



The Path to Washington and Events

MSWG sponsors a number of events each year. Starting in 2006, MSWG and its Policy Academy embarked on an educational project connected by annual workshops and supported by focused dialogues, studies and fact-finding.

MSWG's annual workshop is the largest single event of the year, supporting innovators interested in theory and practice. MSWG also sponsors regional meetings hosted by cities, states and provinces, as well as international events.

The Path to Washington seeks to engage government, business, academic, and non-governmental organizations in discussions and learning that result in the alignment of the legal system with the natural system to foster superior environmental performance. Four annual workshops provide the foundation for the Path to Washington: Utah- 2006, Wisconsin- 2007, New York- 2008 and Washington, D.C.- 2009.

A series of Policy Academy studies, past workshops and dialogues culminated in MSWG's decision to pursue its Path to Washington. An outgrowth of the Policy Academy meeting at Harvard University was that law, culture and politics impeded ecological innovation in America. The Path to Washington will address ecological policy questions by gathering information, ideas, and examples of innovation both domestically and internationally for discussion.



The Policy Academy

The MSWG Policy Academy on Environmental Management Tools is MSWG's innovation support system, organized as a virtual academy without a campus or faculty. It draws in top talent and can provide on-site training for clients.

The Policy Academy has its own Board of Regents comprised of a purposeful mix of organizations representing MSWG's membership. The Policy Academy has benefited from major funding from the Joyce Foundation in Chicago for its launch.

To date, projects of the Policy Academy and its predecessor, the Research Committee, have included six research roundtables at universities across America; two summits and dialogue sessions on topics such as Tools to Improve Environmental Performance, the Role of Law, Regulatory Approaches and Government, and Environmental Law in a Connected World. Academy discussions have led to several reports and a book entitled *Regulating from the Inside*, published by the Brookings Institution.

The Academy brings practicing experts and leaders together for respectful dialogues that advance environmental policy and practice.



Committees

MSWG seeks to engage members on topics in more detail through committees.

These include:

International Committee

The International Committee is home to the Best Practice Network for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Environmental Program.

Internship Committee

In 2004, MSWG partnered with the London offices of FTSE Group, the global index provider, and specifically with FTSE4Good, to hire the first MSWG intern. This successful experience encouraged MSWG to formalize its Internship Program and facilitate the placement of select university students and recent graduates into organizations that seek to improve ecological sustainability.

Ecological Innovation and Integration Committee

This committee will gather practical examples of innovation for the Path to Washington. The committee seeks to promote the dialogue necessary to address the nexus of environmental issues and economic competitiveness that may be missed in current policies. MSWG will share information with our academic partners who are framing public policy questions. Neither the committee nor MSWG will take a position on proposed legislation.

Other Committees

MSWG also sponsors the Annual Workshop Planning, Membership, Website, Fundraising, Awards, and Nominating committees.



Our History Our Present Our Future

MSWG, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization, was established in 1996 as a small, informal affiliation of regulators, businesses, environmentalists and scholars focused on studying environmental management systems (EMSs) and their potential to improve environmental performance.

Today, MSWG is a network of hundreds of participants in the United States and a dozen other countries. It is “a voice for ecological innovation and integration” and as such, a forum for change agents from all sectors who want to go further environmentally than we are today and reveal the best opportunities to do so in a respectful and collaborative manner.

MSWG has been recognized for its innovative thinking and described as “an organization for the 21st Century.” MSWG helps change agents leverage their knowledge and experience to strengthen communities and build economies while improving the environment. Its members believe that the environment and the economy are not at odds.

Our Foundation

MSWG is a volunteer organization. Support from members through participation, membership dues, and financial and in-kind contributions is essential to its success. Contact MSWG to find out how you can become involved.

For more information, go to our website at www.mswg.org or contact:


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A Voice for Ecological Innovation and Integration



**The Multi-State
Working Group
on Environmental
Performance (MSWG)
is a multi-sectoral
network promoting
innovation and
supporting innovators
to improve the quality
of the environment,
economy and
community.
MSWG provides
an atmosphere of
mutual respect and
inclusiveness to drive
solutions-oriented
collaboration.**