



Working Group Updates - April 2023

One of our goals moving forward is to provide more consistent updates on the work our three Working Groups are doing alongside the general work the Coalition is focused on. We have asked the Chairs and Co-Chairs of our Strategic Engagement and Networking, Research, and Policy Working Groups to provide a brief update on recent and upcoming work for the group, which can be found below:

Strategic Engagement and Networking (SEN)

The Strategic Networking & Engagement work group has two key opportunities to support SUFC and the network of members. Each year the SEN working group supports the Call to Collaboration at the SUFC Annual Meeting, which offers a platform for community partners to showcase their efforts and to educate and engage the broader SUFC membership. In addition to the SEN role at Annual Meeting, this work group supports and enhances collaboration and networking opportunities throughout the SUFC membership network. For more information, contact Co-chair [Annica McGuirk](#) of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Research

In 2023, the Research Working Group plans to identify research needs and opportunities within the scope of the established 2016-2026 Ten-Year Urban Forestry Action Plan [Research Needs](#) that can be supported and leveraged by impacts from available Inflation Reduction Act funding for specific goals. These goals include understanding ecosystem services; promoting human and community health; improving planting, inventory, and analysis for forest and environmental health; preparing for pests, threats, climate and associated changes and risks; enabling civic stewardship and improved local governance; and integrating knowledge networks and data for urban social-ecological systems. For more information, contact Co-chair [Ian Leahy](#) of American Forests.

Policy

The SUFC Policy Working Group continues to meet monthly to convene leaders in the forest-policy space and those interested in learning about current and emerging issues in Congress, across federal agencies, and the administration. Here are some upcoming efforts:

- Farm Bill push related to urban and community forestry opportunities.
- Engagement sessions with agency leaders outside the Forest Service.
- Special sessions with Hill staffers working on urban-related legislation and/or wanting to better understand the issues involved.
- Update of resource on appropriations numbers and impact of federal program supporting urban and community forestry.
- Continuing to track legislative opportunities in the House and Senate.

For more information, contact Chair [Danielle Watson](#) of Society of American Foresters.