ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE BEING FIRMED UP

Several individuals have expressed their interest in serving on the Advisory Board of the Ohio Business Council For Sustainable Development (OBCSD). We are in the process of contacting them as well as others who we believe would make excellent Board Members. In addition to the Board, we need a lot of help with this volunteer organization so please contact me at 614-266-4977 mike@resource100.com if you want to help launch the OBCSD. Some ways you could help include providing meeting sites for future workshops, participating as a speaker and deferring the costs of some printed materials.

We are also pleased to announce two volunteer staff members; one well known to all of you and the other a relative newcomer to BPS but certainly not to sustainable business practices.

Dr. Joseph Fiksel fiksel.2@osu.edu is the Executive Director of the Center for Resilience at The Ohio State University, an interdisciplinary research center that is developing a unified approach for modeling risk, resilience, and sustainability in complex systems. He collaborates with companies, government agencies, nonprofits, and other research organizations to develop new methods and tools for understanding the interdependence among social, environmental, and economic interests. Joseph has been the inspiration and driving force behind the creation of the OBCSD as a vehicle to promote the practice of Industrial Ecology and By-product Synergy in Ohio. In his role with OBCSD, Joseph will serve as Director of Technical Programs.

We are also pleased to announce that Megan Moses mosesmiama@yahoo.com has joined the OBCSD as its Director of Programs and Outreach. Megan is a passionate professional manager with over 11 years of experience in environmental, community, educational and scientific outreach. She is enthusiastic about generating positive change through the programs being developed by OBCSD. Megan has a BA in Chemistry and a MBA focusing in Marketing and Management from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). While she was working at The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, she organized the successful 2007 By-product Synergy (BPS) Seminar. Megan will participate in grant writing, administration, project development, partnerships and management for the OBCSD.

OBCSD WORKING WITH OSU INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio State University (OSU) Institute for Energy and Environment has awarded a planning grant to an interdisciplinary team led by Joseph Fiksel, Center for Resilience, to support the establishment of BPS networks in Ohio. OSU is partnering with OBCSD to stimulate adoption of BPS practices. Planned activities include industry meetings to share information and proposals for research and development on key technologies such as conversion of waste biomass to energy and materials. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to benefit Ohio by creating jobs, stimulating entrepreneurship, enhancing energy independence, and protecting the environment.
The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded an Environmental Education Grant to a team led by Joseph Fiksel, OSU, and Mike Long, OBCSD. The project will develop, test, and distribute a multi-media toolkit for communicating the benefits of industrial ecology – another name for BPS. Aimed at a business audience, the toolkit will include print, presentation, and web-based content, as well as performance indicators. EPA’s intent is to simultaneously improve company profitability, stimulate local economic growth, and benefit the environment through waste and emission reduction, resource conservation, and landfill life extension.

As part of the 2008-2009 Budget, the Ohio General Assembly established a Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program to support collaboration among local governments in providing services, including economic development. The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) is seeking thoughtful and creative proposals for feasibility studies, and to that end Franklin County, the City of Columbus and six other local political subdivisions have applied for an $80,000 competitive grant to show the technical and economic feasibility of “turning waste into profit” as a means of retaining and attracting new businesses. The goal of such a project would be to reduce or eliminate waste, improve the bottom line, create new product offerings and ultimately jobs. This action shows that local government officials are embracing BPS as part of developing sustainable economic development initiatives. Another key element of the proposal demonstrating the regionality of BPS was the inclusion of adjoining Pickaway County as part of the proposed network.

Willie Neumann, President of the Willie Neumann Company, a local IT firm has graciously volunteered to develop a customized website for the OBCSD. This will include an online materials exchange, a key element of the BPS process. We will notify you as soon as the website is up and running.