



# Dupont Summit 2017

*Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy*

December 1, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

## **Presentation**

### **"Advancing Building Sustainability in Policy"**

Summary: Mid-Atlantic environmental building industry leaders present today's most relevant environmental policy issues and their contemporary solutions as applied to the built environment.

## **Panelists**

**Eric Oliver, VP Inscope Innovation**

### **Energy Progress: Carrots or Sticks?**

Significant progress has been made in recent years regarding pushing energy conservation and renewable energy. Government and utilities have a significant role to play in incentivizing energy conservation and renewable energy, these incentives typically take the form of either carrots or sticks. "Carrots" typically take the form of financial incentives, rebates, tax credits, low interest loans, or development incentives. "Sticks" normally take the form of mandates or code changes. But which are more effective? We will discuss the effectiveness of carrots and sticks, and debate which are more effective.

**Annette Osso, President, Resilient Virginia**

**Resiliency and Infrastructure** - How energy, transportation, and civil infrastructure adaptation strategies are critical for the country to continue to have a viable economy.

This will focus on the major role of states and local governments are playing in planning adaptation strategies, the role that the federal government currently plays through FEMA funding related to recovery initiatives, as well as energy R&D funding for smart grid and distributed energy production, and the need for massive financial support - both public and private - to accomplish adequate infrastructure adaptation. FEMA estimates, as a rule of thumb, that every \$1 invested in proactive disaster mitigation is worth about \$4 in prevented loss. With estimates ranging from \$200 billion per year and higher to prepare our infrastructure for climate change impacts from extreme weather, the value of proactively addressing adaptation strategies for our energy, transportation and civil infrastructure systems is clear.

**Sandra Leibowitz, *Sustainable Design Consulting, LLC***

## **Green Building Standards and the Impact of Meeting Them**

As we progress further into the 21st Century, the landscape of green building becomes ever more complex. Standards, rating systems, certifications and guidelines for sustainable buildings and communities have both evolved and multiplied faster than government policies can address. Meanwhile, studies continue to demonstrate the positive impacts to environmental quality and human health of building in compliance with environmental standards. Current strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to the leading green building standards will be addressed at the national level as well as for Mid-Atlantic state and local jurisdictions.

