



Study Circle Guide

Developed by Sustain Dane

The Natural Step for Communities

How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices

SARAH JAMES & TORBJÖRN LAHTI

*“Perhaps the most important factor to why they were successful in becoming an eco-municipality were study circles...It’s a question of taking control over their own situation and their own future.” – Torbjorn Lahti,
Project Leader Swedish Eco-Municipality movement*

Background

The Natural Step for Communities study circle is a program developed by Sustain Dane. The inspiration for this study circle came from the experience of Swedish eco-municipalities communities that have successfully offered similar study circles as a tool for beginning education and community conversation related to sustainability community topics. Another inspiration for this program comes from the Northwest Earth Institute; a Portland, Oregon based non-profit organization that has been offering discussion courses locally and nationally through affiliate organizations for the past 13 years. Since 1993, over 75,000 individuals have participated in one of the six discussion courses offered by the Northwest Earth Institute.

Study Circle Overview

Sustainability may seem like one more buzzword, and cities and towns like the last places to change, but *The Natural Step for Communities* provides inspiring examples of communities that have made dramatic changes toward sustainability, and explains how others can emulate their success.

The objective of this study circle is to provide you with the knowledge of the Natural Step framework and how it can be applied to sustainability related issues facing your community. In some cases, this study circle may also help you understand issues and potential solutions that you previously were not aware of. The study circle will be helpful to both community members wishing to better understand what sustainability means and practitioners interested in introducing or expanding sustainable development in their communities.

A study circle format allows you better understand the different perspectives and approaches to the complexity of sustainability. In addition, this study circle is intended to be a supportive learning experience, so please ask questions of clarification and share insights with one another. Whether you agree or disagree, you will have an opportunity to talk about an important subject with others who share your concerns, and hopefully have fun along the way!

The book used for this study circle first clarifies the concept of sustainability, offering guiding principles -- the Natural Step framework -- that help identify sustainable action in any area. It then introduces the sixty-plus eco-municipalities of Sweden that have adopted changes to sustainable practices throughout municipal policies and operations. The third section explains how they did it, and outlines how other communities in North America and elsewhere can do the same. Key to success is a democratic "bottom-up" change process, and clear guiding sustainability principles such as the Natural Step framework.

Upon completion of this study circle, it is our hope that each participant will have a better understanding of how sustainability might be achieved at the level of the community and become more engaged in that process.

A special thanks to everyone who helped contribute to the development of this study guide including Sarah J., Phyllis H, Brian J, Christy H., Meredith M., Niki M., and the countless study circle participants that provided feedback in the development of this study circle guide.

Guidelines

This section contains a list of suggested guidelines, based on years of experience, to help ensure a successful, positive study circle experience for every participant. Please review before the first discussion session.

- Read the study circle materials and review questions before each session. A better prepared group will have better discussion.
- Begin and end each session on time. Your session will go by very quickly. To make the most of each session, make sure to begin and end on time.
- Self-monitor time. Time will be limited and other participants may have just as much to say as you do.
- Rather than talking a lot about issues that you may already be quite familiar when they are discussed, try using this opportunity to listen to what others know about this issue and use this knowledge to help you clearly state your perspective on the issue in future conversations with other community members and leaders.
- Attempt to keep the discussion positive. At times, the issues and challenges we face can seem overwhelming, especially in the context of sustainability.
- If you are unclear of a term being used, seek clarification by asking other participants.
- Don't get stuck on the authors writing style or the format of books contents. Understand that the book was not originally intended for a study circle.
- Don't spend too much time or detail on problem-solving. If possible, note ideas for potential solutions or actions and move on to the next discussion questions. It is best to revisit these potential solutions or actions at the study circle celebration.
- Please reserve comments on others participant's responses to the circle question.
- A response is not mandatory for each question. If you do not have a response for a particular question, simply say "I pass."
- If you are concerned with your discussion course experience, please discuss these issues immediately with your facilitator or contact Sustain Dane at 608.819.0689.

Facilitator

Each session of the Natural Step for Communities study circle is facilitated by a volunteer. The facilitator is not the “teacher” but is used to assure the process below is followed in the study circle.

