**Session Name:** Discussion of Evaluation of Urban Ecological Projects

**Speaker:** Arlene Hopkins, Arlene Hopkins and Associates

**Session Date/Time:** 6/23/2011 4:00 PM

**Notetaker:** Katelyn Cummings

**Main Points:**

* Purpose of this session:
  + To demonstrate the need for urban ecological projects
  + To highlight her approach in fixing the situation
* To restore the ecology of many urban areas, local communities need to take responsibility for them.

**Detailed Notes:**

* Ecosystem in Los Angeles has been obliterated
* Over pumping of oil killed aquifers, springs, and streams
* Wanted to figure out how to restore L.A. to its native landscape
* Trying to use human ecology as a framework – looks at how to localize tending land
* Once we destroy an ecosystem, it’s extremely difficult to bring it back.
* Trying to match disturbed lands against undisturbed lands
* Use these areas as testers to see what works and what doesn’t
* One scientist was already successful in restoring the native buckwheat plant verses the foreign ice plant in the beach bluffs
* Plan for restoring urban ecology:
  + Start local, in your own sphere
  + Conserve and protect existing ecosystems
* Methods:
  + Metrological footprint
  + Adaptive management

**Point of Discussion:**

* How do we push back against ecological collapse with populations eating up resources?
* How can we work on this without also controlling population?

**Websites/Programs:**

* [The California Society for Ecological Restoration](http://www.sercal.org/)
* [Society for Ecological Restoration](http://www.ser.org/)
* [Bioneers](http://www.bioneers.org/)
* [Welikia](http://welikia.org/)
* [Urban Wildlands Group](http://www.urbanwildlands.org/)
* [Cradle to Cradle](http://www.mcdonough.com/cradle_to_cradle.htm)
* [International Society for Industrial Ecology](http://www.is4ie.org/)
* [Project Management Institute](http://www.pmi.org/)