

How Bureaucrats Run a Scam?

I'm betting most of you have never heard of it, right? Well, let's peel the proverbial onion back on this little morsel shall we? The CRSD, as it is affectionately known, is an entity housed at the University of Fort Kent (UMFK). Here is the website: <https://crsd.umfk.edu>. It becomes apparent after doing a simple review of the webpages, the CRSD seems to be quite "inactive". Major links show reports, studies, etc, over 10 years old. The last posting seems to be back in 2015:



▪ **2/13/2015** • UMFK
Environmental Studies Speaker
Series featuring Dr. Chunzeng
Wang

▪ **2/28/2014** • UMFK, MSAD #27
CELEBRATE FIRST FIRING OF
BIOMASS PLANT

▪ **2/10/2014** • The Production of

Headlines
Latest News

The most important posting seems to be the biomass conversion that is now over 10 years ago:



CRSD wins 2 biomass grants: EPSCoR (NSF) & Maine Wood-to-Energy

The Center for Rural Sustainable Development with the Environmental Studies Program recently received an [NSF/EPSCoR](#) grant as part of the Sustainability Solutions Initiative from U Maine-Orono. As a Sustainability Solutions Partner, UMFK received \$45,000 for 2011, with the potential of receiving funds for the next three years (up to perhaps \$300,000). The project will assess the landscape implications and sustainable development potential of biomass energy resources in Northern Maine! [Here for more.](#) The Center also won a stimulus grant of \$500,000 to replace an old oil-fired boiler with a biomass boiler at UMFK. [Here for more.](#)

The employee page shows no employees:



On the <https://crsd.umfk.edu/about/> , they define clearly "Sustainable Development". Let's see if we can find similarity to other buzz words the UN loves to shove in our face: environmental services, diversity, landscapes, social justice, reserve and restore nature, design livable, resilient, and secure communities. Yes, I'd say whoever wrote this stuff up hit most of the Agenda 21 key buzzwords.



The Purpose of the Center for Rural Sustainable Development

Vision and Mission

The CRSD **envisions** a region of resilient, durable and prosperous communities in Northeastern Maine and beyond. The Center's **mission** is to guide sustainability efforts by providing academic resources and quality information for improving lives and livelihoods and safeguarding cultural and natural heritage for the future.

Goals

To foster regional sustainable development, citizens must be empowered with high quality information and well developed technical capabilities. It is, therefore, necessary for the center to:

1. Gather and generate knowledge for a deep understanding of the issues so that quality information may be shared;
2. Educate stakeholders on issues of concern so that well-informed decisions may be made;
3. Train a technically competent citizenry to conduct the business of sustainability.

What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development or more simply **sustainability** is a societal condition wherein people live quality lives, meeting their needs in ways that permit other people to do the same now and into the distant future. Sustainable communities are nurturing places where people prosper and cultures thrive; they maintain capital stocks including environmental services; they are characterized by a diversity of ideas, economic activities, and landscapes; and they seek social justice and equity, while maintaining freedom and opportunities for citizens.

The **sustainability** path involves the merging of the historically distinct and often conflicting goals of *development* and *conservation*, which requires that societies work to:

- create opportunities where people may realize their full potentials, find productive livelihoods, and prosper;
- protect and enhance human health and encourage wellness;
- restore and preserve nature's life-support systems and evolutionary potential;
- extract benefits from natural capital without diminishing stocks for future generations;
- achieve social justice;
- design livable, resilient and secure communities.

The path to sustainability occurs through the process of establishing appropriate institutions, policies, strategies, and technologies in a *just transition* that moves society toward the proper state. Democracy is often viewed similarly, as a process of continuous improvement.

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Sustainability is also the emerging science that seeks to understand the issues at the interface between society and nature and to find solutions to the associated problems so that people may thrive everywhere today and into the distant future. Sustainability science employs multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking in addressing the complex interactions between natural and social systems. See the following for more information on sustainability science:

- [Sustainability Science Program at the National Academy of Sciences](#)
- Clark, William C. 2007. "[Sustainability Science: A Room of its Own.](#)" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 104(6):1737-1738.