- The facilitator’s principal role is to stimulate and moderate the discussion by asking questions identifying key points, and managing the group process. The facilitator is not an expert, does not have the answers or may even not be the most knowledgeable person about the topic for the week.
- The facilitator will keep the discussions focused on the session’s topic.
- Some questions are designed to be answered as a group, others by each individual participant. The facilitator will look for and acknowledge questions to be answered by the group as a whole.
- A primary goal is for everyone to participate in each session. As facilitator will try and draw out quiet participants by creating an opportunity for each person to contribute.
- On the other hand, an important role of the facilitator is to restrain a domineering participant. The facilitator will try and not let one or two people take over the conversation.
- The facilitator will start each session by calling on the designated participant volunteer(s) to do an opening before start of the discussion.
- The facilitator will follow the opening with the circle question.
- Evaluations of the readings and discussions should be completed each week. The facilitator should remind each participant to fill out their weekly evaluation form at the end of each session.

Opening

Many U.S. communities are now implementing some form of sustainable development – climate change initiatives, green building programs, brownfields redevelopment, open space preservation, affordable housing, for example. These largely are occurring on a project-by-project or issue-oriented approach – sometimes called the “silo approach” to sustainable development.

At the introductory session of the study circle, participants should volunteer to identify* a sustainable development projects or initiative that is going on in your community or region that relates to a particular session. The at the beginning of the session two thru six, the opening volunteer(s) who have volunteered to identify a project or initiative for that sessions topic should explain** a sustainable project or initiative that they have conducted research on **in no more than five minutes**. The presentation should cover what the project or initiative is, who is involved, where is it happening, when did it start and how the is it intended to benefit the community.

Following the opening volunteer(s) description, the entire group should examine it more closely by using the sustainability objectives as a checklist **in no more then ten minutes**. Does this project or initiative lead toward the four objectives? If not, how might it be revised or redesigned to do so? The facilitator will demonstration an opening in the first session.

*If you are not familiar with a project or initiative in your community that relates to the particular session topic ask the facilitator for some suggestions.

**If time permits, the opening volunteer(s) are encouraged to research the project or initiative by conducting an interview, visiting the site or obtaining related documents.

Circle Question

After the beginning of each session just after the opening, the facilitator will ask the circle question, “The book introduces several examples of the session themes. Did you have any personal reactions or new insights to what you read about in this section of the book? If so, describe what those may be?” Each participant should provide an answer without comments or questions from others.

Session 1: Introducing Natural Step Framework and Sustainability (Chapter 1, 2 & 3)

Begin with Circle Question: (*Reminder: Each participant should provide an answer without comments or questions from others.*)

Can you think of a principle (ecological, ethical, etc.) that helps guide you in making decisions? What is the principle? How is it helpful?

Can you identify and describe an experience you have had defining or explaining the concept of sustainability to people for the first time? Or, what have been your own challenges in understanding the concept? How might the sustainability objectives of The Natural Step help address these challenges?

The authors talk about the importance of using an upstream approach to dealing with problems. Think of some of your community's or region's approaches in dealing with community or regional problems such as traffic congestion, challenges in education, homelessness, unemployment, or high health care costs. As a group, determine **three** examples of "downstream approaches" and **three** examples of "upstream approaches" to these problems?

The authors in the book note that "communities are complex systems...this complexity often results in actions or policies that can work cross-purposes or compete with each other." Have you experienced a similar situation in community? Explain

From what you have learned thus far about the Natural Step framework and what you know about your community already, to which issues in your community could the framework be applied to; immediately and easily? With the most significant impact?

Did reading this section make you want to do something differently or to take some action in your life? If so, explain.

Washburn and Ashland, WI - In August, 2004, fourteen individuals including Mary Rehwald, a city council member from Ashland, WI participated in the a tour to learn firsthand about Swedish eco-municipalities. Upon her return, Mary gave presentations about her trip to numerous community groups in which over 600 people attended. In June 2005, 450 residents of the area attended a presentation featuring Torbjorn Lahti and a delegation representing Swedish eco-municipalities. The delegation also held meetings with groups representing the local Native American tribes. By the early fall of 2005, the city councils of Washburn, WI and Ashland, WI both passed resolutions to become the first eco-municipalities in North America.

