



2013 Extension Sustainability Summit Survey Results – Unabridged

25 participants responded

On a 5-point scale ranging from poor to excellent, 92% (23) of survey respondents rated the ESS as either good (52%, $n=13$) or excellent (40%, $n=10$). Mean: 4.32.

If we were to have this event again, 84% were either very likely (44%, $n=11$) or extremely likely (40%, $n=10$) to recommend it to a colleague. Mean: 4.24.

Respondents enjoyed the quality of presenters for the summit, with 64%, $n=16$ of respondents feeling the speakers were good and 32%, $n=8$ believing they were excellent. No one rated the presenters as poor or mediocre. Mean: 4.28.

100% of respondents rated the information presented at the summit to be either good (56%, $n=14$) or excellent (44%, $n=11$). Mean: 4.44 out of 5.

Regarding behavior change, 68% were either very likely (48%, $n=12$) or extremely likely (20%, $n=5$) to implement something they learned from the summit. 6 (24%) were likely to do so, and only two people were not at all or somewhat likely. Mean: 3.76.

ESS participants felt that having a specific event with a venue dedicated to sustainability work in extension programming in the west was, on average, important to very important (Mean: 3.83). No one felt this type of venue was not at all important, and only two felt it to be somewhat important.

The majority (71%, $n=17$) felt ESS should happen every other year. 29%, $n=7$ would like ESS to occur every year. No one felt it should occur in conjunction with other Extension events, like Galaxy.

91% ($n=21$) of respondents liked the structure of Sustainability, Air, Land, Food, Water, and Energy for the summit.

For the next summit, the highest recommendation (52%, $n=13$) of four choices was for 15-minute presentations with five-minute breaks/flex-time in-between. Also, most participants (61%, $n=14$) wanted to see two full days as the Summit structure.

For next year's location, 42%, $n=9$ voted on Portland, OR. 33%, $n=7$ voted on Jackson Hole, WY, and 14%, $n=3$ would like to see the conference held again in Park City, UT.

What people liked most about the Summit:

The structured format (by topic) and the lightning sessions.

Gathering of ideas from each other. I also enjoyed networking and seeing what some of the other states were doing. I appreciated that presenters were held to a time limit.

learning from colleagues both program offerings and situation

Location, range of topics, lightning rounds - although synthesizing that information and making it meaningful seems difficult.

multiple opportunities to talk about what we heard

It provided insight concerning successful programs in a variety of disciplines, as well as an opportunity to discuss thought provoking questions regarding sustainability.

1. Learning about the many and diverse sustainability initiatives. 2. The lightning discussions, and opportunities to get to speak with many colleagues.

Well done - for the most part the thematic sessions and lightning sessions were both informative, inspiring and thought-provoking. The food, water and air sessions were especially engaging

The people. No doubt. Learning things outside my skill set/comfort zone (lean)

I thought the topics were engaging and interesting. Nice to see these things being done in Extension.

The lightning rounds were great--they provided everybody an opportunity to engage in the topics on which we had just heard inspiring presentations. This format works really well, from my perspective, when the group is small (as was the case here) and when participants' backgrounds and relationship to the issues discussed are diverse (also true here).

I liked the short presentations--15 minutes is a great length.

I think the lightning rounds were helpful to put the presenters lectures into perspective and into our daily lives as extension staff. We had the chance to exchange ideas and analyze the questions and how we fit into the bigger picture. I also enjoyed the size of the conference. It was personal and easily allowed for one on one conversation and interaction. Opportunity to have discussions with each other after each focus area presenters.

The lightning rounds were excellent.

The lightning sessions were an interesting format variant. They seemed to work well and help participants interface with each other.

It was a good format, non-track oriented with a fair amount of time for interaction with colleagues and having posters right in the same room.

Small group, different cross section of colleagues, location, discussion themes

The moderate size was great - as I was able to interact with most of the attendees. The location in Park City was awesome - a great destination. The moderate cost was also a big plus in terms of obtaining institutional support to attend. The focused nature of the conference on Extension and Sustainability allowed for focused learning.

Ample time for discussion

Lightning sessions, interactive, shorter, quality presentations.

Presentations, format, and sense of collaboration.

I like the diverse group of educators and time to connect during the lightning sessions.

