USDN members are eager to explore new ideas to better address social equity issues in their sustainability work – an important part of the triple bottom line approach to sustainability. In 2014, with support from the Kresge Foundation and leadership from a dedicated group of USDN members, the Network launched a scan of ‘good practices’ aimed at incorporating equity into sustainability programming. In 2015, USDN members launched two User Groups – one focused on equity and access issues and another on diversity in local government sustainability staff. Equity became a prominent issue among USDN members in 2013 and continues to be a focus area of the network.

With the generous support of the Kresge Foundation and the Kendeda Fund, USDN will build on the pioneering work of its members and external partners to take new action in 2015 to enhance the capacity of USDN members to address equity and diversity issues in their communities.

Among the early highlights of this work, USDN will host a Workshop on Collaboration for Climate Preparedness in conjunction with the National Adaptation Forum (NAF) in May 2015. This full-day workshop will convene local government and community organization representatives from at least 15 cities to discuss how they can better collaborate within local communities to enhance climate preparedness. Discussions will emphasize building relationships and partnerships, addressing inequities, and creating opportunities for community leadership in the context of climate preparedness.

Member leaders are also working with staff to launch:

- **Equity in Sustainability Professional Development Program**: a curated professional development program for sustainability directors and their staff on equity in sustainability.
- **Equity in Sustainability Peer Exchange Convening**: a second in-person peer exchange event, modeled on the successful January 2014 workshop held in Portland OR, providing a new cohort of cities with a similar high-value professional development experience.
- **USDN Deepening Diversity Fund**: pilot program(s) to develop a pipeline of emerging leaders to bring new perspectives and diversify the group of practitioners at the forefront of local government sustainability.
- **Equity Emphasis in Innovation Fund Grants**: support for members willing to demonstrate innovative ideas to better integrate social equity issues into their work and share learnings with their peers.