

ACES 2016 Pre-Conference Workshop
Monday, December 5, 2016 | 8:30am – 12:00pm

Title: *Hands-On Ecosystem Services: Interactive Training of the ESII (Ecosystem Services Identification & Inventory) Tool*

Description: This interactive, half-day training, delivered by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Dow Chemical Company, and EcoMetrix Solutions Group, will introduce participants to the [ESII Tool](#). The ESII Tool (pronounced “easy”), was developed in collaboration by Dow, TNC, and EcoMetrix Solutions Group, and is owned by TNC. ESII is a free assessment tool that provides information that can lead to better decisions and better conservation outcomes. It fills an important gap between simple tools built upon limited scientific information and complex tools that require expert users. Designed for natural resources managers, engineers, business managers, and ecologists alike, the tool can be used in the early stages of decision making to identify benefits provided by natural assets so that their value can be incorporated into operational and planning decisions. The ESII Tool can be used in site planning, impact assessments, cost/benefit analyses, or to compare alternatives. Outputs from the tool can be used directly in financial analyses or engineering models. The tool consists of the iOS-based Field App, used to collect ecological information on site, and the web-based Project Workspace, where projects are set up, data is reviewed, and outputs are generated.

Using a real-world example on-site at the Hyatt, participants will learn how to use the primary components of the tool— the ESII Project Workspace and the ESII Field App. The workshop will first introduce the ESII Project Workspace and outline the data collection effort. Next, in small groups participants will collect physical attribute data using the ESII Field App. The final step will involve reviewing collected data and then generating results.

This workshop is related to the afternoon workshop “The ESII Tool in Practice: Using the Results of the ESII Tool for Multiple Applications”. Participants are encouraged to attend both, but it is not required because each workshop is stand alone.

Agenda

- 8:30-8:45a Welcome & Workshop Objectives
Review workshop objectives, format and agenda and introduce facilitators.

- 8:45-9:20a Overview of the ESII Tool
Provide an overview of the ESII Tool followed by a description of a Hyatt project that compares alternative landscape designs for the hotel where ACES is taking place.

- 9:20-9:40a Introduction to the ESII Project Workspace
Introduce and demonstrate how to use the ESII Project Workspace, a web-based interface where users create a project site, the data collection area, and map units.

- 9:40-10:00a Introduction to the ESII Field App
Introduce and demonstrate the ESII Field App. Present the data collection process, from pre-field work to answering specific survey questions within the App.

- 10:00-10:30a Break

- 10:30-11:30a On-Site Data Collection with the ESII Field App
Participants will walk from the conference room to the north and south sides of the Hyatt. In small groups (up to 10 people) led by a facilitator, participants will step through the preparation for data collection, using the ESII Field App to verify, edit and create map units. Participants will then use the App to collect physical attribute data on either the north or south side of the building.
- 11:30-12:00p Review Collected Data and Results
After returning to the conference room, participants will analyze the collected data using the ESII Project Workspace before generating results.

Benefits of the Workshop and Target Audience: This workshop is relevant for individuals and organizations interested in identifying and assessing ecosystem services on a given site quickly and inexpensively. These may be planners, engineers, facilities managers, and natural resource managers interested in using decision-support tools for a wide range of activities including: assessing site designs and alternatives; assisting with restoration projects; creating an inventory of natural assets; scoping impact assessments, comparing green vs. gray infrastructure; and supporting dialogue and engagement with local communities. The ability to conduct ecosystem service evaluations quickly and inexpensively is critical for any enterprise or municipality that wishes to incorporate the value of nature into their operations and decision making.

Workshop Organizers

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Name: Elizabeth Uhlhorn
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Qualifications

Kevin Halsey | As a Senior Consultant with EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG), Kevin oversees development of ecosystem services decision support tools created by the firm. His work with ESG focuses on integrating ecosystem services into decision making processes and, in that role, much of his time is devoted to developing strategies for measuring ecosystem service production and for addressing uncertainty. In addition to his responsibilities working with ESG, Kevin is an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law, where he teaches a course on identifying and managing environmental risk in business transactions. Kevin also teaches courses on ecosystem services and land management for the University of Oregon's Sustainability Leadership Program.

Jennifer Molnar | Jennifer Molnar is managing director and lead scientist of The Nature Conservancy's new Center for Sustainability Science, providing thought leadership on improving society's ability to create a more sustainable future for nature and people. She has more than 15 years of experience working to apply science to decision-making in both the private and non-profit sectors, including leading global teams of Conservancy scientists and economists dedicated to cutting-edge research and practice around the connections between nature and people, most recently as the Director of Science. She is the science lead for the TNC-Dow Chemical Company collaboration, work that led to Dow's ground-breaking Nature Goal. She is editor and a lead author of *The Atlas of Global Conservation* (University of California Press, 2010). Jen received a master's degree from Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, a B.S. in environmental engineering from Harvard, and has previous private sector experience in hydrology and environmental remediation.

Elizabeth Uhlhorn | Beth Uhlhorn serves as Dow Chemical's Sustainability Program Manager for Nature and Ecosystem Services. In this role, she is the project manager for implementation of Dow's new 2025 Valuing Nature Goal, which aims to generate \$1 billion (as measured in NPV) in cost savings or new revenue through projects that are good for business and the environment. Uhlhorn also manages Dow's \$10MM collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and leads an effort to generate cash and other monetary value for Dow through placing excess Dow land into conservation. Prior to joining the Sustainability team, she held several finance positions throughout the Company, including Finance Manager with both Dow's Construction Chemicals business unit and Dow Kokam, a former joint venture that manufactured lithium ion batteries. Uhlhorn has also worked in the non-profit sector with the World Wildlife Fund and served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Cameroon, West Africa. Beth holds dual MBA and MS degrees through the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan. She also received a BA in environmental science and political science from the University of St. Thomas, in St Paul, Minnesota.

Morgan Erhardt | As a consultant with EcoMetrix Solutions Group (ESG), Morgan specializes in communicating complex concepts to diverse stakeholders and developing clear, concise and detailed approaches to complicated ecosystem services and habitat exchange projects. He is responsible for model and tool development in a variety of technology suites which includes communication of development progress, facilitation of technical feedback sessions, incorporation of feedback into the development workflow, and final system testing. Morgan was previously with ENSR/AECOM in Seattle, WA, where he worked on groundwater petroleum mitigation projects in the Pacific Northwest and FEMA disaster recovery projects throughout Florida. Morgan received his master's degree in Oceanography with an emphasis on decision support tool development and his bachelor's degree in Geology at Oregon State University.