Further Reading & Resources:

The City of Madison's blueprint for building a sustainable design and energy future *Building a Green Capital City* can be found at http://webapp.cityofmadison.com/sustainable_design/index.html

The Natural Step for Business: Wealth, Ecology and the Evolutionary Corporation by Brian Nattrass and Mary Altomare (1999)

Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth by Mathis Wackernagel (1996)

Sustainable Robertsfor is a five year eco-municipality demonstration project. For more info visit www.hallbara.robertsfors.se/

Whistler. It's Our Nature is a community program that encourages businesses, households and other organizations to practice sustainability, including using The Natural Step Framework. For more info visit www.whistleritsournature.ca

The Natural Step website features information for government, business, academia, media and general interest visitors including case studies, articles and event listings. Visit www.NaturalStep.org

The Swedish Eco-Municipality Association website featuring information about eco-municipalities. Visit the website at www.sekom.nu

The Rocky Mountain Institute website features information for businesses, communities and government about how to create wealth without harming the environment. For more info visit www.rmi.org

Session 2: Changing to Renewable Energy Resources and Alternative Transportation (Chapter 5 & 6)

Begin with the Circle Question

As explained in the book, different Swedish communities use different sources of energy. From what energy sources is your local power company producing energy? From what you now know about the types of renewable energy available and your communities access to these energy resources (i.e. solar, wind, biomass), what combination of renewable energy sources do you think might work well in your community? Explain.

Are green energy pricing programs offered in your area? If so describe them. Have you chosen to participate in these programs? Why or why not?

Besides decreasing emissions, can you identify other benefits to the development of a less fossil-fueled dependent transportation system?

Describe the physical, social and economic barriers in your community may that prevent people from getting to places other than by car.

Are there alternative transportation options in your community, and how are they working? How can your community support the development of such options?

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Madison Municipal Building Solar Parking Canopy:

Located at the corner of Doty St and Pinckney St in the Madison Municipal Building parking lot, is the Solar Parking Canopy.

The Solar Parking Canopy demonstrates how unobtrusive solar power can be when designed into a structure. The electricity produced by the panels is fed into the local power system and offsets power that would have been produced by power plants. The average annual energy production of the Solar Parking Canopy is 9,300 kilowatthours (kWh) (an average MGE residential customer uses 7,000 kWh per year). The City of Madison is paid a percentage of the value of the electricity generated. The Solar Parking Canopy has been made possible through a partnership between the City of Madison and Madison Gas and Electric.



Further Resources & Readings:

The *City of Madison Climate Protection Plan* can be found at www.ci.madison.wi.us/Environment/Contents/climate_protection_plan.htm

Transport 2020 provides transportation alternatives analysis for the Dane County/Greater Madison Metropolitan Area. For more info visit www.transport2020.net

Energy Center of Wisconsin provides energy efficient programs, research services and education to residents, homes and governments.

Wisconsin's Focus on Energy offers ideas and cash-back rewards to save energy and money in your home, business or buildings.

RENEW Wisconsin advocates for clean energy policies and renewable energy practices in Wisconsin.

Citizens Energy Cooperative is a renewable energy cooperative that contracts to have renewable energy systems installed on various facilities.

Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin is a non-profit organization that advocates increased bicycle use, access, safety and education.

Community Car is a car-sharing organization that provides cars by the hour to individuals, organizations, and businesses in Madison.

Session 3: Eco-Housing and Green Building/Businesses (Chapter 7 & 8)

Begin with the Circle Question

Think of a building in your community (i.e. your home, library, church, etc.) that you liked to spend time in. What are the characteristics of the building that make it enjoyable for you?

What features of your current dwelling encourage or discourage alteration to a more sustainable habitat?

In light of the fourth system condition, what factors should be considered when determining an affordable housing policy for your community?

In light of the Natural Step framework, if you were a business owner, what steps would you take to determine how to make your business greener?

The book highlights a number of types of businesses (fast-food restaurant, hotel, auto dealer, tanning company, construction, etc.) that have created a market advantage because they have gone green. What businesses or types of businesses in your community do you think could benefit most from incorporating green practices such as collocation, waste and pollution reduction, recycling, green building, etc? Explain.

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Home Savings Bank: Home Savings Bank's business practices and products minimize the company's impact on the natural environment. The bank is committed to reducing its environmental footprint, and uses the principles of the Natural Step to guide its efforts to become sustainable in Dane County.

Home Savings Bank recently introduced a green checking account designed to save on paper, plastic, and trips to the bank. The bank builds environmentally friendly buildings and was one of the first companies in the state to have solar lighting. The Stoughton office, built in 1977, had solar heating long before it became a popular method to harness solar energy. The company has incorporated green building practices into the construction of its new branch office at 3762 East Washington Avenue. The building will feature a rain garden and aims to recycle 75% of construction waste that otherwise would go to a land fill.