For a broad look at peer-reviewed sustainability research see the following online journals:

- [Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy](#)
- [Ecology and Society](#)

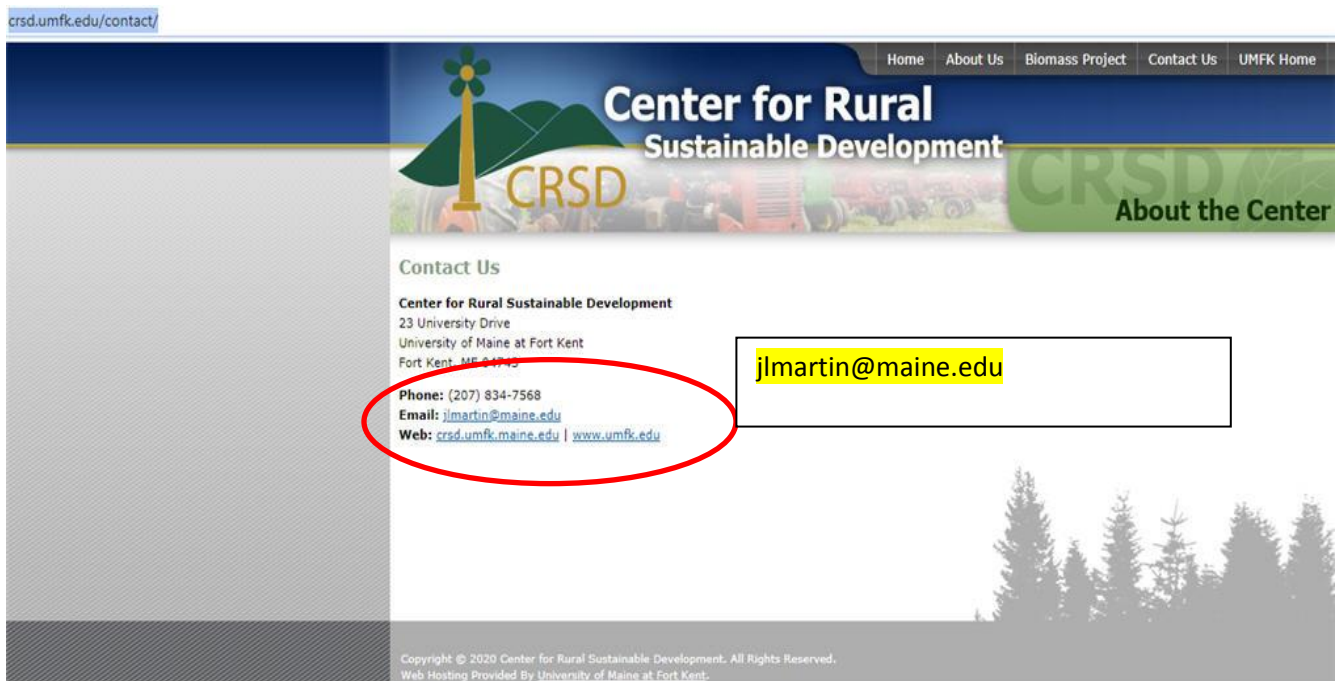
Current Work of the Center for Rural Sustainable Development

- Regional renewable energy planning
 - A preliminary assessment report was presented during the [UMFK Scholars' Symposia, April 23, 2010](#)
- Regional tourism and recreation opportunities
- [Campus Greening](#)
 - [Climate Action Plan](#)
 - [Greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#)
 - Comprehensive sustainability campus plan
 - LEED certified building initiative
 - UMFK's Powell Hall was renovated in 2010 and is under review for LEED certification.
 - Energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy at UMFK.
 - The campus has developed plans to install two biomass boilers that would replace 8 oil-fired boilers and displace approximately 90% of the schools' fuel oil consumption. Funds for the projects are currently being sought.

The Center has three goals posted and number 3 caught my eye: "Train a technically competent citizenry to conduct the business of sustainability." I sure would like to know more about how UMFK is doing that, wouldn't you? Unfortunately, one has to wonder how an organization that has no employees, has no current data shared on its webpages, nor provides the status of its goals, whether it actually does anything at all. Questions that come to my mind include:

1. Who is responsible for the Center for Rural Sustainable Development? Who supervises its output?
2. What responsibility to the taxpayers is demanded if their taxes pay for this entity to exist?
3. Who is accountable for the production, output and operations of this organization?
4. Why is there not any information available online as to the success or failure of its mission and goals?

