

## USDN Innovation Fund Has Impacted 73 Different USDN Member Communities

**The USDN Innovation Fund Steering Committee's mission is to assist USDN members and their partners in collaborating to develop and spread high-impact solutions for advancing urban sustainability.**

The Fund defines an innovation as the development or scaling of a new way for local government to solve a problem or take advantage of an opportunity in urban sustainability.

Since 2009, the Innovation Fund made 43 competitive awards to USDN member communities, totaling \$1,929,406. It invested in 13 projects commissioned to dive into USDN focus areas in partnership with USDN member communities, totaling \$597,445. It provided technical assistance to invited proposing communities in the 2014 General RFP process, totaling \$24,000.

In 2014, the Fund increased its resources and supported 17 innovation projects, making a total investment of \$847,730. Seventy-three different USDN member communities have participated in one or more projects - helping an innovation develop or spreading an innovation in their community.

USDN members who serve on the Innovation Fund Steering Committee develop the annual innovation strategy, draft RFPs for innovation grants, and select the recipients of the Innovation Fund grants.

### *Committee Members*

- Jacqui Bauer; Bloomington, IN
- Cori Burbach; Dubuque, IA
- Timothy Burroughs; Berkeley, CA
- Leslie Ethen; Tucson, AZ
- Jennifer Green; Burlington, VT
- Doug Melnick; San Antonio, TX
- Matt Naud; Ann Arbor, MI
- Amanda Pitre-Hayes; Vancouver, BC
- Brendan Shane; Washington, DC
- Jill Simmons; Seattle, WA (co-chair)
- Laura Spanjian; Houston, TX
- Karen Weigert; Chicago, IL (co-chair)
- Nicole Woodman; Flagstaff, AZ
- Jo Zientek; San Jose, CA