The Atlas examines the geographic distribution of people and opportunities in the region, along with the relationship between the two. For more information of the Regional Equity Atlas please visit: [http://www.clfuture.org/projects/atlas/index\\_html](http://www.clfuture.org/projects/atlas/index_html)

### •Keynote Address by Denis Hayes

Denis Hayes, national environmental leader and President of the Bullitt Foundation, delivered an inspiring and provocative keynote about what questions we must address to move sustainability to the next level in our region, see page 5 for excerpts.

### •Large Group Dialogue

Summit facilitator, Helen Spector, led participants in creating a mind-map that addressed the question: What trends do you see in the present that will impact future livability in this region over the coming 20 years?

### •Identifying Leverage Points

Each participant was given five “dots” to place on the trends identified in the mind map. Participants were asked to use their dots to vote for the trends where they saw the greatest opportunity or potential for positive leverage from our collaboration.

### •Small Group Formation & Dialogue

Participants self-organized in small groups around the mind-map leverage points. In their small groups, participants discussed: What can we accomplish or set in motion by working together that we cannot do by ourselves? The collaboration-for-action sessions included:

- Transportation
- Food Local / Production
- East Side
- Health
- Sustainability
- Housing
- Education
- Civic Engagement
- Collaboration

### •The Robert L. Liberty Regional Leadership Award Presentation

2007 Honoree - Deb Lippoldt  
Executive Director, Growing Gardens



L & R: CLF Co-Directors, Jill Fuglister & Ron Carley  
Center: Deb Lippoldt

### •Reports from Small Groups

There were nine collaboration-for-action groups that came out of the large group discussion and mind-mapping exercise. They offered a brief report on their outcomes to the larger group. (See pages 7-12 for small group reports.)

### •Leadership Response Panel

*Mark Edlen, Gerding Edlen Development*  
*Emily Gottfried, American Jewish Committee*  
*Victor Merced, Oregon Housing and Community Services*  
*Lynn Peterson, Clackamas County Commissioner*  
*Tom Walsh Sr., Tom Walsh & Co.*  
*Dilafruz Williams, Portland State University Graduate School of Education*



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY DENIS HAYES

For many of this year's Summit participants, the Keynote Address delivered by Denis Hayes was the highlight of the event. National Coordinator of the first Earth Day, Mr. Hayes has been at the core of the modern environmental movement since its launch. He has served in top positions with numerous prominent academic institutions, non-profits and government agencies. As the current President of the Bullitt Foundation, he aspires to make the Pacific Northwest *-the best-educated, most environmentally aware, most progressive corner of America-* a global model for sustainable development.

Mr. Hayes helped to catalyze the energy in the room giving by delivering a keynote address that provided an in-depth and insightful social and historical perspective, framing the political context we find ourselves in today.

This year's keynote was provocative and compelling – if you didn't get a chance to hear it in person, or if you want to experience it again you can an audio file or transcript on our website at: [www.clfuture.org/event/summit07/](http://www.clfuture.org/event/summit07/)



Denis Hayes

### EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH

*"...And we environmentalists need to shift our emphasis from selling fear to selling hope. This is the special value of Portland, Oregon to the United States. This is the model of what are trying to achieve elsewhere. Imperfect, but moving in a direction that actually constitutes a dream – It's why Portland, and why this – particularly meeting here – is so incredibly important."*

*"...But even when environmentalists address issues like clean air, and clean water, safe food and toxic waste, renewable energy –issues that do effect us directly– they are public interest not special interest. We're not trying to get our own air cleaner than our neighbors' air, we're trying to get clean air for everyone. We talk about polycyclic-aromatic hydrocarbons, George Bush talks about Clear Skies. I mean; how weird is that? As Frank Lunce has been telling republicans for years, "Words really matter."*

*"... We've not made it clear to people that we care about them, care about their problems. We've been too fixated on good science and sound policy, and candidly, on showing how smart we are. We've ignored the solid truth in that old bromide that 'people don't care how much you know until they know that you care'"*

*"...The first Earth Day (with 20 million participants), emerged from this chaos with a set of reasonably clear, broadly shared values that quickly became an agenda. And in a nutshell a positive agenda is another name for a dream. When Martin Luther King boldly proclaimed that he had a dream, what he really was doing was sketching out the elements of a positive agenda...This, since, has proven to be a huge mistake on the part particularly of national environmental leaders. We have replaced the dreams with nightmares."*



