



Hot Nights in the City: Urban Planning Responses to Climate Change

The Student Planning Association of Georgia Tech
celebrates World Town Planning Day

World Town Planning Day was first started in 1949 to bring attention to the field of urban planning and its role in making great communities. Today, it is observed in over 30 countries around the world, bringing together planning professionals and the public for a day of communication about our common goals and ideals.

We now face planning challenges on an unprecedented scale. More than ever, the impetus to think globally is upon us. With worldwide climate change occurring, what responsibilities do urban planners and their affiliates have to their local and global communities? What mitigation or adaptation responses to warming trends can be taken? Will the public buy in to these strategies?

To address these very questions, the Georgia Tech Student Planning Association hosted a luncheon on November 8th, 2006 with a keynote speaker, followed by a Q&A session with an expert discussion panel. Nearly 100 students, professors, and professional attended the event.



Our keynote speaker was Pam Sessions, president and co-owner of [Hedgewood Properties](#). Hedgewood Properties specializes in developing more environmentally-friendly and sustainable homes and communities in conjunction with the EarthCraft House program at [Southface](#). Over the years, Ms. Sessions and Hedgewood have won numerous awards from both environmental and builders' groups in recognition of their innovations and accomplishments in the residential development industry. Hedgewood builds over 300 homes per year in the Metro Atlanta area, mainly in Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) communities such as Glenwood Park, the Vickery, and Seven Norcross.

In addition to Ms. Sessions, our expert panelists included:



Dr. Randall Guensler, Professor of Civil Engineering (Georgia Tech) discussed Transportation and Air Quality



Dr. Kim Cobb, Assistant Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (Georgia Tech) discussed Climate Change



Mike Barcik, Director of Technical Services at Southface discussed Green Building Technologies



Dr. Michael Elliott (moderator), Professor of City and Regional Planning (Georgia Tech) discussed Environmental Planning

Event Photos:



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