

INSTITUTE ON THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover**<sup>SM</sup>

## MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at [aprilsnyder@umn.edu](mailto:aprilsnyder@umn.edu). Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

<b>Date of Report Submission:</b>	October 11, 2015
<b>Project PI &amp; Dept/School</b>	Cindy Christian; Alworth Institute at the University of Minnesota Duluth
<b>Project Title:</b>	The Promise and Challenge of Urban Sustainability
<b>Grant Amount \$:</b>	\$2500.00

### Project Context & Purpose

*Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.*

“The proposed project entails two different public events that examine the ideas and challenges of urban sustainability, as well as a specific look at businesses, non-profits and university efforts to create a sustainable living space at UMD and in the Duluth community.”

These events were part of the Alworth Institute’s year-long series “Confronting Global Modernity: the Challenge of Environmental Sustainability.” In the fall semester the focus was on rural sustainability; the spring semester programs focuses on rural sustainability.

There were no changes to the propose program or its purposes.

### Work Completed

*Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.*

There were two events held at the University of Minnesota Duluth to fulfill the purpose of this mini grant. The first was a public lecture entitled, *Urban Sustainability and the Technopolitics of Order*, given by Dr. Ivan Bialostosky, a geographer who received his PhD from the University of Minnesota and is faculty at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN. Dr. Bialostosky’s lecture provided an examination of projects meant to support urban sustainability and provided a theoretical basis for the examination of projects such as the use of green energy, agricultural programs, public transportation, zero waste programs, development of parks, green buildings and city planning. He gave a critical analysis of such projects adopted in the city of Minneapolis. This lecture was held on Monday, April 21, 2014. There were 40 people in attendance, including students, faculty and community members. Dr. Bialostovsky also met with the UMD Geography faculty, most of which are engaged in the research and application of urban sustainability programs, including the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project.

The second program funded by this grant was a panel discussion of businesses and non-profits within the Duluth Community. The title of the event was *Sustainable Duluth: Local Actions for a Global Imperative*. The organizations featured on the panel are entrepreneurial start-ups and non-profits that support urban

development and economic growth in a way that is environmentally sustainable. The purpose of the panel was to introduce the university and wider community to these groups and businesses and to have a discussion about the benefits and challenges of operating sustainably. The panel was moderated by Mindy Granley, the Director of UMD's Office of Sustainability. Participants on the panel included Loll Designs, Inc. (produces outdoor furniture from recycled milk containers); Duluth Coffee Company (a local café and coffee roaster); Solglimt (a B&B that operates with green policies); Ecolibrium3 (the Duluth Energy Efficiency Program); and, Sustainable Twin Ports (a non-profit that works to move the Duluth region toward sustainability). This event was held on May 7, 2014 at the UMD campus. Approximately 90 people were in attendance.

### **Partnerships & Collaborations**

*Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.*

The staff of the Alworth Institute was responsible for the arrangement, planning and operation of the two events. The staff includes the Director, Cindy Christian, a one half-time staff person, and a student assistant. In addition, the UMD Office of Sustainability was a non-financial co-sponsor of the project and of the year-long series on global sustainability. The Director of the Office, Mindy Granley, was instrumental in making contact with some of the panel participants, and her office assisted in getting information about the programs to university and community members interested in issues of sustainability. In addition, faculty in the UMD Department of Geography suggested Dr. Bialostosky as a speaker and met with him during his visit to UMD. Because of the connections made from this project funded by the Institute on the Environment, we were able to continue with many collaborations at the university and in the community. Specifically, the UMD Office of Sustainability and Mindy Granley continued as a co-sponsor of the Alworth Institute's climate change series the following year. Ellen Anderson, Director of IonE's Energy Transition Lab, was one of the major speakers.

### **Project Outcomes & Impacts**

*Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.*

It was the hope of the Alworth Institute that these programs would bring together people from the university and wider community in the common goal of environmentally sustainable development. While we have no direct measure of this, we believe that people did learn of ongoing work in this area. This is particularly true of the panel on area businesses. For example, few members of the panel were aware of the Solglimt B&B. In addition, because of the focus on sustainability, the Alworth Institute and its Advisory Board chose to make climate change its program focus of its 2014-2015 academic year. The impact of climate change on efforts to promote sustainability is clearly of importance. Because of its work in the area of sustainability and the resulting increase in connections between UMD and community organizations, Cindy Christian and the Alworth Institute were awarded UMD's Sustainability award. The overall theme of the Alworth Institute's 2015-2016 program is *Global Migration: Challenges for People, States & the World*. One of the issues we will be looking at through a public lecture is the connection between environmental degradation and the migration of people. Climate change and unsustainable development is both a cause and an effect of the movement of populations across the globe. In fact, because of what we learned from the events funded by the IonE grant, any of the global and international issues that the Alworth Institute examines will include the variable of environmental sustainability or the lack thereof. The interconnection of people and their environment will be impossible to ignore.



Royal D. Alworth, Jr. Institute for International Studies

# Urban Sustainability and the Technopolitics of Order

Presented by,

**Dr. Ivan Bialostosky**

*Professor of Geography, Century College*

*Free and open to the public.  
A reception follows the lecture.*

**Monday, April 21, 2014**

**4:00 PM**

**Library 4th Floor Rotunda**

*Co-sponsored by the UMD Office of Sustainability  
and with the financial assistance of the University of  
Minnesota Institute on the Environment.*

**UMD**



**Royal D. Alworth, Jr. Institute for International Studies**

**Wednesday, May 7  
2014  
7:00 PM  
The Rafters, UMD**



**Free and open to the public and followed by a reception.**

# **Sustainable Duluth: Local Actions for a Global Imperative**

Panel discussion featuring -

- Mindy Granley, UMD Sustainability Coordinator (Moderator)
- Greg Benson, Loll Designs, Inc.
- Eric Faust, Duluth Coffee Company
- Brian & Mary Grover, Solglimt (B&B)
- Kristi Heintz, Sustainable Twin Ports
- Jodi Slick, Ecolibrium3

Local businesses and non-profits engaged in green practices will be examined. The work of these groups, a sample of what exists in Duluth, will be highlighted. Questions will focus on the social, economic and environmental contributions made to Duluth as well as to a global balance. The challenges of “doing sustainability” will also be discussed.



**ecolibrium3**



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Additional sponsors include UMD’s Office of Sustainability and the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment.  
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For more information go to [www.alworth.org](http://www.alworth.org).