Further Resources & Readings:

A Pattern Language by Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa and Murray Silverstein (1977)

Wisconsin Green Building Alliance (WGBA) is an organization committed to facilitating and promoting the development and use of ecologically sustainable materials and practices within Wisconsin's built environment.

Design Coalition, Inc. is a non-profit architectural and planning office that specializes in socially conscious and ecologically responsible design.

Green Built Home is a voluntary green building initiative that reviews and certifies homes that meet sustainable building and energy standards.

GreenZone is a planned business park in Sweden that included businesses that mutually benefited from each others products and by-products. For more info visit the website at www.greenzone.nu

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a green building rating system that is a consensus-based standard for developing sustainable buildings.

Session 4: Eco-economic Development and Ecological Schools/Education (Chapter 9 & 10)

Begin with the Circle Question

In which instances are you willing to pay more to buy a product or service from a company that has adopted sustainable practices?

In many instances, Swedish eco-economic development revitalized industries that were once native to the area such as fishing, animal husbandry, tourism, forestry and agriculture by rediscovering their local capacity. Which business were once part of your community's self-sufficiency economy?

In the face of an ever specialized and globalized marketplace, what could you do as an individual to encourage eco-economic development in your community? How might your community begin to restore a local economy?

In light of the fourth system condition, what factors should be considered when determining a "living wage" level for your community?

As a student, what do you recall being included in your environmental education? Did you celebrate Earth Day or perform environmental science experiments in school, and if so, in what ways?

If you were to create a curriculum for children, how would you teach them about the Natural Step? What would be the curriculum for adults?

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Wisconsin Green and Healthy Schools Program: Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools program is a web-based, voluntary program available to all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools across Wisconsin. The program encourages teachers, staff, students and parents to work together to use the school, its grounds, and the whole community as learning tools to help teach, promote, and apply healthy, safe and environmentally sound practices. With assistance from the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Public Instruction, participating schools receive assistance in curriculum integration, community involvement, and implementation. For more information contact Christal Winter at (608) 264-8976 or email christal.winter@dnr.state.wi.us or Elizabeth Kane at (608) 266-2803 or email elizabeth.kane@dpi.state.wi.us.

Further Resources & Readings:

Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution by Paul Hawken. (1999)

Going Local: Creating a Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age by Michael Shuman (1998)

Wisconsin Environmental Initiative offers resources, forums and newsletter of best practices in business strategy, environmental policy and green building.

Dane County Buy Local Initiative has a listing and searchable database of local independent business members working together to support a healthy community economy. For more info visit www.danebuylocal.com

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation offers a workshop that defines types of green business and explore ways to adopt more green practices.

Oregon Natural Step Business Network website offers case studies and white papers on sustainable business topics related to The Natural Step. For more info visit www.ortns.org

Greenbiz.com is a website that features a toolbox of checklists, assessments, briefings and hands-on help for a variety of sustainable business issues.

Dane County Time Bank is an exchange system where people receive credits (time dollars) for their service of helping other people. For more info visit www.danecountytimebank.org

Session 5: Sustainable Agriculture and Dealing with Waste (Chapter 11 & 12)

Begin with the Circle Question

Consider your attitude in growing, preparing and eating food. Are there personal benefits associated with these activities beyond satisfying sustenance needs? If so, how would you describe them?

KRAV is an independent board that develops standard for certification for organic foods. If your community were to develop such standards, what factors should be considered when determining such certification for your community? Describe who you think should participate on an independent board?

Using the four system objectives as a guide, discuss the various merits of sustainable agriculture (i.e. organic) and locally grown agriculture.

Discuss ways in which your communities waste systems (i.e. sewage treatment, landfills) conflict with the cycles of nature. Given the solutions you've read about in the *Waste* chapter, which solutions do you think your community could change most easily to make its waste systems better fit the natural cycles?

The authors in the book note that "dealing with waste also means changing patterns of consumption." How might your community begin to encourage people to change their patterns of consumption? What are some steps you could take to change your patterns of consumption?

