

**Institute for Sustainable Communities**

# **Executive Summary**

1.May.2007

**WELCOME LETTER**

Thank you for your interest in the Institute for Sustainable Communities. While we are relatively new as an institution, our roots run deep in the work of building foundations for supporting and extending sustainability and stability within the lives of people living in an increasingly unstable world. Whether in a remote village of Africa or in a post-hurricane metropolis, even the most basic infrastructures and needs such as water, electricity, and health safety can be out of reach and at once a cost in lives, in security, and in social stability. We live now in a world that is increasingly turned on its side and upside down with climate irregularities and extremes, as well as with social turmoil that often flares into violent conflict.

Since ISC's inception in 2006 the organizing founders have engaged in a deliberative process to chart our future and focus in order to define how we can be most effective in addressing the problems of sustainability, renewability, stability, and co-existence in a world that is drastically shrinking in natural resources and increasing in life-threatening effects from pollution, greenhouse gases and misuse of the environment. We have come to a decisive point in our growth just as we believe our world has come to several decisive turning points and crossroads. This document is one outcome of our work over the past year. It has been designed to provide you with a picture of who we are, where we have been, what motivates and inspires us and where we are going. This is our business plan for our sustainable future.

The "green" and environmental protection movements have matured, especially in the domain of public awareness and education, consumer practices and the sustainability practices of large corporations and providers. We are proud to have been part of this growth. We are pleased to have contributed to the many successes that make it easier for people to find products and services in their everyday worlds that are contributing to a positive balance when it comes to sustainable and renewable energy, water, and other resources. We are pleased to have had pioneering roles as individuals and now as an organization in some of the responses that are being shaped by leaders of industry and within non-governmental organizations. When ISC started it encompassed a set of diverse ideas and a self-recognized need for focus. Now we are defining what we are going to emphasize and our ambitious goals are matched by an ability to deliver something to communities of all types, worldwide, that can truly make a lasting difference and a foundation for self-sustaining stability in peoples' lives.

We are energized by our ability to lead and are confident that ISC will continue to lead, sustain and advance the goals of the independent living movement. We invite you to learn more about our organization.

Martin J. Dudziak, PhD  
Founding Executive Director

## 1.0. VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

### *Vision*

ISC's vision is that communities, large and small, have ready resources and abilities for practicing sustainable living, beginning with the most basic tools for serving their needs of water, energy, and healthy living, usable in ways and means that will increase self-reliant, self-sustaining, and economically stable activities.

### *Mission*

The mission of the Institute for Sustainable Communities is to foster and facilitate individual and community practices of production, consumption and resource management in way that are socially, environmentally, economically and scientifically sound, and to proactively advance principles of sustainability, renewability, and ecological balance.

### *Values and Beliefs*

- Sustainable, ecologically balanced and renewable, affordable living is a right.
- Inadequate access to basic water, energy and health maintenance is a social condition rather than a natural condition.
- Stable access to basic life-support resources is the most crucial ingredient for extending practical sustainability lifestyles across the planet.
- The most at-risk communities for water, energy, and health because of poverty or disasters are the most at-risk for social unrest, turmoil and violent conflict.
- Working collaboratively and synergetically is the best way to create effective change.
- Diversity - racial, ethnic, cultural and also in terms of technical, economic and problem-solving methods - improves community integrity and stability.

## 2.0. OBJECTIVES AND FOCAL PROJECTS

### *Objectives*

The principle objectives of the Institute for Sustainable Communities are in four areas of activity – Research, Education, Validation and Implementation.

#### Research

Investigation, analysis, discovery and advancement of methods, technologies, products and services that improve the life of individuals and communities particularly with respect to water, energy, health, communication, and fundamental home security and comfort.

#### Education

Dissemination and sharing of information, including active programs of teaching and training, that assist individuals and communities in microeconomic and self-sustaining activities that increase and benefit sustainable, renewable, environmentally-balanced living, linked to the

primary and fundamental needs of water, energy, health and communication.

#### Validation

Certification and accreditation of products (consumer and other types), business processes (agriculture and sourcing, manufacture, distribution, retail), product ingredients and components (materials, fabrics, assembled components), and other facets of the economical supply chain relating to provisioning of water, energy, health and communication basics.

#### Implementation

Distribution and installation in different communities around the world of materials, products, and services that directly and concretely aid in the transformation of life styles and standards from low quality to higher quality with respect to water, energy, health, and communication.

#### *Focal Projects and Activities*

There are four focal project activities in which the Institute engages:

#### Research

Investigation and evaluation of materials, manufacturing and other technical processes, engineering methods, and finished products that show promise and/or are claimed to be sustainable, renewable, and ecologically enhancing, linked to the basics of providing essential and emergency water, energy, health aids, and communication access.

Examples:

- Evaluation of alternative-fuel engine devices for emergency power.
- Evaluation of anti-microbial bioprotectant treatments for prevention of bacterial, viral, and mold infection through surface-skin contact.
- Evaluation of solar and wind power systems, particularly low cost, large surface area solar polymer sheet systems.
- Evaluation of emergency water purification, storage and transport for individuals and groups.

#### Education

Dissemination through publications, lectures, webcasts, and online multimedia resources of information including practical hands-on skills development for sustainability practices and lifestyles, especially concerning consumer products (clothing, household goods), water use and reuse, energy and power management, personal and community health monitoring and emergency response, and other activities that are everyday concerns and responsibilities of people in all types of communities worldwide, focusing upon the needs of highly under-developed communities and also regions under stress from disasters and other emergencies.

Examples:

- EcoOasis, an installation for under-developed, under-served, and/or disaster-ridden communities, which provides information, education, and microeconomics development resources to people using the EcoOasis for water, power, and health monitoring needs. described in depth at <http://ecoasisnetwork.org>.
- EcoHub, a web-based resource for use by low-literacy people in association with the EcoOasis.
- Saño y Salvo, a web-based resource for women and children to mitigate abuse and slavery.

Validation

The focal validation activity of the Institute is the management and oversight of the E2E-Seal™, an accreditation specific to products and services that aid in the sustenance and maintenance of living standards through provision of water, energy, and health aids for communities large and small in both underdeveloped and at-risk emergency locations in the world.

Implementation

The singular focus of ISC for building, delivering and implementing tangible resources for communities to use in becoming more sustainable and self-reliant is in the EcOasis. This is a highly integrated package (“pod”) consisting of water purification, biomass and solar energy-powered generators and propulsion, multi-pathogen biosensing and diagnostics, anti-microbial and anti-mold bioprotection for personal/public-use surfaces, smart and anti-microbial textiles, and online communication/education resources, all in a modular and portable system configuration. ISC’s goal in the EcOasis Project is to coordinate the installation and use (or backup preparedness) of EcOasis units into hundreds and eventually thousands of communities worldwide. This work is a major thrust of the organization, has already begun, and is described in this and other documents including online (<http://ecoasisnetwork.org>)