

Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2005
Time: 5:30-8:30pm
Hosts: Sustainability Practice Network
(<http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/SPNetwork/>)
and Net Impact, NYU Chapter
(<http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~impact/>)
Venue: Cantor Boardroom, Room # 11-75 (on the 11th floor)
Kaufman Management Center
NYU Stern School of Business
44 West 4th Street
New York, NY 10012
RSVP: Erica Lee, EJL253@stern.nyu.edu, by Monday March 7 at the latest, please

1. Networking (5:30pm)

2. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements (6:00pm)

3. Round Table - Measuring Sustainability: Prospects for Convergence Between Various Reporting Systems (6:30pm)

How do we measure progress to sustainability? How do we begin to align measurement and reporting systems that exist at different scales – global, national, regional, local and corporate? Participants will discuss the Environmental Sustainability Index (<http://www.yale.edu/esi/>) and the NJ State Sustainability Indicators (<http://www.njssi.net/gi/>), both recently updated, as well systems of corporate performance indicators such as GRI (www.globalreporting.org), and explore how these and other frameworks might converge to provide stakeholders with the information they need to make sound decisions and contribute to the broader goals of global sustainable development.

Participants:

Marc Levy, Associate Director for Science Applications, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, co-director of the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index
Matt Polsky, Passaic River Coalition; Advisory Board, New Jersey Sustainable State Institute; formerly NJ DEP team leader NJ State Sustainability Indicators
John Cusack, Gifford Park Associates, formerly CEO of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors

Moderator: Michael Gresty
President, Kinetix [business ecology]
917.282.0310, gresty@kinetixllc.com

4. Concluding Remarks (7:30pm)

Notes:

If you are interested in reporting on a recent event or making an announcement about a forthcoming event at the meeting, please contact Michael Gresty.

We will distribute meeting notes and a contact list after the meeting.

Round Table Biographies:

Marc Levy heads the Science Applications group at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), part of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. His training is in political science, and he has published on environmental sustainability indicators, environment-security connections, and the effectiveness of international environmental institutions. He leads CIESIN's work on the Environmental Sustainability Index, Poverty Mapping, and the Human Footprint; serves as a Project Scientist of the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center; coordinates CIESIN's work for the Millennium Development Project, and directs work on conflict early warning. He is a Convening Lead Author for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Before coming to CIESIN Mr. Levy had teaching appointments at Princeton University and Williams College. His recent publications include:

Marc A. Levy et al, "Ecosystem Conditions and Human Well-Being," Chapter 5 in Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, *Conditions and Trends of World's Ecosystems*, forthcoming (Spring 2005), Island Press.

Esty, Daniel C., Marc Levy, Tanja Srebotnjak, and Alexander de Sherbinin (2005). *2005 Environmental Sustainability Index: Benchmarking National Environmental Stewardship*. New Haven: Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy.

Marc A. Levy and Patrick Meier, "Early Warning and Assessment of Environment, Conflict and Cooperation," UNEP, *Understanding Environment, Conflict, and Cooperation* (October 2004).

Contact: marc.levy@ciesin.columbia.edu

Matt Polsky has worked in business, government, academia and non-governmental organizations, and is a perpetual student. As the Sustainability Team Leader at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), he managed the inter-agency team that introduced sustainability into state administration. While with NJDEP, he developed policy papers, managed research projects by consultants, participated in five 'beyond-compliance' initiatives with business, supported the Office of Sustainable Business and sponsored over 300 sustainability seminars. After leaving NJDEP, he taught environmental policy at Kean University and facilitated four sustainability education courses. He has volunteered for NGOs at the WSSD in Johannesburg, in Brazil and for the Kerry campaign. He has also lobbied the Congress, testified to state government, consulted to businesses and other organizations about sustainability, surveyed municipalities on their land use planning, catalyzed local sustainability initiatives and written articles. Matt recently began a position with the Passaic River Coalition, running their land trust, consulting on open space master plans while introducing some sustainability concepts. He is also helping a university consortium develop sustainability modules, and is on the board of ASF. Matt has a BA in Psychology from Rutgers College, an MBA and an interdisciplinary MA from NYU, and done sustainability coursework at various northeastern universities.

Contact: mattpolsky@passaicriver.org

John Cusack has over 30 years experience in the financial, energy and environmental industries, including Asea Brown Boveri, Marsh & MacLennan, Con Edison, and Combustion Engineering and is the co-founder of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, the world's leading provider of environmental performance ratings to the financial industry. He currently serves as President and Founder of Gifford Park, a firm specializing in strategic environmental and sustainability management. In this capacity, he provides consulting services for a wide spectrum of businesses and industry sectors, including major financial institutions, multinational firms and startup companies. Mr. Cusack also serves as President of the Board of Directors of the New York State Environmental Business Association, is on the Board of the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technologies, is a member of the North American Task Force of the United Nations Environment Program's Finance Initiative and is a charter member of the Environmental Entrepreneurs business organization. Mr. Cusack has a Bachelors in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Manhattan College as well as a Masters in Business Administration from the Stern School of New York University.

Contact: johnlcusack@att.net