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Madison Metropolitan Sewage Districts Metrogro Program:

Biosolids produced at the MMSD Nine Springs Plant are recycled to agricultural land as a fertilizer and soil conditioner through the District's Metrogro Program. The Metrogro Program has received national recognition and is used as a model by EPA. Farmer interest in the program is very high, with demand for the product exceeding the supply. In September 2004, the District became only the fourth agency in the nation to have its Environmental Management System (EMS) program certified by the National Biosolids Partnership. An EMS is a standardized and comprehensive framework that agencies can follow to assure that biosolids related activities are effectively managed. For more information about the Metrogro program contact David Taylor (608-222-1201, ext 276; davet@madsewer.org).

Further Resources & Readings:

Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition (MACSAC) works for a just and locally based food system by promoting CSA farms.

REAP (Research, Education, Action and Policy on) Food Group is an organization that promotes the development of a sustainable and healthful food system in Wisconsin.

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center's (SHWEC) provides quality education, information and technical assistance to promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Habitat ReStore is a reused building material store at 208 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison. (608) 661-2813 . For more info visit www.restore Dane.org

Madison Stuff Exchange website provides area residents and businesses with a way to exchange, re-use, or sell items For more info visit www.madisonstuffexchange.com

Neighbor Nation.net is a neighborhood based program that helps neighbors connect for giving away unwanted items, sharing stuff, offering services or starting or joining a group. For more info visit www.neighbornation.net

EnAct encourages sustainable living and strengthens communities by creating Environmental Action Teams (Eco-Teams) in neighborhoods, community organizations and workplaces.

Session 6: Protecting Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use and Planning (Chpt 13 & 14)

Begin with the Circle Question

In the City of Falkenberg, salmon are an important symbol of history as well as a bio-indicator. In your opinion, what native flora or fauna represents such importance in your community? Explain.

Beside environmental benefits, are there personal benefits associated with protecting biodiversity? If so, describe what are they?

What do you think city and town planning is, and why is it important? Why could it be a useful or important avenue for working toward a sustainable community? What are some planning “successes” and “failures” in your community?

Imagine you are a member of a community/municipal task force assigned with the job of coming up with new standards to guide development in the municipality or region to protect biodiversity. Based upon what you came up with in the previous question, think of some standards for new development or for redevelopment in your community that could guide it in the direction of each of the four sustainability objectives (Try for 2-3 standards for each sustainability objective). After you are done, see if any of your standards guide development toward all four objectives concurrently.

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Marshall Erdman Academy of Sustainable Design Regional Design Studio. The Marshall Erdman Academy studio provides a lively survey of the history of regional planning in the Wisconsin area, the principles of design that have set international precedents for evaluating and implementing sustainable planning projects and practices, and colorful, detailed scale models of past and ongoing regional projects Dr. Lewis has organized or with which he has participated. The studio gives a “big picture” insight into how our local impact on sustainable planning and living will both influence and be affected by larger forces of economy and development.

Highlights of the studio include Dr. Lewis’s continued work with planning for protection and sustainable development of the Driftless regions of south central Wisconsin and the potential passenger rail transportation corridors that run between Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota. To tour the studio, contact the Marshall Erdman Academy of Sustainable Design at (608) 238-5581.

Further Resources & Readings:

Biodiversity Project works to make people aware of the importance of biodiversity.

The Urban Open Space Foundation is dedicated to making open space systems recognized as essential to a healthy quality and health of city living.

Natural Heritage Land Trust is Dane County’s regional conservation land trust.

1000 Friends of Wisconsin educates the citizens and policy makers of Wisconsin about the benefits of sound land use planning.

www.daneplan.org - The Dane County Comprehensive Plan

www.madisonplan.org - The Madison Comprehensive Plan

American Planning Associations *Policy Guide for Planning for Sustainability* has four basic objectives for planning toward sustainability that are based on the Natural Step. The guide can be found at www.planning.org/policyguides/sustainability.htm

Whistler, Canada’s award-winning comprehensive sustainability plan that is strongly influenced by The Natural Step. The plan can found at www.whistler.ca/Sustainability/Whistler_2020/

Session 7: What Gets in the Way of Change and Three Change Processes That Work (Chpt 15 & 16)

Begin with the Circle Question

Some people believe that every healthy, sustainable community requires a core of people, or “firesouls”, with a commitment to that community – people who are not just passing through. Is this consistent with your experience or observations? Explain.

