



INSTITUTE FOR  
Sustainable  
Communities

# Building Human Capital: The Under-prioritized Priority

Rising Seas Summit  
Boston, MA  
November 4, 2015

## My three main messages today...

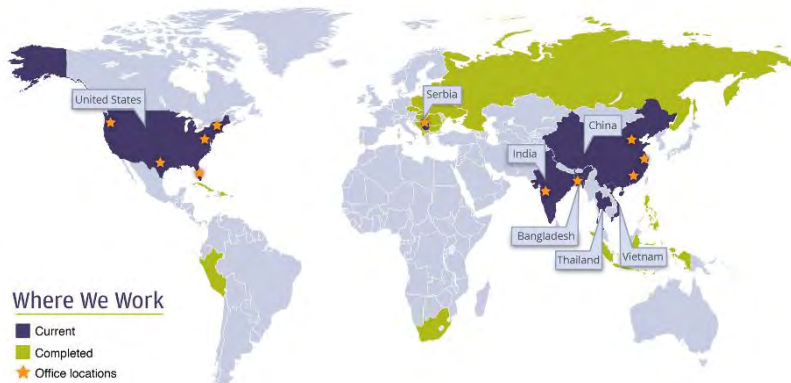
- Building human capital is really IMPORTANT
- Building human capital is typically UNDER-PRIORITIZED
- Building human capital is POSSIBLE!

## About me



## About ISC

Founded in 1991 by Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin and George Hamilton, ISC has managed 100+ projects in 30 countries.



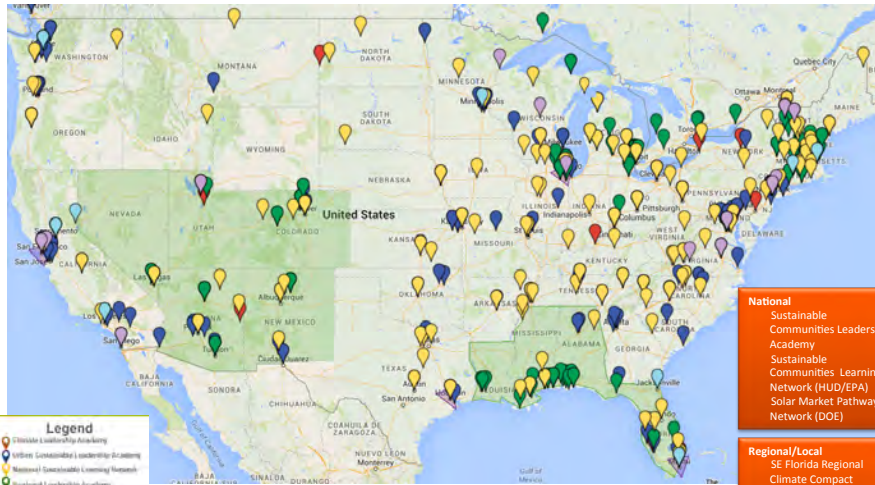
Currently, we have 11 offices worldwide and a staff of 81.

## US Program: communities served (so far)

380+ Teams

500+ Communities

2,200+ Practitioners



**POINT #1:  
BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL  
IS VERY IMPORTANT**

# “Technology doesn’t save people, people do.”

**3 SOLAR DISTRICT #1**  
power production and purchase

- One meter monitors power production energy used by Seattle City Light
- One meter monitors power consumption energy purchased from Seattle City Light
- Use grid as battery: the goal is to generate enough in the summer to last through winter

**11 ACTIVE DESIGN**  
irresistible stair

- To promote better health, occupants of the building are awarded with an exciting reward with generous value of the city
- The number of stairs used by Americans has increased
- 25 stairs were installed in 4th floor hallway, and a regular rotation
- The average adult will burn approximately 3,000 calories over the course of a one to two year period

