

Project Title:

elementsdb: Engaging students with the environmental dimensions of urban design via the web

Project Summary (150 words maximum)

This project broadens and deepens a 2010/11 project that affords students a web-based database (***elementsdb***) for understanding how urban form affects sustainability. Year 2 takes specialized students deeper into applying the database to critical evaluations of urban form and concurrently broadens the reference service of the databases to large undergraduate classes. The project: trains faculty /teaching assistant (TA) teams to make effective use of *elementsdb* in courses; expands students' knowledge base about the metrics of urban sustainability; engages students in critical cross-disciplinary consideration of the complex factors of urban sustainability; engages some students in database creation and evaluation. In 2011/12, we will test the use of the database in two different virtual environments: GoogleEarth and a multi-touch table. Students will have 24 hour access from any location to this web site. This project will directly complement existing curricula of approximately 540 students/year in 6 departments.