Have you ever attended a public hearing where a plan or project that interested or concerned you was being presented for public comment or input? What did you experience being there? Did you experience the feeling of participation in the plan or project? If you have not attended any public hearings, why not? (Nb: This is not meant to suggest that you should, but rather to examine the characteristics of events that motivate us to participate or not in community events).

What are the similarities among the change processes of the municipalities, the Natural Step approach, and Swamp Yankee planning?

Identify a project or plan (work or personal) that you participated in that was successfully put into practice. In what ways did the changes you help put into practice have *concrete* results, *systematic* results and/or *institutional* results? Consider the phases and elements of the process. Are any similar to the principles or elements described in this chapter?

Consider the role of a guiding vision in plan-making and implementation (either work or personal). What are some examples of this from your own life or the lives of others? After we form a vision of what it is we want – be it a career, a life experience – what do we do next? How does this relate to “back-casting” described on p.193?

Did reading this section make you want to do something differently or to take some action in your life? If so, explain.

Northwest Earth Institute Discussion Courses: To date, over 1,000 individuals in the Dane County area and over 75,000 people nationally have participated the NWEI discussion courses. These courses provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating discussion, and make personal changes if desired. They courses are taken informally by small groups in a home, workplace at noon, centers of faith, or other place where people gather. Courses include: *Voluntary Simplicity*, *Globalization and It's Critics*, *Choices for Sustainable Living*, *Healthy Children Healthy Planet*, *Exploring Deep Ecology* and *Discovering a Sense of Place*.

Further Resources & Readings:

How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas by David Bornstein (2003)

The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People are Changing the World by Paul H. Ray (2000)

Participating in the Development Process-- A Best Practices Guide for Developers, Neighborhoods & Policymakers. can be found at www.ci.madison.wi.us/planning/

Green Tier is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources program that provides incentives for businesses and communities to move beyond environmental compliance, address unregulated problems and restore natural resources.

PRISM is a free news filter service that provides links and summaries of the most recent news related to sustainability in the Madison and Dane County area. For more info visit www.sustaindane.org

Session 8: Steps to Change and Process Leader (Chapter 17 & 18)

Begin with the Circle Question

If you were speaking to one of your local city or town councilors, how would you persuade them to consider starting an eco-municipality initiative in your community?

If a community organization or citizen group started a sustainable community initiative without involving local officials from the beginning, what might happen down the road?

If a local mayor announced a sustainable community initiative, hired a coordinator and set up an office, but did not involve or direct municipal departments and agencies to participate, what might happen down the road?

Imagine yourself as a process leader for a community embarking on becoming an eco-municipality. How would you find out what all the interests are in the community that shape your communities development and which community leaders to approach early on?

What might a public education initiative in your community about the importance of sustainability look like? What might it teach? How would it work? Who might help design and run it?

Do you think the eco-municipality approach can work successfully in the United States? What are its advantages? What are the challenges? How might these challenges be surmounted?

Did participating in this study circle make you want to do something differently or to take some action in your life? If so, explain.

Sustainability Action Teams: Sustainability Action Teams directly help in efforts to get Dane County and area communities to become eco-municipalities. Teams actively influence others through example, by engaging in dialogue, by becoming an advocate and organizing to promote change. To date, the Sustainability Action Teams have facilitated several study circles, built and installed rain barrels at the homes of a number of community members, organized and led tours of local sustainability best practices, designed and construction informational displays of sustainable community development and have given presentations about eco-municipalities to area audiences. For more information contact Sustain Dane at 608.819.0689 or email info@sustaindane.org

Further Resources & Readings:

The **Sustainable Sweden Tour** offers visits to several Swedish eco-municipalities. For more info visit www.sustainablesweden.org

Sustainability Listserv is a forum for sharing ideas, resources, questions, and announcements related to sustainability in Dane County. To join, send an email to sustaindane-subscribe@yahoo.com

The Sustain Dane website features information about frameworks for sustainability, examples of sustainable practices, links to related sites, and various resources for learning more about sustainability. Visit the website at www.sustaindane.org

[Blekinge Institute of Technology](http://www.bth.se/tmslm) offers a Masters Program on Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability based on the Natural Step. For more info visit www.bth.se/tmslm

Leadership Greater Madison is a program designed to prepare leaders by helping them understand community issues that affect the quality of life in the Greater Madison area.

Grassroots Leadership College is a training program to help the Madison area residents improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and communities. For more info visit www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org