Program Mission
The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) is a campus-wide engaged learning organization located in the Provost’s Office of Outreach & Engagement. The IISC partners with rural and urban communities across Iowa to match students and faculty to projects that are proposed by our partners and address priorities for advancing quality of life in the state. The IISC matches community needs with the expertise and resources of the University of Iowa faculty and students, and continuously adds new faculty and courses to the initiative.

Through developing projects that address community priorities while engaging students in impactful experiences throughout the state, the IISC pursues a dual mission of enhancing quality of life in Iowa while transforming teaching and learning at the university. The partnerships between students, faculty, and community members that are facilitated by the IISC draw stronger connections between the University of Iowa and the state, advancing the university’s strong commitment to mutually beneficial engagement with Iowa communities. These partnerships enable the IISC to address Iowa’s economic, environmental, and socio-cultural challenges in ways that build a more sustainable future for the state, and more successful, engaged futures for our students.

Brief History
The IISC was founded in 2009 in the School of Urban and Regional Planning by Dr. Chuck Connerly. Since 2009, the IISC has worked with small and medium-sized communities in Iowa to advance sustainability across the state. In Fall 2012, due to the success of these projects and the recognition that sustainability in Iowa spans a variety of disciplines, the IISC expanded to become a campus-wide initiative. To continue growing campus-wide partnerships, the IISC joined the Provost’s Office of Outreach & Engagement in Fall 2014.

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