First attempt to illuminate existing and possible future Extension efforts in SD

Elements that didn't work:

Rushed presenters/compressed format (6)
Energy session speakers (3)
Limited chance to question presenters (2)
Take people downtown instead of same-venue social on first day
Not much attention to exhibits (2)
Do not rush keynote
No field tour
Switching groups during lightning sessions

Suggestions to most improve the Summit:

Include administrators (3)
More time to ask questions to presenters (2)
Add section on sustainability offered by non-Extension/University-types
Breakout sessions – giving people a choice
An immediate oral report back from lightning sessions
Slot time for exhibitors to stand by exhibits and engage with people.
Personally invite extension directors to event
Bigger (but not too much) – engage the locals more
Include a field tour
Have lightning sessions right after presentations without a break in-between
Second track if conference gets much bigger
Time gap between presentations
Social/mixer before conference kicks off

How participants will be applying what they learned at the Summit:

First of all, I was inspired. That has given me a lot of energy for everything I am doing. I came away with a lot of ideas. A few examples: I have been sharing the climate change information and incorporating the concept of resiliency into my environmental education and grant applications. I am inviting the Benewah County Master Gardeners to perform some of their service hours on the Reservation in our school and community gardens, inspired by the LA County Master Gardeners. I would like to emulate some of the aspects of the UO Sustainability program. I will be reflecting more on the presentations as I go forward.

I have already given information gleaned from the summit to other extension professionals and local teachers. I will also be looking into the possibility of implementing some of the food programs in my county.

reaching out to people i met there

There were topical areas presented at the summit that we do not currently address in our CES. We will consider for the future.

I have already, and I am most likely, to continue communicating to others about Extension's superb energy and food sustainability programs. In terms of implementing something specific, it would be by way of connecting with my state's food sustainability program.

I would like to duplicate the 4H camp program in my work. I will share resources I picked up

Working on using the entrep stuff, the sustainability-in-a-box, the camp & the certificate (if possible)

The school garden food safety project that was presented is highly applicable to my work and I hope to replicate in my community.

Developing new sustainability programs for youth based on the 5 elements we talked about.

The actual format of speakers then group interaction.

Sustainable development curriculum

Will likely integrate use of lightening sessions into future meeting agendas. Have also invited a speaker from Solutions from the Land to attend and present at our next meeting.

I gained some good ideas of what has been done elsewhere. I will be getting the Michigan Small farms presentation to share here in WA

Got an idea for a publication in JOE from my presentation

The biggest take-aways were meeting the other presenters so that follow-up would be possible. I am exploring planning a similar summit in the Midwest in 2015.

In my work on the Solutions From the Land project, I'll be citing the ESS effort frequently.

Already contacted colleagues in California, Arizona and Washington about collaboration on sustainability Extension programs.

Sharing resources with peers, finding ways to further collaborate with programs.

Sharing resources with colleagues.

I think I'll go make one of those bike-powered margarita blenders...

Other topic suggestions:

Economics

Evaluating sustainability initiatives

How to help sustainable businesses

Sustainability of Extension
Rangeland/wildlife/recreation
Organizational/institutional change
Community planning
Invite other groups who have a common interest to participate
Landfill issues
Culture
Health
Consumption
Developing an eXtension national sustainability program

Reported Changes as a Result of the Summit

23 participants listed specific action items to take given attendance at the Summit, a few are highlighted here.

I realize how much good conversation helps in my field and want to network more. – Erin Anzalone, USU Extension, Salt Lake County

I want to assist with a follow-up report, have sent info to several presenters, and I want to connect presenters with the National Network for Sustainable Living Education. – Viviane Simon Brown, Sustainable Living, Oregon State University.

I want to share presenter contacts with some of my colleagues who are doing similar work. I also would like to see if I can get Gale Buchanan invited as a speaker to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference to share the “Solutions from the Land.” – Monica Pastor, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

I'll contact several of the presenters and others and others I met at the tables to set the scope of a new book. I'll also send emails to thank several presenters and seek additional info in their areas of Expertise. – Gary Austin, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension.

I would like to model the local food guide from WY and UT in WA. Also follow-up with Michigan attendee regarding the “20 minute” local food presentations. - Bob Simmons, Washington State University Cooperative Extension.

I want to find out more about University of Wisconsin energy programming. – Milton Geiger, University of Wyoming Energy Extension

I will share what I have learned with our Sustainability Team in WI, and will be following-up with several speakers and others I met at ESS! – Joshua Clements, Sustainable Communities Specialist, University of Wisconsin Extension.

I'm going to dive into Kristi Hansen's ecosystem services material. – Mark Apel, University of Arizona Extension.