

## **SJC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY 2020**

### **SESSION DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Five Tracks – 2 Sessions Each; Session Time is 3 hours; Total – 30 Hours of Study**

##### **TRACK 1 – Demystifying Project Planning & Overview of Systems Thinking** **2 Sessions (6 hours)**

###### **Session 1 – Initiating Impactful Community Projects**

**Instructor – Mitali Thakore**     **Session Date: March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Project planning is a skill set that allows great ideas to become effective solutions. A lack of planning is often the underlying factor in project failures. The purpose of this session is to help participants begin to plan community projects, which they will work to develop over the course of the program. We will review the steps of project planning including needs assessment, scoping, identifying and engaging stakeholders, and defining project success. By the end of this session, participants will identify a project they will consider executing, learn how to create a project charter, understand and articulate the need for project planning, and list characteristics of successful projects.

**Mitali Thakore**

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###### **Session 2 - Taking a Systems Approach to Urban Sustainability & Resiliency Planning**

**Instructor - Ashwani Vasisht**     **Session Date: March 16th**

Taking a systems approach to sustainability—that is to say, looking at the world holistically, rather than in a siloed, bits-and-pieces sort of way—generates significant synergies and has great benefits. We will learn to use tricks and techniques that allow us to view the world as an organic, complex whole, even though we are limited, cognitively, to thinking of the world in simple terms. This segment of the Certificate Program will give you the tools, world views, mental models and concrete methods you need to better understand and to communicate

about the world holistically.

We shall delve into techniques for effective participatory approaches to making decisions, and getting a handle on what it means to incorporate resiliency discourse into sustainability planning. At the end of the session, participants will have a clear understanding of what it means to take a systems approach to urban sustainability and resiliency planning, and will be equipped to handle complex-system dynamics in designing community interventions.

**Ashwani Vasishth**

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## **Track 2 - Emissions & Emissions Reduction Track - 2 Sessions (6 hours)**

### **Session 3 – Emissions, Introduction and Overview**

**Instructor – Amanda Novello**      **Session Date – March 23rd**

This session will provide an introduction to greenhouse gas emissions, so that students have a clear foundation of the history and trajectory of this leading cause of climate change. We will explore the subject from a historical lens, to uncover what has happened over time and why, including major contributing factors and turning points. Drawing from themes of systems thinking, we will look at not only technology and science, but also policy and economics. Students will learn about the sources of emissions but also the impacts of rising emissions on inequality, health, and climate change. There will also be some emphasis on the role of cities in generating emissions and in creating frameworks and collaboration for sustainability solutions.

### **Session 4 – Emissions, Policy and Practice**

**Instructor – Amanda Novello**      **Session Date – March 30<sup>th</sup>**

This will be the second part of the Emissions and Emissions Reduction track, and will focus on policies and actions related to addressing and reducing emissions at the global, national, state, and local level? If, in short, Session 3 was about a problem, Session 4 will focus on solutions. We will also look at what's happening at the local level, in Jersey City, to explore what Jersey City is doing to measure and reduce its own emissions. This will help students understand what is possible for local-level climate action to achieve and offer potential avenues for getting involved.

**Amanda Novello**

Senior Economic Policy Associate

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**Track 3 - Green Infrastructure - 2 Sessions (6 hours)****Session 5 - Community Led Design-Install Green Infrastructure Projects****Instructor – Alex Ciorlian**      **Session Date – April 6th**

This session will dive into the stormwater management world, describing current issues and regulations surrounding stormwater management and the benefits of Green Infrastructure (GI) in helping to remediate these issues. Approaches to identifying, designing, and maintaining GI projects will be covered, with a focus on how to bring together key community stakeholders to facilitate and complete GI projects in neighborhoods across Jersey City, and how to structure community inspired projects. Participants will come away with a more complete understanding of both Grey and Green Infrastructure, the benefits of Green Infrastructure beyond stormwater management, and a rough draft proposal for a project of their own interest for potential support by neighborhood stakeholders.

**Alex Ciorlian**

Program Associate

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**Session 6 - Developer Perspectives on Green Infrastructure & Greener Buildings****Instructor - George Vallone**      **Session Date – April 13th**

This session is intended to provide an overview of a Developer's perspective on development projects and how they plan for and integrate Greener Building and Green Infrastructure with a Sustainability and Resiliency focus in mind. By sharing an overview of the financing, risk management and yield requirements as development projects are planned, the Cost / Benefit of Green Infrastructure using the recently published Developer's Guide to Green Infrastructure (now considered a best practices manual by NJ DEP), and lastly an overview of the US Green Building Council's new RELi Standard for resiliency in buildings, communities, and infrastructure participants will have a keener understanding of these topics. This important understanding will allow for a more informed ability by citizens to engaged in community

development activities happening in either their neighborhoods or in other areas of the City they may have a stakeholder interest in.

**George Vallone MBA, CRE – President**

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**Track 4 – WASTE STREAMS - 2 Sessions (6 hours)**

**Session 7 – Municipal Waste 101**

**Instructor – Wane DeFeo**      **Session Date – April 20th**

This program will outline the history of solid waste management in NJ. We must learn from the past in order to prepare for the future. We will cover the means and methods of solid waste and recycling from collection to disposal. An overview of bidding and RFP (municipal Request For Proposal) requirements for New Jersey (state law) will be outlined via case studies. Finally, bring materials to the class that you have questions about with regard to recyclability. Differences and what there is variability across different municipalities in terms of what gets recycled and what doesn't will be discussed. We will go over the do's and don't's of recycling as it pertains to Jersey City and how this relates to the global economy. Contamination is a big issue that municipalities are grappling with and will be discussed.

**Wane DeFeo**

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**Session 8 – SJC Eco Ambassador Program + Citizen Science**

**Instructors Tyler Randall, Tim Keating & Tom Zinckgraf**      **Session Date – April 27<sup>th</sup>**

This Eco-Ambassador Program + Citizen Science Session will be a 3-part discussion that will cover the spectrum of residential waste streams, both organic and non-organic materials, with a goal toward educating participants about the growing problem of waste streams and the opportunities that conscious behavior can bring in addressing these challenges – it will take an educated and MOTIVATED consumer population to change the status quo, part of which is to understand some of the choices we can make step by step to REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE &

RECYCLE, both Food Waste and an array of Materials Waste, including Plastics which have become more and more pervasive in our food supply.

This will be a crash course that will open your minds and point to resources and new options, that can help shift outcomes of individuals and communities and cities, through building and neighborhood proxy agreements and / or municipal legislative initiatives. Taking personal action is the focus of this session which is complimented with a Citizen Science component, or how can the public crowd source useful information for government or NGO use, with examples of what other cities are doing that may be an opportunity for Jersey City to model.

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### **Track 5 – How To Implement Successful Projects - 2 Sessions (6 hours)**

**Instructor – Mitali Thakore**     **Dates – May 4<sup>th</sup> & May 11th**

#### **Session 9 & 10: Project Implementation and Successful Management of Your Projects**

Building upon the skills gained from Introduction to Project Planning, participants will further elaborate on a project they wish to complete in the community. Using program development principles, participants will learn how to transform their idea and plan into a successful project that is well managed and sustainable. Participants will learn how to transform goals into project steps and deliverables, create a project timeline, identify needs and assets, and identify potential issues and solutions. In addition, participants will utilize change management techniques to create a communication strategy and monitoring & evaluation (M&E) plan.

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