

KAREN R. WAN

[REDACTED], Aurora, IL 60506

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EXPERIENCED GREEN INNOVATION LEADER

15+ years of business and organizational transformation experience. Linked to network of green business leaders and innovators nationally and in the Chicago area.

Creative and inspirational leader with a talent for transforming ideals into results. Passionate about sustainability and committed to leaving the world a better place. Adept at all stages of organizational transformation from vision setting to launching new initiatives and achieving desired outcomes.

Ability to inspire and lead beyond simply teaching about green ideals to implementing them in a quantifiable manner.

Successful record of designing and managing both short-term and complex, multi-year green business programs that simultaneously increase profitability for business and improve environmental conditions for the public.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Budget Management
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Event Design & Management
- Fundraising
- Green Certification
- Green Marketing
- Greening the Supply Chain
- Marketing Collateral
- Media Relations/PR Strategy
- Professional writer
- Public/ Private partnerships
- Strategic Planning
- Team Leadership
- Thought Leadership
- Training
- Visioning

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sustaining Stories, Aurora, IL
Innovative Green Business and Personal Development Consulting
www.resilient-free.net

2008 -2013

CEO & Founder

Launched a consulting firm to fill the gap in helping green businesses find a new way to develop new target markets and restore ecological systems.

Overview: Increased and maintained profitability of key clients during a tough recessionary economy, while also launching new green business programs

- Created unique focus on sustainable story development that helps both businesses and individuals link their core competencies to 14 critical global needs
- Developed Green Leaders program while exploring new ways to transform green businesses in a twelve month program at the City of Chicago Center for Green Technology
- Co-authored book - It's Time to Be an Idealistic, Environmental Capitalist with Marvin Klein
- Completed 12 month Transformation Circle program with Dr. Barbara DeAngelis to develop deeper personal transformational skills to offer Sustaining Stories clients
- Wrote guide on how to create a by-product synergy network for the EPA in 2009 that has been used

around the country to create similar programs to the City of Chicago's Waste to Profit network

- Provided web content development companies nationally and internationally
- Offered web training and teleseminars locally and nationally to overcome challenges to green business growth and profitability
- Author of *It's Time to Be an Idealistic Environmental Capitalist*(2009), *Writing Your Destiny* (2010), *The Seven Foundations of a Resilient Livelihood*(2011)

Chicago Manufacturing Center (CMC), Chicago, IL

2003-2008

Non Governmental Organization, 501C3, devoted to helping Chicago manufacturers to survive and thrive

Director of Sustainability

Created Sustainability line of business and developed award-winning program for the City of Chicago, also received Manufacturing Extension Partnership Innovator of the Year award.

Overview: Created green business programs that brought in over \$1.5 million in grants and company sponsorships for CMC, which increased profitability for companies and reduced waste going to landfill by over 100,000 tons as well as improving several key environmental metrics.

- Created and directed the City of Chicago's Waste to Profit Network from 2005-2008. Managed contractors on local, national and international locations, including a unique partnership with the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme in the United Kingdom
- Delivered economic impact for the over 150 companies involved and the national Department of Commerce – over \$10 million of increased revenue and cost savings
- Delivered environmental results for the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, Department of Commerce, and Environmental Protection Agency with over 100,000 tons of waste reduced from landfill
- Received the Green Works award from the City of Chicago in 2007 and Innovator of the Year award from the National Manufacturing Extension Partnership in 2008

AWARDS

- Innovator of the Year, National Manufacturing Extension Partnership, 2008
- City of Chicago Greenworks Market Development Award, 2007
- Merit and Excellence awards for marketing collateral (Society of Technical Communicators)
- IBM Leadership award, Chicago, Illinois
- Knight of St. Pat award, University of Illinois

EDUCATION

- Transformation Circle, Dr. Barbara DeAngelis, Santa Barbara, California, 2010
- Marketing Education, IBM, 1990
- B.S., Engineering, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, 1984