USDN Innovation Fund: 2016 Grants Allow 63 USDN Members to Address Collective Needs

In 2016, the USDN Innovation Fund made over $845,000 in investments in competitive, innovative projects focused on impacts and scaling. A record 22 grant projects completed and are posted [here](#).

The full USDN Innovation Fund 2016 Annual Report can be accessed [here](#). The following summarizes highlights from this report.

2016 at a Glance. In 2016, the USDN Innovation Fund (IF) invested $845,600 to support 63 core and associate USDN member-communities. Of the 17 funded projects:

- $263,700 supported 5 Impacts RFP awards, designed to gather information on how urban sustainability innovations impact how members do their jobs and collaborate with each other, across departments, and with external partners
- $537,271 supported 6 General RFP awards, designed to advance urban sustainability innovations through a pathway starting with ideation and ending in scaling
- $18,739 supported 4 Technical Assistance (TA) mini-grants to foster stronger project design in 2016 General RFP grant proposals
- $25,000 supported continued advancement of a sustainability indicators dashboard, in partnership with the [STAR Communities](#)
- $890 supported travel for 2 members to compete [RentRocket](#) (a phased USDN IF grant project) at a 2016 [MIT Climate CoLab](#) Contest

2016 Committee Members:
- Jacqui Bauer; Bloomington IN, *co-chair*
- Timothy Burroughs; Berkeley CA, *co-chair*
- Catherine Hurley; Evanston IL
- Cori Burbach; Dubuque IA
- David Driskell; Boulder CO
- Doug Smith; Vancouver BC
- Erin Gill; Knoxville TN
- Glen Hadwen; Ft. Lauderdale FL
- Jennifer Green; Burlington VT
- Jo Zientek; San Jose CA
- Leslie Ethen; Tucson AZ
- Matt Naud; Ann Arbor MI
- Shannon Parry; Santa Monica, CA
- Wayne Feiden; Northampton, MA

USDN Innovation Fund: 2016 Grants Allow 63 USDN Members to Address Collective Needs

The Innovation Fund's 2016 awards are as follows:

#	Grant Name	Amount	Lead City	Grant Purpose
2016 USDN Innovation Fund Awards				
Impact Grants				
1	Utah Climate Action Network Expansion	$52,000.00	Salt Lake City, UT	To build the technical and leadership capacity of local government for initiating climate change policy and planning within the political and culturally conservative backdrop of Utah. This grant will utilize peer-to-peer policy-level conversations, climate challenge discussions, and on-going collaboration, coordination, and sharing of best practices and applied innovation to create levers for system change.
2	Shared Mobility Toolkit Expansion & Training	$76,000.00	Los Angeles, CA	To enable USDN core members, associate members, and partners to become more familiar with and make additions to the Shared Mobility Toolkit supported by The Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC). The proposed additions to the tools will make it easier for users of the toolkit to upload new information, share resources, and learn from each other. Training webinars and the technical assistance will help Cities take full advantage of the toolkit and provide reasoned analysis that can be used in policy development or other decision-making.
3	Beyond the Ban: Preventing Plastic Packaging	$50,000.00	Providence, RI	To build on previous work on sustainable consumption, compostable plastics and community engagement and explore disruptive interventions and policies. This grant purpose is to prevent the release of plastics into the environment and reduce the burden of managing plastics on

USDN Innovation Fund: 2016 Grants Allow 63 USDN Members to Address Collective Needs

				municipalities.
4	Sustainable Economic Development Convening	$45,700.00	Park Forest, IL	To conduct a breakthrough convening workshop to advance the emerging and evolving field of Sustainable Economic Development (SED).
5	Methane Leaks in Gas Distribution Lines	$40,000.00	San Jose, CA	To synthesize the available information on methane leaks in natural gas distribution lines into a useful document to guide the development of policy and program options for local and regional actions. This will give local and regional governments a strong research platform from which to make decisions and develop and implement policies. Further, this project, with help from a stakeholder group of cities and non-governmental organizations, will develop a Natural Gas Action Strategy - a set of policy options and an analysis useful for prioritizing action.
Technical Assistance Mini- Grants				
6	Illegal Dumping	$4,964.00	San Jose, CA	To produce a strong General RFP proposal
7	Smart Cities	$5,000.00	Pittsburgh, PA	To produce a strong General RFP proposal
8	Recycling Economy	$5,000.00	Reno, NV	To produce a strong General RFP proposal
9	Consumption GHG	$3,775.00	Vancouver BC	To produce a strong General RFP proposal
General RFP				
10	USDN GLCAN Vulnerability Assessment Template and Scenario Development	$62,133.00	Ann Arbor, MI	To collaborate with ~10 cities from the Great Lakes region to understand how vulnerability assessments are currently being used to inform decisions and then collaboratively create a template VA and associated process that can replace these disparate assessments.
11	Design and	$65,000.00	Northampton,	To offer four communities the

USDN Innovation Fund: 2016 Grants Allow 63 USDN Members to Address Collective Needs

	Resiliency Teams (DARTs)		MA	opportunity for a Design and Resiliency Team (DART) to provide three days of an intense design charrette to help each community advance local resilience solutions through public conversation, a final presentation and a final report.
12	Responsible Event Program	$100,000.00	Eugene, OR	To work with 7 Primary Cities to 1) formalize the use of an event triple bottom line framework and 2) develop resources and tools to support the local 'enabling environment sectors' critical to successful program delivery.
13	Renewable Heating & Cooling: Thermal Decarbonization of Residential Buildings	$115,000.00	Boulder, CO	To support the advancement of thermal decarbonization programs and policy development. This project integrates the initial planning frameworks and thermal decarbonization tools developed in earlier efforts into a multi-city coordinated implementation strategy.
14	ecoCity Footprint Tool Pilot	$112,838.00	Victoria, BC	To further develop a new tool that has promise for meeting not only basic GHG reporting needs but also to advance the emerging practice of consumption-based emissions inventories. Vancouver recently completed its consumption-based inventory using the prototype ecoCity Footprint Tool (Phase 1 of the Tool development). The Tool provided Vancouver specific, measureable impacts of consumption, both in terms of energy (GHG emissions) and materials (ecological footprint). Given the successes in using the Tool with Vancouver, it is proposed that the Tool be further refined and piloted to test its potential for broader use by USDN members.
15	Behavior	$82,300.00	Washington,	To address the city level barriers from

USDN Innovation Fund: 2016 Grants Allow 63 USDN Members to Address Collective Needs

Change-Based Sustainability Marketing		D.C.	marketing of sustainability efforts, this project develops and scales an existing prototype of a customized training on the basics of marketing for sustainability directors. It is based on successful case studies and evaluations of USDN cities materials compared to best practices.