

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sustainable Twin Ports: A Joyful Conclusion

Duluth, MN – August 1, 2019

Sustainable Twin Ports (STP) was created just over a decade ago to help businesses and not-for-profit organizations in the Twin Ports region become more sustainable. Using a cohort model, STP trained over 30 organizational groups in the principles of sustainability using The Natural Step as an organizing framework.

In recent years, sustainability has become an expectation rather than an add-on in businesses and organizations. Given this change in the environment, it is with both great joy and sadness that we announce the formal dissolution of STP. The increasing permeation of sustainability throughout the community has decreased the need for our training programs. Our extensive market research, including focus groups and surveys, supported this conclusion.

Therefore, we decided that the best use of our remaining resources was to contribute our training programs to the UMD Center for Economic Development and our financial resources to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation's sustainability programs.

Some of the highlights of our history include:

- Sustainable Twin Ports (STP) formed in 2007 to encourage early adoption of sustainable practices and The Natural Step framework in organizations and businesses.
- Over the past 10 years, STP assisted over 30 organizations and businesses in making sustainability goals, examining their operations, and learning about the benefits of including environmental, societal, and economic factors in their decision making.
- We are grateful for key community partners and funders for all their assistance over many years, including: the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, the A.H. Zeppa Family Foundation, the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, and Loll Designs, as well as numerous individual contributors.
- Board members who served for STP developed training workshops, connected with people passionate about sustainability in our community, and served as vocal proponents of sustainability in their own work roles and communications.
- Remaining non-profit assets will be donated back to Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation.

STP encourages all of the businesses and organizations we've partnered with to continue their sustainability efforts, and are grateful we had the opportunity to have an impact on accelerating the pace of adoption of sustainability in the Twin Ports area.

For questions or interviews, please contact Board President, Geoff Bell, at ggbell@d.umn.edu or (218) 393-9719.

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STP's mission is to help cultivate a community of practice among businesses, organizations and citizens wherein sustainability is the norm and successes inform and inspire the efforts of like-minded communities.

For a list of previous Cohorts of organizations and businesses:

<http://www.sustainabletwinports.org/partners.htm>

For more information about the history of Sustainable Twin Ports:

<http://www.sustainabletwinports.org/history.htm>

Current Board Members of STP:

- Geoffrey Bell - Board Chair
- Kristi Heintz - Board Vice Chair
- Jay Walker - Board Treasurer
- Sarah Wilcox - Board Secretary
- Kayla Dietzmann
- Gary Olson
- Shawna Weaver
- Mindy Granley
- Michelle Ross