

## USDN Innovation Fund Completes Fifth Year

**17 innovation projects were funded in 2014;  
\$800,480 was awarded in those grants, and \$24,000 was provided in technical support for the 2014 General RFP proposal development.**

In 2014, the Innovation Fund continued to increase its impact by:

- Expanding and strengthening USDN and non-USDN member collaboration around the USDN focus area of adaptation by funding Breakthrough Convenings and Regional Network projects on this topic.
- Expanding and developing existing products strategically through follow-on phases to grow innovations to their full potential.
- Focusing on building the field of urban sustainability by expansion of products, communication, and partnerships outside of USDN.
- Providing increased technical assistance throughout the RFP process to strengthen innovation hypotheses, execution methodology, and impact definition and reach.

The full award list for 2014 is as follows:

2014 Innovation Fund Grants				
Code	Grant Name	Amount	Lead City	Grant Purpose
BC05	Cascadia Regional Network Adaptation Project	\$40,000	Eugene, OR	To convene the first Cascadia regional workshop that brings together experts and practitioners of urban forestry, municipal sustainability and planning, and climate adaptation.
BC06	Heartland Regional Network Adaptation Project	\$33,200	Iowa City, IA	To identify specific areas of public policy decisions and actions where local governments should incorporate anticipated climate impacts.
BC07	Sustainable Consumption Exploration	\$37,250	Eugene, OR	To advance the topic of sustainable consumption from the conceptual phase toward actionable programs and policies within a municipal government context.
BC08	Copenhagen Exch. on Adaptation-Mitigation Nexus	\$35,000	USDN	To exchange ideas on deep carbon reductions and integrating adaptation and mitigation strategies.
CP01-A	Sustainable Economic Development Project, Travel Funds	\$2,500	Eugene, OR	To create and agree on a common language for talking about economic and sustainable development, and on common principles for sustainable economic development (SED).
GR13-A	Green Rental Housing Application 2.0	\$44,750	Bloomington, IN	To further the www.RentRocket.org project, focused on developing a green rental housing tool that will help renters consider sustainability factors (utilities) alongside other factors (rent) when making housing decisions, and help landlords understand sustainability investments.
GR24	Micro Grids Pilot Project	\$80,465	Boston, MA	To develop a process for establishing multi-user micro grid and district energy projects in U.S. cities
GR25	Sustainability Marketing for Cities	\$71,535	New York City, NY	To achieve behavior change through marketing sustainability actions by local governments
GR26	Shared-Use Urban Mobility Scan	\$90,000	Portland, OR	To partner with the Shared Use Mobility Center to create and test a four-part toolkit: a shared mobility scan, policy database, gap analysis, and calculator tool for projecting impacts. The project will focus on over 26 cities with a range of experiences in shared transportation.
GR27	Energy Transformation Convening	\$76,000	Boulder, CO	To help participating cities accelerate their energy system transformation strategies, and to provide a roadmap for other cities interested in pursuing this level of transformation.
GR28	Green Procurement Playbook	\$86,500	Chicago, IL	To create a <i>Sustainable Procurement Playbook for Cities</i> . This project will create a clear one-stop shop for sustainability directors and city teams interested in launching or strengthening sustainable purchasing efforts.
GR29	Smart Cities 2.0	\$85,200	Houston, TX	To examine opportunities to partner with an existing effort, or to design a new model for cities to collectively advance their smart cities work through targeted knowledge-sharing and project implementation.

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P201	Civic Technology Scan	\$17,000	Ann Arbor, MI	To scan across different city sizes, NGOs, Foundations, and private development firms to reveal how civic technology is being developed, and to create an agenda and list of participants for a convening proposal around the topic.
P202	Smart Parking Project	\$43,430	Burlington, VT	To design and convene a 2-day work session that builds on the 2013 Sustainable Parking Convening, focusing on better land use through the implementation of public-private parking models.
P203	Compostable Plastics Toolkit Dissemination	\$25,000	San Jose, CA	To develop a promotion plan to advertise the online Compostable Plastics toolkit to the USDN member cities and the US Composting Council.
RN01	Southeast Sustainability Directors Regional Network Adaptation Project	\$40,000	Fayetteville, AR	To launch the Partnerships for Resilience and Empowered Planning program to provide education on community resilience planning, promote network collaboration and develop an online Community Resilience Planning Handbook for communities across the Southeast.
RN02	Western Adaptation Alliance Adaptation Project	\$39,900	Las Vegas, NV	To develop narratives around the five impacts of greatest concern to the 13 Alliance communities: temperature extremes, stormwater/floods, drought, fire, and wind.

TOTAL: \$847,730