## THE MIND MAP EXERCISE



*Due to the overwhelming size of the Mind Map, it may be hard to read everything. The two box insets show zooms of sections of the map.*



## SMALL GROUP OUTPUTS:

*Collaboration-for-Action Session Notes*

- *Transportation*
- *Health*
- *Education*
- *Sustainability*
- *Civic Participation*
- *Food / Local Production*
- *East Side*
- *Housing Opportunity*
- *Collaboration*



*Education Collaboration-for-Action Session*

## Transportation

*Common Understanding for this trend*

Goals

- Increase access to all modes in transportation system for all
- Need much greater availability
- Understand how much is spent/what costs are
- Importance of civil society

Positives

- Good public transit brings people together
- Consider multiple different modes
- Shorten legs of triangle (shopping, work, home)
- Transit keeps \$ local, using cars exports our wealth
- Freight could be moved by rail rather than trucks

*Ideas for Working Together for Results*

Questions

- Why individuals spend resources, but not work/fund collectively?
- How/Why are resources spent on certain projects?
- Are we lacking resources?
- Are incentives/discounts for businesses beneficial for community?
- How to best use existing system?

Next Steps

- Join & support advocacy organizations
- Collaborate with freight committee (build multi-modal alliances)
- True cost of driving should be calculated and known
- Collaborate on health/local food production, children's health-activity level
- Institutionalize relationships between housing and transportation



## Health

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Planning (physical)+public, community, mental, environmental health
- Increasing demand for accessible services for seniors
- All ages
- Health must include the following:
  - Transportation (sidewalks, access to parks/recreation, public/bus, access to clinics)
  - Housing
  - Equity
  - Education/schools
  - Environment: tree canopy
  - Access to healthy food
  - Physical access to clinics, facilities
- Health needs to be taken into account in planning for built & social environment
- Involve community while developing techniques
- Go where the people are!
- Importance of agriculture/community farming
- Fed Gov't/ESD/local school districts (school nurses) critical service providers

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Incorporate health/public health into:
- State (Big Look)
- Regional (New Look)
- Local (central city comp. plan/vision updates)
- Improve techniques of community input – go where people are
- Work on developing a Health Impact Assessment tool for Oregon (improve on EIS technique; seek a grant partner / jurisdictions to develop local H.I.A.)
- Possible HIA partners: EPA, Smart Growth, Robert Wood Johnson
- Guidelines to improve existing / develop great communities
- Education (eg highlight model employers' practices)
- Plan for others to improve practices (eg showers, bike racks/parking, transit passes)
- Local government, community partnerships with employers around health, housing, transportation
- Example of employees being able to use bike racks, transit
- More organizational policies that support preventative health as well as service provision
- Commercial/individual not paying SDC (System Development Charges) when they do benefit from parks, etc

## Education

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- 87% of every new job after 2010 will require a Bachelor's Degree
- Education funding is decreasing and will continue to decrease
- Need to increase public / private funding
- Population increases and shifts within districts create different issues (declining enrollments & funding losses v. overcrowded schools)
- Increase in magnet schools
- Increase in technology
- Decline in walk / bike to school
- Decreased parental involvement
- Increase in standardized tests & curriculum
- Increasing demand for higher educational degree
- Increased mobility for students

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Work together to increase civic involvement
- Promote concept of education that is not K-12; rather it's "Pre-K-Gray"
- Create a livability evaluation criteria for the whole school (Livability Index) (Alternative School Card) Elements of the report card could be:
  - Economic diversity, Parks, Transportation, Green Building, Quality housing
  - Hazards Planning / preparedness
  - PE, citizenship, understanding living wage jobs, preparedness for post schools situation
  - Cultural diversity, affordable mixed-income housing
  - Building practices, quality & affordability of health care, student agency / voice, foreign language, arts, music – prep for international experience.
  - Community garden, food quality
  - Integration of multiple models of learning
  - Ethical values, work-site wellness, inviting collaboration of corporate partnerships.
  - Funding sustainable for living – service learning community
  - Personal safety, transportation / inside school, emissions rating
  - Space / student (density factor), social equity, accommodating special needs.

