

USDN Innovation Fund Year 7 Results

USDN members identified a total of 521 instances when a completed USDN Innovation Fund product impacted their work (an increase of 360%).

The full USDN Innovation Fund 2015 Annual Report is available online [here](#).

2015 At A Glance. In 2015, the Fund increased its resources and supported 18 innovation projects 52 different USDN member-communities, making a total investment of \$701,090. Seventeen were competitive awards to USDN-member communities, totaling \$601,090. One grant commissioned USDN members and partners to explore the emerging concepts and applications for sustainable consumption outcomes, with a \$100,000 investment.

Of the 18 awards, 7 were to regional network projects (totaling \$68,278) to support dissemination of products from previously funded Innovation Fund projects. A new grant product called Quick Funds was tested, which featured a streamlined application and 6-month grant deliverable window. The Quick Funds grants invested \$49,560 in 3 projects. Lastly, the Fund invested \$15,000 in Technical Assistance (TA) to foster stronger project design and grant proposals.

2015 Committee Members

- Catherine Hurley; Evanston, IL
- Cori Burbach; Dubuque, IA
- David Driskell; Boulder, CO (also CNCA Innovation Fund Committee)
- Doug Smith; Vancouver, B.C. (also CNCA Innovation Fund Committee)
- Erin Gill; Knoxville, TN
- Jacqui Bauer; Bloomington, IN (also Peer Learning Exchange Committee)
- Jennifer Green; Burlington, VT (also Partners for Places and Peer Learning Exchange Committees)
- Jo Zientek; San Jose, CA
- Karen Weigert; Chicago, IL (co-chair)
- Leslie Ethen; Tucson, AZ
- Matt Naud; Ann Arbor, MI (also USDN Planning Committee)
- Shannon Parry; Santa Monica, CA
- Timothy Burroughs; Berkeley, CA (co-chair)
- Wayne Feiden; Northampton, MA

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The USDN Innovation Fund's 2015 awards are as follows:

	Grant Name	Amount	Lead City	Grant Purpose
1	Collective RFP for Green House Gas Emissions Projects	\$16,560	Berkeley, CA	Create a customizable RFI to enable cities to solicit private sector solutions and strategies for reaching GHG reduction goals.
2	New England Network Resiliency Trainings	\$17,000	Northampton, MA	Create Design and Resiliency Teams (DARTs) to help two New England communities identify strategic and paradigm shifting resiliency opportunities and to catalyze action.
3	Equitable Preparedness Engagement Study	\$16,000	Seattle, WA	Support bottom-up approaches that make use of social networks and support autonomous adaptation based on the lived experience of low-income communities and communities of color.
4	Heartland Network Urban Agriculture Best Practice Dissemination Project	\$5,863	Dubuque, IA	Disseminate best practices as identified in the USDN Innovation Fund-funded Urban Ag scan and foster a robust discussion of the role of local governments in the local food space.
5	Green Cities California Community Based Social Marketing Multi City Adoption Project	\$14,415	Santa Monica, CA	Develop and implement a community-based social marketing (CBSM) campaign designed to strengthen the broad conservation messages offered by the various water agencies.
6	Western Adaptation Alliance Adaptation Planning Dissemination Project	\$6,000	Flagstaff, AZ	Conduct a deep dive training into the tools being developed for the Lessons for Advancing Adaptation to Climate Change Regionally initiative.
7	Southeast Network Community Based Social Marketing Multi City Adoption Project	\$15,000	Oldsmar, FL	Plan, develop, and implement of a community-based social marketing campaign in multiple cities across the southeast network.
8	New England Network RentRocket Tool Dissemination Project	\$15,000	Burlington, VT	Launch the Rent Rocket tool in cities in the New England Region.
9	Michigan Green Communities Regional Adaptation Planning Project	\$6,000	Dearborn MI	Accelerate climate resiliency at the local level in Michigan through a face-to-face convening that is focused around effective roles for local governments in regional climate resiliency efforts.
10	Ohio-Kentucky- Indiana Urban Agriculture Best Practice Dissemination Project	\$6,000	Cincinnati, OH	Disseminate the USDN Innovation Fund Urban Agriculture Scan.
11	STAR Sustainability Metrics Subset Project	\$51,992	Tucson, AZ	Host a convening between USDN members and the STAR staff and board to identify a priority subset of STAR metrics.
12	Adaptation Metrics Development Project	\$45,000	Washington, DC	Establish a baseline measure of vulnerability to climate change impacts, and identifying appropriate indicators for measuring progress.
13	Equity in Energy Efficiency Project	\$95,000	Knoxville, TN	Build capacity to address equity in Energy Efficiency programming through training, a toolkit of resources, and technical assistance.
14	Finance Toolkit Development Project	\$85,000	Palo Alto, CA	Education, alignment, and relationship building for Chief Sustainability Officers and Chief Financial Officers.
15	Urban Biodiversity Inventory Framework	\$25,000	St Louis, MO	Create an Urban Biodiversity Inventory Framework with a methodology to track and restore urban biodiversity.
16	Climate Toolkit Development Project	\$89,760	Baltimore, MD	Develop a climate training toolkit for local governments to support climate adaptation and resilience progress.
17	Climate Equity Strategy Development	\$91,500	Seattle, WA	Identify specific climate resilience strategies, which will advance both equity and climate preparedness goals as well community engagement tactics.
18	Sustainable Consumption Toolkit Development Project	\$100,000	Eugene, OR	Deliver a one-day facilitated training about sustainable consumption for 20 USDN member communities and create a sustainable consumption toolkit.

TOTAL: \$716,090 (includes \$15,000 for technical assistance for proposal development)