

New Collaborative Provides Sustainability Resource for Iowans

By Sandra Oberbroeckling
Community Relations Specialist

Question: What do you get when you combine the Center on Sustainable Communities (COSC) and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach?

Answer: A trusted resource available to all Iowans for issues pertaining to green building, healthy living, and all things sustainable.

In March 2016, COSC and ISU Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development (CED) unit agreed to work together to provide resources and outreach on best practices in construction, planning, and healthy living—and the Sustainability Collaborative was born.

"Iowa now has a partnership in place that will meet the needs of people who are looking for help in finding information and trainings on healthy, safe, energy-efficient, and sustainable buildings and communities," said Bill McAnally, home improvement expert and former carpentry instructor for Iowa Central Community College.

Founded in 2005, COSC has hosted more than 350 workshops, lectures, lunch seminars, open houses, community forums and hands-on sessions across Iowa on topics such as home water-management, home energy, and reducing construction waste.

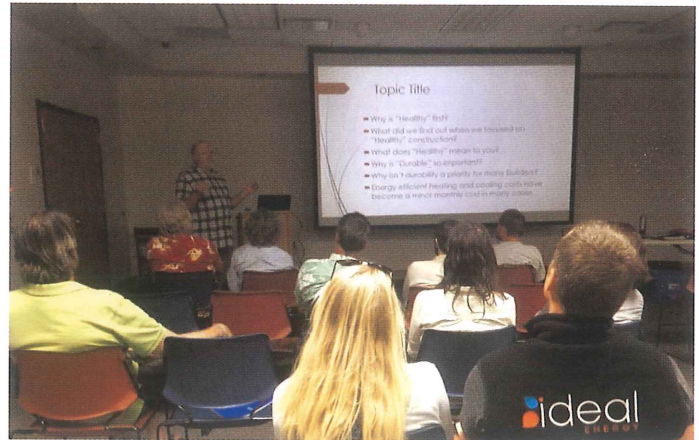
"We see so much potential in this partnership," said Scott Timm, the CED field specialist who will spearhead the effort. He continued, "There are so many opportunities

for collaboration with faculty and students, such fantastic expert experience with COSC and its partners, and so many communities that would benefit from workshops focused on the built environment."

The ISU Extension and Outreach CED unit, consisting of on-campus faculty and statewide field specialists, empowers communities to shape their own futures through research, education, community engagement, economic development, and community planning and design. The CED program has a comprehensive background working with communities across the state, and often serves as a conduit for providing research and best practices from the university to Iowans.

"Partnering with ISU Extension and Outreach on the Sustainability Collaborative is an exciting new chapter for our organization," said Lynnae Marty Hentzen, cofounder and former executive director of COSC. "We are thrilled about the expertise and direction that ISU Extension and Outreach can provide to deliver green-building and healthy-living programming to communities across Iowa."

As a joint-institution board is formed to advise the new partnership, plans are already under way for four solar



Home improvement expert Bill McAnally presents at the Energy Efficiency Rehab Training May 4–5 at the Fairfield Public Library.

workshops with Pathfinders RC&D at the following locations: Fairfield (August 20), Creston (August 27), Perry (September 10), and Tipton (September 17). In addition, two (bilingual) building science and weatherization workshops in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity will be held in July and August.

"The ISU/COSC collaborative will have the expertise and delivery mechanism to go anywhere in Iowa and provide on-site, person-to-person workshops and trainings. The information provided comes from both research and extensive 'in-the-field' experience and aims at providing a positive, helpful experience for all," said McAnally.

For more information about how you could invite the Sustainability Collaborative to work in your community, contact Scott Timm at stimm@iastate.edu or 515-291-2560.

'Flooding In Iowa' Video Series Earns National Award

By Callen Scurr, Undergraduate Student,
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Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have earned the National 2016 Outreach Award from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) for the video series "Flooding in Iowa."

In light of recent and frequent flooding events across the state, the Iowa DNR contracted with ISU Extension planning

and development specialist and associate professor of community and regional planning Gary Taylor to develop the videos to educate the public and officials about issues related to flooding and flood mitigation. The videos cover multiple topics, including: the causes of flooding, floodplain mapping, regulations, and flood insurance.

ISU Extension and Outreach and the Iowa DNR were recognized at the ASFPM annual conference in Grand Rapids on June 23.

The video series was also recognized by the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

(NACDEP) in 2015, earning first place in the category of educational materials.

The videos are available online at www.extension.iastate.edu/floodinginiowa.

