ISCN Webinar: Harvard-KTH Pre Conference Webinar

*Tuesday, May 15, 2018. 10-11am EST.*

**About the Webinar:**
Join Heather Henriksen, Managing Director of Sustainability at Harvard and Erica-Dawn Egan, Project Coordinator of Sustainability at KTH as we explore the interconnections between higher education research, climate change, health and society.

In a conversation with Heather, we’ll learn about Harvard’s recently released Climate Action Goals and the connections between climate change, health impacts, and multi-disciplinary climate research. To make tackling climate change more collaborative, tangible, and inclusive, Harvard is hoping to reframe how we address the issues of climate change by addressing the role it plays on human health and prosperity.

Echoing this sentiment will be Erica-Dawn, who will discuss how fully integrating sustainability in the core activities and in the day to day operations and campus development is a priority at KTH. She will also discuss how KTH’s sustainability objectives and targets are used to monitor and follow the progression of the integration of sustainability at KTH. In addition, KTH contributes to a number of research areas addressing challenges and solutions concerning climate change and emissions, circular and bio-based economics, sustainable urban development, digitalization for a sustainable society, public health, and transport. As one of Europe’s leading technical universities, KTH works for the development of society by taking a holistic view and systematic approach to sustainability within our education and research.

**About Heather Henriksen:**
Heather has served as Harvard University’s chief sustainability officer since 2008, advising the President and senior leadership on strategy and building an organizational change initiative that resulted in the University achieving its initial science-based climate goal of a 30% net reduction in emissions. Heather’s office oversees the implementation of Harvard’s comprehensive Sustainability Plan and Harvard’s new Climate Action Plan setting fossil fuel-free by 2050 and fossil fuel-neutral by 2026 targets. She and her team has expanded a multi-disciplinary living laboratory research program that partners with faculty and students to use the campus as a test bed for piloting and sharing innovative solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. Heather is also leading an effort internally and externally to address health in the built environment.

Heather manages external sustainability partnerships with higher education, businesses and government. She is an acting Advisory Committee Co-Chair of ISCN. Heather holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.
Webinar Summary Notes:

- Nearly 200 delegates will be joining us at ISCN 2018
- Harvard's new Climate Action Plan sets goals to be fossil fuel-free by 2050 and fossil fuel-neutral by 2026
- It builds on past progress of the university as whole
- 30% reduction in absolute emissions 2006-2016, including growth
- Harvard met the goal by focusing on priority areas like energy efficiency, renewable energy transition, etc.
- Vision of what a fossil fuel-free future looks like by 2050: a roadmap for Harvard to achieve goals. All purchased electricity and district energy systems must be free from fossil fuel sources. Will work with cities/state to get there
- Harvard addresses scope 3 emissions by setting targets for purchasing externally-provided services or activities that rely on as little fossil fuels as possible
- "Health is the human face of climate change" - need to better understand impacts through research
- How do you translate this multidisciplinary research into practice: via living labs. Harvard is size (sq. footage) of Google
- Climate Change Solutions Fund: $20M to support innovative climate solutions, prioritizing multidisciplinary teams that have replicable models
- Living Lab multidisciplinary course is offered
- Campus Sustainability Innovation Fund helps fund student research projects
- Behavioral Insights Field Course Project - identify ways to reduce air travel impacts
- This is all about transformational change - changing the culture of how we live and work

Q&A Session:

- Q: Thanks for the talk! I had a question about student engagement --is the Harvard sustainability office supporting students who make partnerships with not for profits or charities in the community? Say for piloting an outreach project or an infrastructure change?
  - A: Yes, there are many vehicles provided for funding students who are trying to address these problems. For example, the climate change solutions fund and $5-50K grants to students. Harvard is currently funding a project to create fertilizer that can actually trap carbon in atmosphere to grow food that needed seed funding. Harvard is also conducting a study where office workers track with Fitbits to determine the health impacts of built environment on individuals in the space. Students at Kennedy school wanted more multidisciplinary living lab projects to get their hands dirty and work on and asked for funding to get more classes. Now they convinced Harvard Center Environment to develop more graduate-level courses around climate and health.
- Q: Great presentation Heather - can you tell us a little more about the impact measures. How to measure how the things you're doing have impacts on health, environment, etc.
  - A: Strengthening living lab opportunities to get at heart of identifying how these have been helpful. Harvard achieves this through research. Some big research questions they want to ask have been identified. Through purchase of offsets, RECs. Not every renewable energy deal has same impacts. How to quantify green building and what are $ attributes associated with health and productivity. Harvard came up with formulas to translate that into. Take that research, couple it with actions on campus to measure impacts.
• Q: Our researchers are afraid the sustainability goals may limit their research opportunities due to energy consuming equipment. Have you any experience with this at Harvard?

• A: Energy-efficiency first strategy. Urban environment poses challenges on ability to use renewables, etc. Need to address those unique challenges. Had energy audits at 80% of campus to identify numerous energy efficiency measures on campus. Implemented life cycle cost policy for renovations and new buildings. Established green revolving fund to get capital funding.

• Q: Harvard has been engaged in ISCN for years. What are you most excited about for conference and years ahead?

• A: Combination of faculty and staff conference. Global in nature. Diverse view of ideas and frameworks and the level of dialogue is very high. Good opportunity to see work examples globally. Getting stronger as a member-driven organization. Trying to get clearer value-add for members. The conferences get better each year and greater participation for knowledge exchange. Incredible opportunity for cross-institution research which Harvard has benefited from hugely. Driven by member input to tackle sustainable development challenges.