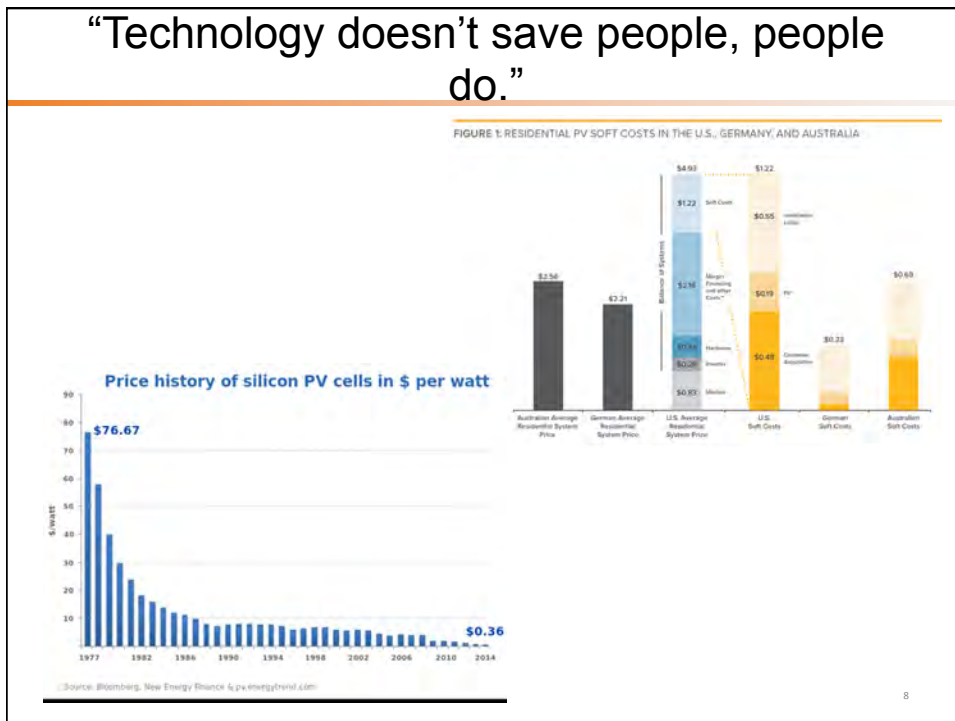
**7 WASTEWATER USE**  
greywater system

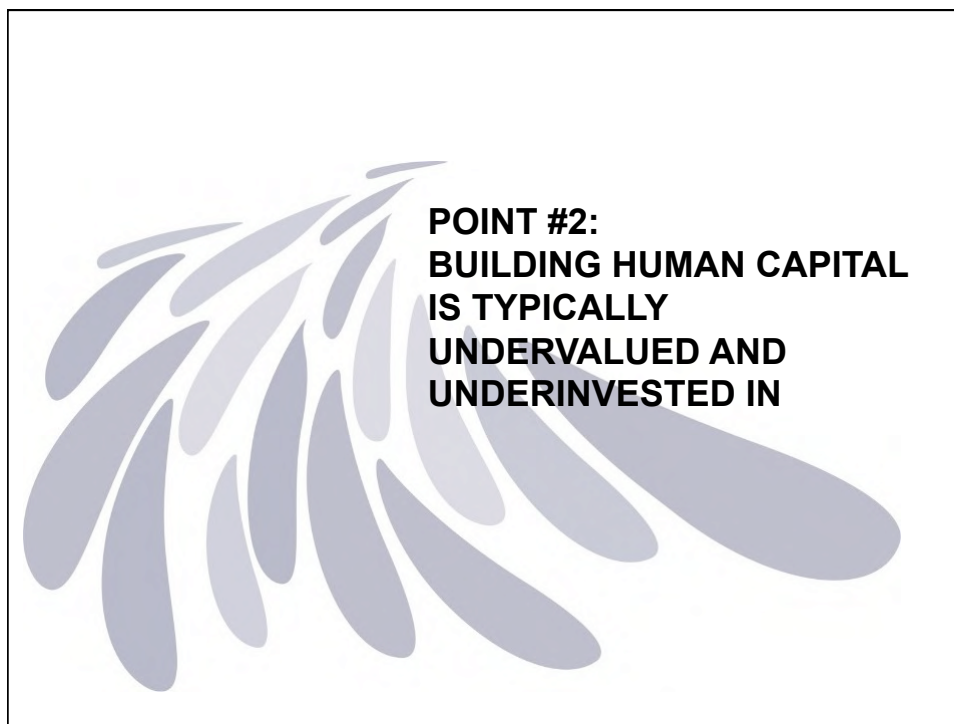
- Water used throughout the building is held in a greywater tank and then pumped to the constructed wetland
- It is then either sent back to the earth or to the effluent through wastewater treatment

**16 RIDE. RACK. RINSE.**  
bike to work incentives

- One garage provides car parking
- 25 bike racks inside, 4 bike racks outside, and a regular rotation
- Each floor has an accessible shower to rinse off or warm up from a morning ride

# “Technology doesn’t save people, people do.”





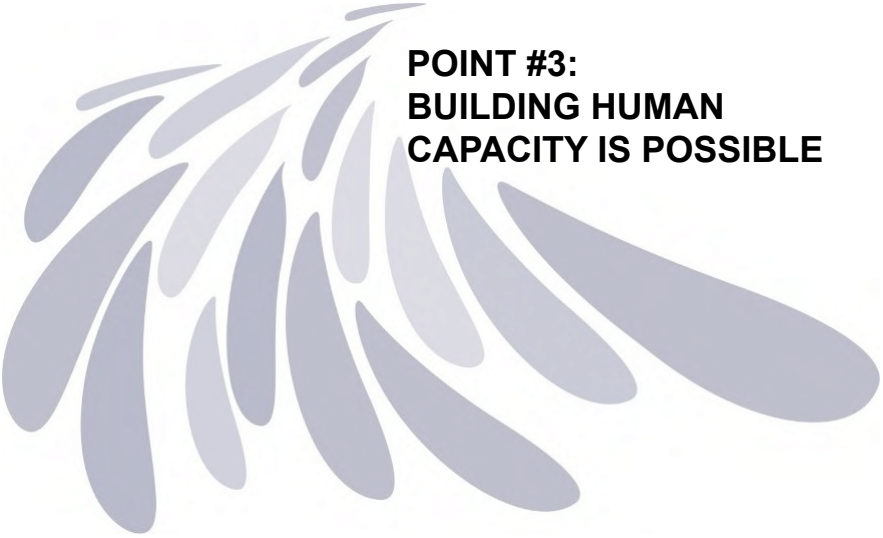
### Why training and professional development budgets tend to be the first to get the axe...

- Perceived as fuzzy
- Complicated
  - Science (global phenomenon; local sources & impacts)
  - PoliGcs
  - Fear
- Hard to do well
  - All encompassing
    - It's *everybody's* job!
  - Can be costly (in time and money) to do well

## Thus, many great (but piecemeal) efforts...

- Federal Government
  - Climate resilience toolkit...
  - NOAA trainings
  - Partnership for Sustainable Communities/Sustainable Communities Initiative
- NGOs
  - USDN
  - ISC
  - ACCO
  - ASAP
- Individual cities

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**POINT #3:  
BUILDING HUMAN  
CAPACITY IS POSSIBLE**

## Example: Seattle's "Race & Social Justice Initiative"



## Keys to success

- Mandatory
- High-caliber training
- Data-driven
- Decentralized accountability
- Persistence

## Example: Salt Lake City's "Climate Leaders"

Salt Lake   
**Climate Leaders**



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Let's talk!

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