

**Innovation Fund Grant Program
2019 Investment Summary**

Fund Overview. Since 2009, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Innovation Fund (IF) assists USDN members and their partners in collaborating to identify and develop high-impact solutions that advance urban sustainability. USDN members use this fund to collaborate around developing and refining innovative ways to solve problems in equitable and climate resilient ways. These innovations typically introduce new policies, practices, tools, programs, or organizational models for widespread sharing and adoption. Funding opportunities are offered annually. As of December 2019, the USDN IF grant program has awarded \$5,220,188 to fund 113 projects.

2019 Grant Program. A volunteer committee of USDN members has guided the evolution of this grant program and manages the awards selection process. 2019 committee members are as follows:

- Bill Eger; Alexandria, VA
- Brenda Nations; Iowa City, IA
- Daniel Hamilton; Oakland, CA
- Erin Gill; Knoxville, TN
- Glen Hadwen; Ft. Lauderdale, FL (*co-chair*)
- Jennifer Green; Burlington, VT
- Maribeth DeLorenzo; Washington, D.C. (*co-chair*)
- Mark Brostrom; Edmonton, AB, Canada
- Oliver Sellers-Garcia; Somerville, MA
- Shannon Parry; Santa Monica, CA
- Wayne Feiden; Northampton, MA

2019 Awards. In 2019, the USDN IF invested \$332,520 to support 4 projects. These projects enhance USDN’s overarching network goals of GHG-reduction, social equity, and climate resilience (Table 1). IF products are available on USDN.org website [here](#).

Table 1. 2019 USDN Innovation Fund Awards.

Grant Name	Amount	Lead	Grant Purpose
Transforming Climate Planning and Practice	\$89,500	Ft. Collins, CO	To build on phase one products and lessons learned by: (1) refining the draft framework into a final product that a broader set of communities can apply to their plans and projects; (2) building the capacity needed to test the framework; and (3) developing the training and guidance materials necessary for these resources to be a “stand-alone” toolkit so that any USDN member can transform their climate plans and projects to work at the mitigation, resiliency, equity (M-R-E) nexus.
City Playbook for the Equitable Electrification of Multifamily Buildings	\$75,000	Boston, MA	To apply lessons learned from previous IF and CNCA work to create a framework for equitable building electrification to multifamily buildings.
Enabling Tenant Access to EV Charging	\$77,020	Burlington, VT	To provide cities with stakeholder-tested and context-grounded strategies local governments can use overcome these barriers and enable tenant access to EV charging in their cities.
Carbon Drawdown: Organic Waste to Sequestration	\$91,000	San Francisco, CA	To build and refine the tools cities need to quantify and redirect organic waste streams in ways that generate new economic opportunities and enhance equitably distributed community benefits for both urban and adjacent rural communities.