### Next Steps

- Will arrange a meeting by email
- Create evaluation criteria for the whole school (Livability Index)



## Sustainability

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Personal health = community health = environmental (planetary) health
- Using things over again (no net loss / zero impact)
- Modesty
- Restore rather than deplete social & natural capital
- Reversing impact vs. reducing
- Long term thinking
  - Life cycle of products
  - Interdependency (generational)
- Renewable energy that are safe (solar, wave, etc)
- Efficient use of existing resources
- Being inclusive of voices of all environmental justice
- Creating context for sustainability
- Local actions for global impact
- Acknowledging that sustainability is a process / health is ongoing
- Questioning current paradigm
- Education
- Learning from other areas
- Immediacy
- How do we implement positive change?
  - Political, business, social justice
- Finding common ground
- Book: The Long Emergency by Howard Kunzler



*Sustainability Collaboration-for-Action Session*

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

#### Goals

- Attainable, clear and measurable
- Let goals direct the action

#### Education

- Developing strategy for different audiences (change the conversation/language)
  - How do we craft our message to connect with different audiences?
  - Know your audience's interest / focus
  - Innovative, creative strategies
  - Moving to action
  - Adopting practices

#### Collaborating to reach out

#### Networking / sharing resources

- Internalizing cost of un-sustainability
- Awareness of consequences
- Using internet

#### Policy Change

- Fringe ideas to policy enterprise
- Framework that is necessarily sustainable (allows all choice)
  - Choice to change
- Using network to force political pressure

#### Incentives

- Geared towards the audience
- Making the "right" choice is easier and more profitable
- Respectful of where people are at
- From a "legitimized" source
- Going green on multiple levels
- NOT creating disincentives and breaking down disincentives that exist



## Civic Engagement

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

#### Negative Impacts of Technology

- Isolation from neighbors
- Affiliate / dialogue with only like-minded
- Point & click participation
- Waste of time & energy sending/receiving electronic messages
- Lose impact of personal concern
- Many people don't have internet access
- Media only gives minimal info on issues

#### Difficulties with Civic Engagement

- Disenfranchised feeling (unheard and isolated)
- "I'll be an outsider" "Will I be invited"
- Individualistic American value creates isolation
- Govt engagement vs. how people organize themselves
- Crisis point happens before explanation
- Govt has a responsibility to engage; sometimes decision is made before citizens are involved
- Value of outreach workers needs to change

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Develop a culture of participation that will impact our whole social fabric
- Make better decisions when anyone is involved
- \$\$\$ To help folks engage
- Create the new civic participation infrastructure (Use places where people gather - libraries, for example)
- Public officials always reassess your success at engagement
- We are a practice of civic engagement in this group, bring it to a larger group
- Coalition memberships contingent on engaging CLF members to engage (as well as govt agencies)
- CLF go to an institution (church) in community to help engage
- CLF training agencies on how to engage
- CLF would go to watershed or food councils to engage (existing council)
- We need to hear how other cultures share; need for exposure. Daylong event for sharing of stories / dance. Inclusive of youth or adults. "Wisdom council" in the afternoon
- Come up with active projects; "hands on" approaches to engage
- Let's engage each other around our dreams, not our nightmares
- Give people tools for doing things; workshop for skills (ex. Letter writing)
- Continuing education on engagement; different approaches from everyone

### *Next Steps / Goals*

- 1) Embed Civic engagement in our culture
  - K-12 + higher education
  - Working environments – all the circles you move in
  - Training & development
  - Fun, creative ways to come together & build community
  - Sharing stories
- 2) Civic Engagement as a Community of Practice
  - Development of skills
  - CLF as a clearing house
  - Identify best practices / models of engagement
  - Opportunities for successful engagement
  - Wisdom Council, Sociocracy, House Meetings
- 3) Engagement is a SHARED responsibility
  - Govt agencies, business, citizens



*Food / Local Production Collaboration-for-Action Session*



## Food / Local Production

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Big agro-business is not environmentally sustainable
- Even local farm workers buy low quality, mass-produced food
- Need for land for urban/sustainable agriculture
- Education about healthy, sustainable food is only useful if that food can be accessed by everyone year round
- Middle-class (those w/ disposable income) have power to change food system and economy (purchasing power)

