

Teaming up with communities to create opportunities

Cooperative Extension—Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED) Program Area

Program Focus

Community Development

CNRED educators work with local governments, civic organizations, businesses and community leaders to help people identify critical local needs, set goals and promote locally driven solutions. We provide educational resources that support elected officials and foster civic engagement and partnerships in local government decision making.

Natural Resources

We provide education in environmental protection, water quality, conservation of natural resources, stormwater management, energy management, forestry and land use. The natural resource educational capacity of CNRED is enhanced through a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources to support regional Extension educators who conduct programs within each major river basin in Wisconsin.

Economic Development

We help Wisconsin communities enhance local economic health, business development, stable employment and quality of life. CNRED educators tailor local programs to meet local needs using expertise and research.

We conduct our programmatic work through proven *Leadership and Organizational Development* and *Public Policy Education* approaches. Our local educational programs are enhanced by skilled educators who facilitate collaboration, build local leadership, conduct strategic planning and promote community asset-based solutions.



CNRED Vision, Mission, Values and Beliefs

Vision

To be the premier source of research and education that benefits the lives of individuals, families, businesses, organizations and communities.

Mission

To improve the long-term well-being of individuals, families, businesses, organizations and communities through research and experience-based education.

Extension professionals in CNRED value:

- Unbiased, objective, research-based education
- Educational partnerships and collaborations

- Program flexibility, diversity and accountability
- Risk-taking and self-determination
- Honesty and professionalism

CNRED educators believe:

- Education can empower
- Differences are to be celebrated
- Local leadership and relationships sustain our efforts
- Knowledge and participation are cornerstones of decision making
- We are agents of change

Relationships

Backed by University of Wisconsin research, CNRED educators work in partnership with county, state, federal and tribal governments, community organizations, volunteers, business and industry.

Local Connections through County Staff

CNRED has 58 educators working as county-based faculty and staff across Wisconsin. County faculty are members of the Department of Community Resource Development. The counties are an integral partner in supporting county-based faculty and staff.

Centers, Campuses and State Staff

CNRED has 100 professors, researchers and lecturers who specialize in bringing the resources of the University to the people of the state. These Specialists are located at the eight UW system universities and the following centers and departments:

- Agriculture and Applied Economics
- Applied Population Lab
- Center for Community and Economic Development
- Center for Land Use Education
- Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center
- Discovery Farms
- Environmental Resources Center
- Forest and Wildlife Ecology
- Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility
- Wisconsin Lakes Program
- Landscape Architecture
- Local Government Center
- Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

- Rural Sociology
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center
- Urban and Regional Planning

Internal connections to the Family Living, 4H-Youth Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources program areas are essential to ensuring a strong, multi-disciplinary response to local needs.

The Program Area also maintains a system of self-directed teams to enable a coordinated and multidisciplinary response to local needs. Sixteen distinct teams address topics from sustainability to criminal justice.

Partnerships

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- Department of Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Wisconsin Counties Association
- Wisconsin Towns Association
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Wisconsin Economic Development Association
- Department of Commerce

