

Sustainable & Healthy Communities

Charge Question 1: First-year progress & plan for future.

- Moving in the right direction but recognize the difficulty of the task
- Identify & remove barriers to integrating ecological and human health
- Distinguish research from implementation
 - Who is the client?
 - Who is responsible for implementation?
- Consider reducing number of science questions & better align with outputs
- Emphasize tractable (small) victories initially

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Charge Question 2: Sustainability

- SHC does this exceptionally well.

Charge Question 3: Current vs. emerging issues

- Understand the *process* of developing useful decision-support tools
- Build capacity in staff so they can be at the frontier of science

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SHC Question 1: Ensuring that research & tools effectively support communities

- Cultivate partnerships with communities where both parties identify needs
- Emphasize process of developing tools – goal is to develop tools that can be adapted to a wide range of communities and are linked to important decisions communities face
- Highlight the importance of providing uniform national data

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SHC Question 2: Usefulness of Theme 4 to integrate research

- Important sectors (materials & waste mgmt, transportation alternatives, buildings & infrastructure, land use decisions), but some notably absent (e.g., air & water)
- Find the middle ground between simple & overly complex models. Focus on the crucial pieces that are interacting.
- Be cautious not to create thematic silos instead of disciplinary ones.

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SHC Question 3: Breadth & depth, areas of emphasis

- Highlight efforts to understand interactions, feedbacks, thresholds
- Better link data collection to decision-support .
- If budgets shrink, reduce science questions within each of the themes. Be attentive to linkages across themes.
- If budgets grow, invest in social sciences & in a wider diversity of community types.

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Charge Question 5. Integration pilots

- More attention to One Environment

Charge Question 6. Innovation

- Be transparent about guiding principles
- Direct future grants at specific science questions in ORD programs
- Be cautious of unintended consequences of low success rates.