

INSIDE IFMA'S ESUS COMMUNITY

*A note from Dean
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IFMA's Environmental
Stewardship Utilities
and Sustainability
Community*

As I'm sure most of you are aware, IFMA's diverse membership participates in focused component groups equipped to address their unique situations by region (134 chapters), industry (16 councils) and areas of interest (six communities). Together they manage more than 78 billion square feet of property and annually purchase more than US\$526 billion in products and services. The purpose of this article is to introduce you to the Environmental Stewardship, Utilities and Sustainability (ESUS) Community.

Whereas chapters serve a limited geography, and councils serve targeted industries (such as airports — where I'm writing this article), IFMA Communities of Practice exist to serve specific areas of interest for our membership. In addition to ESUS, there are communities dedicated to Business, Information Technology, Operations & Maintenance, Real Estate Advisory, and Workplace Evolutionaries (WE). Like chapters, IFMA members must register to join Councils & Communities, and there is a small annual fee to join each group. You can choose to join any of these groups during your annual membership renewal, or by contacting the IFMA main phone number and speaking to a membership representative.

HOW IS ESUS ORGANIZED?

Oversight of ESUS is conducted by its Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). This group consists of nine members, including myself as Chair. Members of this group include four IFMA Fellows, one past IFMA Chairman of the Board, several past IFMA Board and IFMA Foundation Board of Trustee members. All are passionate about sustainability and the environment.

SO, WHY JOIN ESUS?

If you are like me and concerned with the environment and impacts of climate change, you may want to learn more about what you can do to minimize the environmental impact of your workplace. As a facility manager, you may be asked to reduce energy consumption, and related costs, by your employer. No matter your motivations, if you are interested in environmental stewardship and sustainability — you should consider joining the ESUS community.

WHAT DOES ESUS DO?

As a world-wide community of practices, ESUS strives to provide educational opportunities and practical information related to sustainable facility management practices, including;

- **Articles:** IFMA's bi-monthly FMJ Magazine provides a venue for authoritative articles on sustainability topics. As each issue has a "theme," ESUS seeks to publish an article in each FMJ issue tied to the issues theme. For example, the September/October 2017 issue's theme was "People, Process, Place" and ESUS sponsored a three-part article on Building Healthier Workplaces.
- **Webinars:** ESUS typically hosts at least one webinar per month focused on sustainability topics. Following publication of an FMJ article, we will request the article author(s) to present their article content in a webinar, enabling members to probe deeper into the topic and connect with the authors.
- **Sustainability How-To Guides:** ESUS serves as the curator for IFMA's Sustainability How-To Guides found in the IFMA Knowledge Library. There are currently fourteen guides published on a variety of topics including "Getting Started", "Waste Management", "Lighting", "Green Cleaning" and more. Search for "How-To Guide" in the Knowledge Library to view the complete list. These guides are currently free for member download.

- **Initiatives:** ESUS engages with governmental entities and other organizations to support efforts aligned with the IFMA and ESUS mission. We currently have two active initiatives:

- **Department of Energy: Better Buildings:** *Better Buildings is a U.S. Department of Energy initiative to improve the lives of the American people by driving leadership in energy innovation in the nation's homes, commercial and public buildings, and industrial plants. One of its initiatives is the Interior Lighting Campaign (ILC). SAG member Bill Conley is liaison to the ILC.*
- **City Energy Project:** *The City Energy Project is a national initiative to cut energy waste in large buildings and make American cities healthier and more prosperous through energy efficiency. The 20 pioneering cities involved in the City Energy Project are working to boost their local economies and reduce pollution, and their leadership is helping to shape next-generation energy efficiency strategies for communities nationwide. I serve as the primary liaison to CEP with support from SAG members Eric Teicholz, John McGee and new SAG member Chris Cayten.*

While there are more areas of ESUS involvement, and if you would like to know more about ESUS, please feel free to call or email me at the contact information provided.

REFERENCES

1. **IFMA ESUS Community:** <http://esus.ifma.org>
2. **City Energy Project:** <http://www.cityenergyproject.org/>
3. **Dept. of Energy: Better Buildings:** <https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/>
4. **Better Buildings: Interior Lighting Campaign:** <http://www.interlightingcampaign.org/>



DEAN STANBERRY, CFM, LEED AP O+M, 2017-2018 Chair, is a solutions-oriented facilities professional with over 20 years of broad-based experience in facilities management, real estate portfolio management, process and quality improvement, procurement, workplace services, program and project management, space and

occupancy planning, sustainability, information systems implementation and critical environment operations. An accomplished communicator, he has presented at international FM conferences, published articles and a contributing author of the book "Technology for Facility Managers." Dean is an active industry advocate serving in a number of volunteer leadership roles as a member of the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA), the IFMA Foundation, and the U.S. Green Building council. Dean can be reached by email at mdstanberry@comcast.net.

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