

“Sustainability Assessment Tools - Practical Applications in Germany and the US“

Workshop November 12th - 13th, 2009, Denver, CO

The workshop on “Sustainability Assessment Tools - Practical Applications in Germany and the US“, took place from the 12th to 13th of November 2009 in Denver, CO. It was organized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany.

During the workshop 9 different German and American approaches were presented; each of those aims to initiate and assess sustainable brownfield redevelopment. The approaches were discussed by the participants with regard to their international transferability. The German methods and tools were developed in the frame of the SAFIRA II research program and the REFINA program, while the US approaches were created in different programs and initiatives. Intense discussions among 33 participants – representatives of administration, education, research and the private sector (consulting) showed that although the methods and tools have different approaches to sustainable development, all of them have the potential to contribute to sustainable urban/regional development.

Based on the results of the discussion, a working program for further development and application of some of the approaches will be drafted. This program will be discussed and further developed in the next weeks within the frame of the United States and German Bilateral Working Group on sustainable land revitalization.,

The highlight at the end of the workshop was the excursion to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Superfund Site, which is one of the largest, most heavily contaminated chemical weapon production sites in the US. Remediation and revitalization of the site as a wildlife refuge and recreation area are nearly finished.

The workshop and follow up activities are performed under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between the UFZ and the USEPA, which was finalized in March 2009. In the frame of this agreement, a German “mirror page” of the

US web-platform „Sustainable Management Approaches and Revitalization Tool – electronic“ (SMARTe) will be created. The focus of the CRADA is the integration of further modules and approaches for sustainability and economical assessment in site/megasite revitalization.

Presentations held at the workshop can be found here:

<http://www.task.ufz.de/index.php?en=19113>)

The following Websites provide further information on the research programs SAFIRA II

<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=19589>), REFINA (www.refina-info.de), and the

Bilateral working group (www.bilateral-wg.org).