

Net Impact Boston: Sustainability Breakfast Series



Now in its second year, the Net Impact Boston Sustainability Breakfast Series launched in April 2013 to create a **regularly-scheduled, relaxed, and informal space** for sustainability professionals and those interested in sustainability to get together for **networking, idea sharing and relationship building**. Breakfasts take place before work on the third Wednesday of each month at a central location and attract about 15-20 attendees.

Attendees come from a wide range of organizations, and include visitors from out of town. Each month continues to be a **great mix of old and new faces**, Net Impact members and non-members. People attend to engage with the sustainability community in Boston, **get exposed to new ideas and advice** from their peers and to start the day in an energizing way.

NI Boston has passed along some helpful tips for other chapters can start their own sustainability breakfast series!

To get started:

- **Start with two committed breakfast champions** to organize, promote, and attend the event each month
- **Find a central venue with ample space** – bonus points for sustainability credentials

- **Test out the venue** before launching and get buy-in from the owner or manager
- **Promote the event** via the chapter website, newsletter, and social media
- **Use nametags** (bring blanks for those that don't sign up ahead of time!)
- **Have information ready** about your chapter, like pamphlets or quarter sheets

For continued success:

- **Strive for continuity:** keep location and time the same each month so attendees always know when and where the event's happening
- **Consider creating structure:** for example, set a timer for ½ hour of informal conversation, then do a brief round of introductions so everyone knows who is there and who they might want to talk to, and then continue informal discussion/networking
- **Encourage attendees to spread the word** through their personal networks!



Interested in finding out more? **Contact Tom Reid and Harriet Henry at boston@netimpact.org**