About us

Relevant work – past and present

About EDA University Centers

Our approach

Focus Year 1
Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement is an applied research and technical assistance unit in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs is a nationally recognized innovator in education, research, and engagement in support of the nation's cities and metropolitan areas.

Promoting just, resilient, and livable communities
Since its founding in 1978, the Voorhees Center has been guided by the mission to improve the quality of life for all residents of the City of Chicago and the metropolitan area.

We develop grounded research to support the revitalization of communities working in collaboration with:

- community organizations
- government partners
- UIC faculty and students
The Voorhees Center has:

Worked with nearly 200 community and government partners
  • Community
  • City wide
  • Regional
  • State wide
  • National
  • International

Completed over 300 major studies/reports
Sound methods to investigate timely problems in our communities
Current economic development work:

http://www.illinoisdia.org/

State of the Black Tech Ecosystem Report
coming 1-26-17 http://blacktechmecca.org
EDA Center @ UIC
Building our Green Economy
US EDA's University Center Economic Development Program makes the resources of universities available to the economic development community.

- Research
- Outreach
- Technology transfer
- Commercialization capabilities
- Faculty expertise
- Sophisticated laboratories
Our view of Sustainable Economic Development

- Environmental Performance
- Sustainable Development
- Economic Development
- Social Inclusion

UIC
The purpose of the EDA Center @ UIC is to promote green economic development in the Chicago region.

Green economic development strives to create jobs while protecting the environment, focusing on industry that is resource-efficient and low-carbon.

Complement.
Co-Create.
Catalyze.
**GREEN ECONOMIC INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**
- Analyze current ecosystem
- Develop technical assistance plan
- Assess impact of different proposals
- Develop green industry and brownfield marketing plan

**CAPACITY BUILDING**
- Develop and pursue financing strategies to sustain program
- Secure funding to implement immediate workforce development initiatives

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
- Assess talent pool to fill existing and potential green industries
- Assess workforce training needs for new, potential green industries
- Assist with development of new, targeted training for existing and potential green industries

**COMMUNICATION**
- Disseminate information on green industrial development potential and to market the region

- Research
  - Capacity
  - Communication
- Technical Assistance
  - Capacity
  - Communication

IND
COMM
GOV
EMP
W.D.
Where to begin?

Cook County, particularly Southeast including Chicago’s South Side, where many things are in motion...

Complement.
Co-Create.
Catalyze.

• Pullman National Monument
• Millennium Reserve
• 1000 Jobs Campaign
• Calumet National Heritage Area
• Southeast Environmental Task Force
• Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation
• South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
• Cook County’s work with South Suburbs
• People for Community Recovery
• Many others…
The State of Green Industry Development: Assess Cook County’s Potential

- National overview: conditions, practices and case studies
- Inventory of green and green potential industries in Cook County
- Profile of and conditions in Southeastern Cook County
- Potential for green industry development

April 2017
- Reports
- Data
- Case Studies
- Technical Assistance Plan
EDA Center @ UIC
Building our Green Economy
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