

## A Brown Bag Presentation by Dr. Melissa Keeley

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Room 1112V | Preinkert Field House (Bldg 54) | University of Maryland, College Park, MD

### ***Bringing Science to Bear on Urban Green Infrastructure Planning***

The topic of this brown bag event will be an update on a current National Center for Smart Growth research project: the creation of the Green Area Ratio site sustainability metric for DC's Anacostia Planning Area. Melissa Keeley and research assistant Kyla Gregoire will outline the scope of the project and progress to date. Through this project, they examine the costs and environmental benefits of site-scale green infrastructure (rain gardens, permeable pavements, green roofs, etc.). Further, they study the implementation potential of these techniques utilizing remote sensing data and classifying land cover and land uses. They will use this information to inform a science-based approach for Washington, DC, to support or require parcel-level green infrastructure technologies in dense urban areas. The focus of this talk will be the challenges they have come across thus far and implications for broader urban environmental policy planning initiatives.

### ***Melissa Keeley Bio***

Currently a Fellow of Columbia University's Earth Institute and visiting faculty at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research & Education, Dr. Keeley's research examines the environmental impacts of land-use—specifically, urban “green infrastructure”—with a focus on applications for policy and planning for urban sustainability, in a comparative, international context. Through the comparative analysis of urban case studies, her research looks at the potential for transfer and adaptation, between Europe and the United States, of innovative stormwater management policy, programs, and technologies. Some of her findings have appeared in the Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA) special issue on water (Spring 2007).

Dr. Keeley received her doctorate from the Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at the Technical University of Berlin in 2007. As a Graduate Research Fellow of the U.S. National Science Foundation, her doctoral training at the TU Berlin—internationally renowned for its focus on the urban environment—was bolstered by a year at Harvard University. Prior to that, with a fellowship from the Robert Bosch Foundation, she moved to Germany to explore northern European investment in sustainable urban planning techniques. There, she worked in the Berlin environmental ministry and consulted at an NGO engaged with EU environmental policy. Dr. Keeley completed her M.S. at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle, where her research focused on the remediation and rehabilitation of a sanitary landfill in Seattle's city center through the use of regionally native, stress-tolerant plant species. She earned a B.S. in Microbiology and German and a B.S. in Plant Pathology at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.