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Encourage more/longer farmer's markets
- More local produce in stores
- More accessible / affordable / convenient
- Local policy changes: Tax incentives for local food production / sales
- Collaboration between planners and small farmers
- Address why local food is more expensive
- Maximize local/seasonal in school lunches
- Funding for programs like O.S.U. extension
- Promote existing campaigns for local/seasonal/healthy food production
- Contact natural allies (healthcare, schools, etc...)
- Ending hunger in OR
- Educating about food system issues
- Increase demand for good food/local seasonal
- Making healthy food accessible/affordable
- Why do we import the same produce we export? Address disconnect
- Gov't subsidies of big food
- Educate people about how to use seasonal food & when its available

### *Next Steps*

- Connect with PDX/Multnomah Food Policy Council
- Participate in Community Food Matters list-serve
- Consider Food Working Group with CLF

## East Side (County)

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Lack of comprehensive understanding of issues and ways to address them.
- Acknowledging the past and finding ways to move forward.
- Large, diverse area (geography, ethics, language background)
- Words matter!

### *Positive things:*

- Keep undeveloped land for food
- Maximize transportation
- Increase civic participation in East Counties & recognize importance to region.
- Eastside schools do well even though higher poverty levels / goes against stereotypes.
- More investment in east county by city
- Johnson Creek
- Green space acquisition upward trend
- Increasing home ownership in Lents

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Identify & coalesce around existing opportunities for collaboration in order to bring resources & people to the table (schools, housing, green space, mass transit).
- Take care to build a positive experience, be specific & strategic
- Publicize successes
- Leverage increase in planning resources
- Build local organizing capacity
- More connected neighborhood associations provide guidance to struggling neighborhoods. Example: Best practices – how to run great meetings / provide childcare.

### *Needs/Questions*

- Increasing need to travel to jobs, etc.
- Need information about who is doing what to increase efficiency & partnerships
- A community coming together around shared vision
- How do you energize people?
- How to overcome belief that east county residents are a closed group
- Finding opportunities & resources for people to come together.
- How to shift the helplessness dynamic around civic involvement.
- How to publicize successes
- Planning as a community organizing tool
- Childcare, translation, food



## Housing Opportunity

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Institutionalized racism
- Apathy on race / class

As a result, we see the following consequences:

- Instability in all parts of life
- Lack of access to equity
- Different challenges
- Loss of social capital
- Time on transportation
- Predatory loans
- When white people catch a cold, people of color get pneumonia
- Displacement across region / transportation, jobs, success, community

### *Goals*

- Supply side strategies
- Demand / capacity to afford strategies
- Strategic distribution

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

- Housing connects to other issues / right people at table
- Housing as infrastructure
- Fed advocacy for \$
- Pressure off lending industry
- Taking on workers struggles
- Build on existing collaboration
- Opportunity to reframe housing
- Address NIMBYism (race /class)
- Education -> employment -> housing
- Reprioritize Fed Funds
- Match new green opportunities with people needing more income

## Collaboration

### *Common Understanding for this trend*

- Shared power / shared reward
- Getting out of silos (for profit, non-profit, govt)
- Need for educational + structural change to support holistic approach
- Better understanding of the institutional infrastructures supporting collaboration
- Need to better understand the behavioral practices of collaboration
- Relationship/dynamic between trust & tolerance

Barriers to collaboration:

- Time & Cost
- Lack of perceived “incentives” to get “all parties” at the table
- Past practices / traditions of decision making & sharing power
- Power abuses of few

### *Ideas for Working Together for Results*

Support system conditions for collaboration:

- Capacity to let go – non-attachment to preconceived outcome
- Shared goal – recognized mutualism of interests
- Commitment to discovery
- Shared “win” / shared values
- Develop an experimental approach, agility
- Create feedback loops – continuous “looping”
- Shared access to power of money, knowledge (status, rank)

Offer and support models for successful collaboration:

- Shared \$\$ pools – shared power
- Identifying shared goals /rewards at front end of process
- OR Networks like Oregon Conservation Network
- Collaboration for advocacy on convergent issues
- Future Search (other emerging processes)
- Vision Action Network
- Charrettes

### *Next Steps: Proposed Action: Focus organizational resources on:*

- Facilitation (internal/external), liasons (existin/dedicated), informal/social relationships, info/knowledge sharing, emphasis on diverse stakeholders, translators
- Dvlop cross-cultural inclusive educational techn. from early years
- Dvlop bank of facilitators into institutional infrastructure
- Collaboration needs to be legislated
- Performance specifications for collaboration (not just “public involvement”)
- New leadership/facilitation model



## LEADERSHIP RESPONSE PANEL

To close the Summit, six diverse local “luminaries” shared reflections from the day’s dialogue. Panelists responded to what they heard during the day and offered reactions as well as their thoughts on implications and key next steps.



