

Building a Community of Partnerships

“Good design is a community process requiring people who know and value the positive things that bring them together and hold them together.” (Orr, 2004)

Awakening to the Problem



“...nonprofits exist to address several types of market failure, including provision of public goods – production of which is not incentivized in markets. The nonprofit sector provides institutional arrangements designed in part to service as a remedy to such market failures, particularly when governments all fail to address the issues.”
(Witesman & Heiss, 2016)

“First, what are preconditions that give rise to collaborative alliances? Second, what is collaboration, and how does it occur? Third, what are the expected outcomes when organizations collaborate?”
(Guo & Acar, 2005)

Theories to Research

- Critical Social Theory
- Public Goods Theory
- Political Ecology Theories
- Trust-related Theories
- Complexity Theory
- Systems/Network Theories
- Sustainability Theories

Possible Research Methods

- Participatory Action Research
- Sustainability Research
- Community-based Research
- Collaborative Inquiry Research

“...the propensity of all industrial societies to grow beyond the limits of natural systems.”
(Orr, 1992)

“The power of grassroots innovations and local entrepreneurship for creating intangible and economic values for rural areas and communities deserves increased attention in political decision making.”
(Susser, Doring, & Beate, 2017)

Energy-based economic development is a process by which economic developers; energy policymakers and planners; government officials; industry, utility, and business leaders; and other stakeholders in a given region strive to increase energy efficiency or diversify energy resources in ways that contribute to job creation, job retention, and regional wealth creation.
(Carley, Brown, Nourafshan, & Benami, 2011)

Looking for a Solution



“Healthy, sustainable systems are those which are self-organizing, self-healing, and self-renewing, and that are able to learn in order to maintain and adapt themselves.”
(Sterling, 2001)

“Transformative learning theory is based on the notion that we interpret our experiences in our own way, and that how we see the world is a result of our perceptions of our experiences.”
(Taylor & Cranton, 2012)

“The question is not whether we will change; rather, the questions are how we will change and what form the transition will take.”
(Lerch, 2017)

Working Together to Find The Answer



First Year Concept Poster
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EDSU 904
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Abstract

This concept poster represents both the linear and non-linear growth experienced in the program this first year. It is linear in the sense it is a continuum of experiences gained throughout my life that point towards the importance of community action and collaboration to deliver environmental, social and economic sustainability. Throughout the year, a variety of experiences – beginning with the residency that introduced me to my peers and colleagues and ending with a more disciplined and refined research focus incorporating several U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The non-linear path was much less straightforward, winding and wending around new concepts like complexity theory, self-sustaining systems, transformative learning, ecological literacy, place-based learning, etc. The literary journey, while messy, brought me to the same path as the linear and together provide a holism to guide further research.