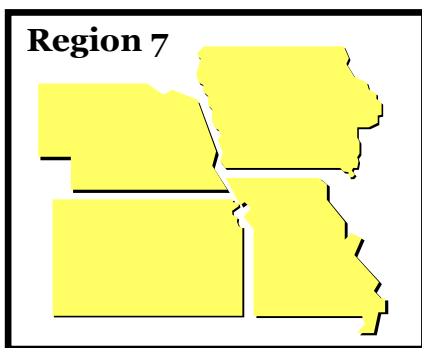


Environmental Finance Center Purpose

Across the nation, local governments are challenged with addressing the competing interests of complying with addressing state and federal regulations, promoting economic growth and protecting public health. To help with these challenges, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, Center for Urban Studies, as an Environmental Finance Center to promote the development of sustainable communities in Region 7. Working to connect government entities with outside organizations, EFCs facilitate the sharing of information, technology and resources offered by a network of collaborators. Centers also work to better equip local officials and the public with training and community outreach to address challenges that arise from environmental, planning and health issues.



Environmental Finance Center Network

The Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University is one of 10 university-based centers that form the Environmental Finance Center Network. Located throughout the country, each EFC focuses on the challenges of the geographic region it serves. While this is the first EFC for Region 7, other EFC's have been in operation for more than 18 years. The Wichita State University EFC serves the four states of the U.S. EPA Region 7 including Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Topical areas of expertise

As part of the network, the Environmental Finance Centers work to provide environmental finance expertise and outreach in a variety of environmental areas including water resources and infrastructure, solid waste management, air quality, renewable energy, green building and land conservation. The Wichita State EFC will particularly focus on offering the following services within those topical areas:

Outreach Opportunities

- Education through conferences, workshops and community-based seminars
- Facilitation of retreats and community forums
- Small system technical and capacity development assistance
- Applied research on issues identified by state and local officials
- Internet-based training and technical assistance
- Customized professional development or elected leadership training
- Community collaboration and decision making efforts
- Computer based finance models

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