*Panel members from left to right: Victor Merced, Lynn Peterson, Tom Walsh Sr., Dilafruz Williams, Emily Gottfried, Mark Edlen*

### **Mark Edlen** (Gerding Edlen Development)

- Gerding Edlen has a “corporate citizen responsibility” to sustainability, but it is NOT yet making money on it. This is not a long-term sustainable model.
- Until consumers feel “true cost” of goods, behavior won’t change. If we were able to capture full costs of consumption/use, we should use the income it generates to fund new infrastructure.
- Working with large corporations is opportunity for change.
- Portland is hanging on to “sustainability mantle” by fingernails. We need to move aggressively or we will lose our grasp on this and fall behind. In particular, our lack of investment in public education is one critical areas that we need to turn around.

### **Emily Gottfried** (American Jewish Committee)

- We can’t be sustainable until we deal with poverty.
- Advocacy is essential to address direct causes and the faith community should be seen a powerful advocate. Use pulpit to develop advocacy.
- Profitability of green business is a GOOD THING! Pay attention to it, and use it to advance new strategies.
- Earth Day is easy to comprehend: the complexity of sustainability and all it encompasses is not so easy. Need to make our message comprehensible so that we reach those not in this room.

### **Victor Merced** (Oregon Housing & Community Services)

- The top three areas where we must focus and where CLF must focus are:
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Health
- There are two key constituency groups to engage:
  - Corporations
  - Culturally specific communities
- We must learn to use culturally appropriate communication so that we can build new partnerships and engage these key constituencies effectively.

### **Lynn Peterson** (Clackamas County Commissioner)

- There are opportunities to use our land and transportation infrastructure more efficiently and effectively. We need to capitalize on the underutilized land and transportation capacity that exist, and make our existing communities work better.
- Planners can’t do it all: they need more trained facilitators to support the work and engage a broader segment of the community.
- There is unique opportunity that exists in the next few years to revisit some of the state tax limitations that are crippling our communities’ ability to pay for education, infrastructure, human services, etc. Participants should consider how their groups can be a part of developing and promoting a progressive tax reform agenda.

### **Tom Walsh Sr.** (Tom Walsh & Co.)

- Words matter as do actions & symbols. We must take great care in crafting and communicating our values and messages.
- Anything worth doing is/is not worth doing slowly (time is not our friend).
- The ideas discussed today are all possible. We are only limited by our ability to act quickly and decisively.

### **Dilafruz Williams** (Portland State University School of Education)

- As the title of this year’s Summit reflects, we are charged with focusing on social justice, not just environment. We cannot move toward sustainability until we work on both. As part of this, we must acknowledge the connection between poverty & racism.
- The groups today focused on positive futures. We must continue to do this by focusing on hopes, not fears; dreams, not nightmares.



## NEXT STEPS

- 1.) We'll be utilizing the proceedings from the Summit to inform our strategic planning over the next year.
- 2.) We intend to create a list serve of Summit participants to facilitate ongoing connection among participants who are interested in this and hearing from one another about outcomes in the Collaboration-for-Action sessions. Including updates from subsequent meetings and action items
- 3.) We hope to hear from you about the connections that you make that lead to action, we are very interested in the work that comes out of your collaboration and would like to make certain that these great ideas can be shared amongst all participants.
- 4.) For more information about this year's Summit, to download the participant list, or listen to the keynote address please visit our website at: [www.clfuture.org/events/summit07/](http://www.clfuture.org/events/summit07/)

*A special thanks to the volunteers who helped make this event a success.*

Kandi Bauman	Caran Goodall	Marlowe Kully	Stephen Shackman
Rachael Behl	Jack Hallin	Joy Margheim	Helen Spector
Don Benson	Taj Hansen	Carol Placer	Michael Tevlin
Amanda Fritz	Doug Kelso	Richard Plank	Heather Tischbein
Joann Gadbow	Albert Koroloff	Payal Razdan	Jami Walker

*\*All photos in this document are courtesy of Payal Razdan & Jami Walker*

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