

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments IGBG and EAC Joint Meeting

July 12, 2012

Panelists Biography

John V. Thomas, Ph.D.

John Thomas is the Director of the Community Assistance and Research Division in EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities. He received a Masters in Urban Planning from Cornell University and a PhD from UC Berkeley. Over the past 15 years he's worked on sustainable transportation and land use planning issues at the Federal level and provided technical assistance to state and local governments. He serves on advisory committees for the Transportation Research Board and Montgomery County, Maryland and teaches as an adjunct professor at George Washington University. In his role at EPA, John oversees a range of technical assistance programs and works with the HUD DOT EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership on performance measurement and grantee capacity building.

Carlton Eley

Carlton Eley is an environmentalist, urban planner, and lecturer. Having an appreciation for environmental justice and sustainable urban policy, he has become an accomplished expert on the topic of equitable development in the public sector. Carlton has coordinated national competitions that recognize communities for encouraging equitable development. He is frequently solicited to lead discussions at national events on the subject, and he has published multiple articles on the topic. His article, "Equitable Development: Untangling the Web of Urban Development through Collaborative Problem Solving," is the lead article in the 2010 Fall/Winter Edition of Sustain – A Journal of Environmental and Sustainability Issues.

In 2003, Carlton participated in the Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowship in Public Policy. He is the first American to conduct research on the topic of smart growth in New Zealand. Following the fellowship, he wrote a chapter on Wellington, New Zealand for the book, Local Sustainable Urban Development in a Globalized World.

Carlton has served on community advisory service teams to Pamlico County, NC; Gary, IN; Birmingham, AL; and the Vecht River Valley in the Netherlands. Carlton's work has been commended by the Ford Foundation, the National Charrette Institute, and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His technical assistance work and public engagement efforts have earned citations from the American Planning Association and the National Organization of Minority Architects.

Carlton has a BA in Sociology/Social Work Curriculum from Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) as well as a MS in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.

Jason Hercules

Jason Hercules has studied, taught and worked to implement sustainable development practices for more than 10 years. During his time with the U.S. Green Building Council, he has managed resource development projects for the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system, along with many other USGBC rating systems. Jason relies on his expertise in Smart Growth, transit-oriented, mixed-use development, and green building to provide technical development of the rating system; project review and certification; and education on many of the sustainable development elements espoused by LEED for Neighborhood Development.

Prior to joining USGBC, Jason worked as an urban planner with PB PlaceMaking where he prepared access and joint development concept plans for TOD projects based on mobility, mixed-use development potential, market analysis, Capital Improvement Plans and community-created sustainability objectives. He also drafted policy recommendations on a variety of topics including climate change, context-sensitive solutions and sustainable planning for communities across the U.S.

Jason has also supported international sustainable development efforts, including work in Taiwan and Mexico, in addition to his local community involvement. He has advised the AIA Committee on the Environment, Envision Central Texas Planning Process, ULI Technical Advisory Panel and the Sustainable Sites Initiative, among others. Jason holds a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning from The University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Art in Environmental Studies from Southwestern University.

Jonathan Cohen, LEED Green Associate

Jonathan Cohen is an Energy Technology Program Specialist in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. He manages nine grants to states and cities that have received \$140 million to create markets for building energy efficiency.

Previously Jonathan served as Director of the Responsible Purchasing Network, an institutional membership network of over 200 businesses, universities, government agencies, and nonprofits that buy green products in volume. He has worked as the Senior Manager for Chapter Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the American Staffing Association. He previously served as the Executive Director of the William James Foundation, which educates and funds entrepreneurs to launch socially responsible businesses.

Before that he was responsible for the launch and development of the first global standard to verify corporate social responsibility (CSR) reports – the AA1000 Assurance Standard, as Programme Manager for the UK-based international organization AccountAbility. He also managed the United Nations Association of the USA's 128 member national non-governmental organization (NGO) program, and served as Founding Content Manager for the U.N. Global Compact. He created and taught the first class on NGOs and CSR in New York University history, has published book chapters concerning global CSR trends, business-NGO partnerships, the U.N. – business relationship and the NGO role in global governance.