PALS
PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
LEARNING IN SUSTAINABILITY

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

City of Frederick

Baltimore

Howard County /
Columbia Assoc.

Anne Arundel County /
Annapolis

College Park

Salisbury

Sample Projects:

LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING

- New central database for all county buildings and occupants (Howard)
- GIS land use database that pinpoints development opportunity (Annapolis)
- Potential for county/city shared services (Anne Arundel)
- Community asset mapping (Mount Royal CDC – Baltimore)
- Greenhouse gas inventory and policies (College Park)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Redesign of Lake Kittamaqundi for civic space and preservation (Columbia Association)
- Solutions for algae overgrowth in Carroll Creek (Frederick)
- Combating invasive species in the Frederick watershed (Frederick)
- Connecting Patapsco Greenway: bi-county collaborative design (Anne Arundel, Howard)
- Waterfront designs that protect against storm surges (Annapolis)

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Market analysis and strategies to enhance ai(Frederick)
- Creating an open civic space for a growing town center (Anne Arundel)
- Models for profitable, small farming and food hubs (Howard)
- Exploring innovation and makerspaces within the maritime industry (Annapolis)
- Redevelopment plans for vacant sites (Southwest Partnership, Baltimore)
- Downtown master plan that addresses flooding and promotes walkability (Salisbury)

SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- Outreach to minority-owned businesses (Frederick)
- Strategies to end homelessness within the county (Howard)
- Identify emergency "hot spots" with mapping technology (Anne Arundel)
- Increasing civic engagement through social media (Howard/Columbia Assoc.)

PALS BY THE #S:

6 Partner Jurisdictions

11 Colleges & Schools

1350 Students

89 Projects

Over $3 Million Value

Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability

WHAT IS PALS?

The Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) at the University of Maryland is a campus-wide initiative that pairs faculty expertise with student ingenuity to tackle sustainability issues facing Maryland communities. PALS partners with one or two communities each academic year, matching customized coursework with specific economic, environmental and social sustainability challenges pinpointed by the partner community. The collaborative university-community partnership delivers recommendations, strategies and research that address a community's most pressing challenges, providing a road map for creating sustainable, thriving places to live, work and play.

Communities

Any city or county can apply to PALS. Commitments are typically made nine months in advance and require a one-year commitment, assistance with coordination and a modest financial contribution to defray costs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Faculty

Since 2013, nearly 40 UMD faculty in 11 colleges and schools have brought action learning into the classroom with PALS. The PALS' partnership model allows faculty to teach real-world case studies without having to endure the administrative legwork. To learn more on how you can teach a PALS course, contact us.

Students

PALS turns the community in the classroom, combining fieldwork and classroom exercises to solve real challenges in sustainability. Each semester, PALS offers both graduate and undergraduate level PALS coursework in a number of programs. PALS courses fulfill the Scholarship in Practice requirement. PALS also offers independent study opportunities. To find PALS coursework, look for the designation in Testudo!

For more information, contact:
http://smartgrowth.umd.edu/PALS

PALS is part of University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG). The NCSG is a cooperative venture of four schools at UMD, College Park: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Architecture, Planning and Preservation; Engineering; and Public Policy. Since 2000, NCSG has established an international reputation for rigorous and objective research, education and technical assistance. Learn more at http://smartgrowth.umd.edu

LEARN MORE

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