



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SUMMIT NORTH CAROLINA



Audubon International's Sustainable Community Program helps communities with economic development that's environmentally sound and socially appropriate.

Audubon International and North Carolina State University Host Sustainable Communities National Meeting

On October 8-9, 2003, over fifty leaders from the environmental, business, university, and public sectors met on the North Carolina State University (NCSU) campus to discuss the creation of a national sustainable community's partnership dialogue group. Organized and lead by Audubon International and NCSU, the two-day meeting culminated with a consensus by participants to explore the development of such a partnership, along with a long-term commitment by Audubon International, to continue these leadership summits with partners across the country.

Ultimately, what was identified was the need for a 'one-stop' clearinghouse for information, education, training, and technical services for communities interested in planning, developing, managing, and addressing the long-term viability of the ecological, economic, and social systems around them. This could be achieved, according to participants, by matching community needs with partner resources, and by using Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program as a framework for community action.



Collaboration and partnerships are the key to any sustainability effort — and central to Audubon International's Sustainable Community Summits.

Through panel discussions, break-out sessions, and group discussion sessions, participants identified some of the critical community needs for achieving sustainability, some of the available resources for meeting those needs, as well as areas in need of developing resources to help communities. Likewise, a number of approaches and organizing frameworks were proposed to assist in identifying best practices and communicating those to a wider audience. "What we have across the country are communities with real needs," said Ron Dodson, President of Audubon International. "At the same time, there are a number of businesses, government agencies, universities, and non-profits with resources, tools, and programs that could help meet those needs. We've learned through our Sustainable Communities Program that if we're going to address community-wide environment, economic, and social problems effectively, we need to find a better way to connect people in these communities with these resource-providers."

**2003
Sustainable Community Summit:
Participating Organizations and
Individuals**

Ruth McWilliams
USDA Forest Service
National Sustainable Development
Coordinator

Anita Brown-Graham
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jim Clinton
Executive Director
Southern Growth Policies Board

Warren McCord
Asst. Director for Community Development
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

Linda B. Rimer
Region 4 Liaison to NC & SC
U.S. EPA
Office of the Regional Administrator

Joe A. Sumners, Ph. D.
Director
Economic Development Institute
Auburn University

Larry R. Arrington
UF/FAS Extension
University of Florida

Jennifer Fidler
Director of Public Works
City of Fairhope, AL

Charles Peacock, Ph.D.
Dept. Crop Sciences
North Carolina State University

James T. Snow
National Director, Green Section
United States Golf Association

Simon Jones
The Conservation Fund

Debby Warren
Southern Rural Development Initiative

Neil Yarbrough
City Horticulturalist
City of Eufaula

Audubon International and NCSU formed a formal partnership in 2002 to pilot-test Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program (SCP) in North Carolina. Following the lead of the first Audubon International pilot community in Alabama (Eufaula), the citizens of Williamston, North Carolina, have been working in partnership with Audubon International and NCSU staff to foster community-wide environmental action, civic engagement, and community-wide strategic planning. "The results to date in Williamston have been fantastic," according to Dr. Stephen B. Jones, former Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement, Office of Extension and Engagement, North Carolina State University. "By connecting Audubon International's program approach with the talents of our NCSU Extension and Engagement staff and students, community residents are learning what sustainability means, and people from all walks of life are beginning to feel empowered to move their community in that positive direction."



Eufaula, Alabama:
The world's first Certified Audubon Sustainable Community for the development of the *Eufaula 2020 Plan*.



Williamston, North Carolina:
Recently awarded the Audubon Sustainable Planning Award for using the sustainability indicators from the Sustainable Communities Program to frame and define the town's master plan.

**For more information
about hosting a
Sustainable Community Summit,
please contact:**

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**Or email
summit@auduboninternational.org**