

## **VGE Meeting Notes of April 3,2019**

### **Climate Change Initiatives**

#### **How are we doing? What more can we do? What's working?**

The group talked about many ways to impact climate change through our work. Attendees grouped those ideas into the following general areas: agriculture, engagement (education) and behavior change, economy, transportation, governance & policy, data (e.g., to understand wind & sun power potential by location and/or to understand climate change actions that work), energy, and health (air & water pollution issues). Through dot polling, the group decided to focus on the following three topics to dive into more deeply in small group discussions. The ideas listed below are notes from those small group discussions:

#### **1. Advances in Agriculture**

- Algae for productivity
- Climate resistant crops
- Healthy soil; regeneration of the soil
- Dealing with perma-frost
- Ecosystem services to advantage farmers
- Profitability for people
- Long term business thinking; economic evolution
- Retrain and reinvest in an economy of the future
- Fund positive dairy and clean water practices
- Food waste reduction
- Measure a Human Development Index rather than GDP

#### **2. Engagement and Behavior Change**

- Recreate learning opportunities
  - Experiential learning/service learning
  - Youth opportunities/leadership
  - Support educators

Education that embeds impact

(Anthropocene)

Share innovative ideas from around the globe

Engagement

Empowerment

Empower visionaries

Empower women

Equity

Calling out “BS” on elites

Solutions Journalism

Collective action

Move away from GDP as the measure of success

### **3. Economics**

Retooling the Economy

Evolution, not revolution

Incentivizing R & D, culture of innovation

Focus on stakeholder welfare, not shareholder wealth

Move away from GDP (to HDI); measure well being

Reinvestment in human capital

Focus on sustainable, innovative livelihoods in high risk areas for deforestation

Decouple labor and capital

Internalize climate change costs

Carbon Offset

Companies utilized and recommended:

Native Energy by Epler Wood

Climate Care (UK) by Resonance

Conduct a carbon inventory and develop a multi-year reduction plan

Replace income tax with carbon tax

Incentives and/or penalties

Tradeable permits

Make carbon less affordable by making renewables more affordable

## **Topic ideas for future meetings**

Leadership development and change

Social equity and how to keep it on the front burner

Diversifying partnerships; how to stretch for partners that will offer a new lens on local, regional & global work; creating and fostering synergy through systems thinking

Outcomes and measurement data

Circular Economy

Expanding from small to medium sized NGPO

Managing social media to generate support

Productive management of interns