Obviously, some digging is required since we can't find much in the way of any answers to these questions. The website does give us a hint on who's running the center:



The screenshot shows the website crsd.umfk.edu/contact/. The header includes navigation links: Home, About Us, Biomass Project, Contact Us, and UMFK Home. The main banner features the CRSD logo and the text "Center for Rural Sustainable Development" and "About the Center". The "Contact Us" section provides the following information:

- Center for Rural Sustainable Development**
- 23 University Drive
- University of Maine at Fort Kent
- Fort Kent, ME 04743
- Phone:** (207) 834-7568
- Email:** jlmartin@maine.edu
- Web:** crsd.umfk.maine.edu | www.umfk.edu

The email address jlmartin@maine.edu is highlighted in yellow and circled in red. The footer contains the copyright notice: "Copyright © 2020 Center for Rural Sustainable Development. All Rights Reserved. Web Hosting Provided By University of Maine at Fort Kent."

Now we're getting somewhere. Mr. John Martin is the Director of the Center for Rural Sustainable Development!

Let's see what the UMaine system says about the matter. In its 2019 Document:

https://www.maine.edu/human-resources/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/02/Public-Information-Document-11.26.19_accessible.pdf, we find the following on page 19:

University of Maine System
Salaries for Regular Employees by University
As of November 25, 2019

CMP	Formatted_Name	Dept ID	Title	Salbase	JobSt	Bargaining Unit	Faculty Appt	FTE
UMFK	Lugdon, Shannon L.	KDEVL	Development Officer	43,260.00	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Martin, John L.	KPRES	Dir of CRSD	30,085.20	PR	Non-Represented Faculty	FY	0.90

Let's do some math shall we? Mr. Martin is paid 30,085.20 as a .9 FTE (1874 hrs per annum or 36 hrs/week). That's about \$16.05 per hour. Ok, got it...

But there's more. UMaine April 3, 2020 salary sheet :

<https://www.maine.edu/human-resources/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/04/Public-Information-Document-4.3.20.pdf>, includes the following on page 21:

University of Maine System
Salaries for Regular Employees by University
As of April 3, 2020

CMP	Formatted_Name	Dept ID	Title	Salbase	JobSt	Bargaining Unit	Faculty Appt	FTE
UMFK	Epp, Marilyn F.	KPROF	Assist Prof of Pub Safety	52,538.60	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Gonzalez, Javier S.	KRESH	Dir of Res Life & Leadership	39,140.00	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Graham, Shawn E.	KBEHA	Asst Prof of Counseling	51,961.52	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Gregory, Janna L.	KPRES	Administrative Spclst(Conf)CL3	34,486.40	FR	Non-Represented Hourly		1.00
UMFK	Griffin, Diane M.	KNURS	Assistant Professor Nursing	55,682.59	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Guimond, Paul A.	KPLNT	Mech Specialist Mechanical CL1	21,016.32	PR	Service and Maintenance		0.60
UMFK	Hallowell, Kirsten R.	KCOED	Administrative Specialist CL2	15,839.20	PR	COLT		0.50
UMFK	Hansen, Stephen E.	KBEHA	Assoc Prof Bio & Env Studies	73,229.22	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Hess, Eleanor B.	KNURS	Clinical Place & Test Coord	31,787.59	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Holzhausen, Kurt G.	KBEHA	Professor - AY	76,573.43	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Jandreau, Max P.	KCOED	Community Educ Specialist	36,000.00	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Kaphle, Krishna	KBEHA	Associate Professor - AY	63,292.38	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Kastl, Christin M.	KBEHA	Assistant Professor Biology	51,351.28	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	Kelly, Amber J.	KOUTR	Administrative Specialist CL2	30,700.80	FR	COLT		1.00
UMFK	Kelly, Leslie E.	KINFO	Assoc Dean Infor Serv&Dist Edu	73,801.73	FR	Non-Represented Salaried		1.00
UMFK	Kelly, Timothy M.	KACAD	Reading/Writing Specialist	31,607.53	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Kelly, Wilda A.	KPLNT	Facilities Maint Worker CL1	28,995.20	FR	Service and Maintenance		1.00
UMFK	Lallemand, Nikolas D.	KACAD	Dir Student Support Services	57,783.01	FR	Non-Represented Salaried		1.00
UMFK	Lavoie, Lisa M.	KBEHA	Asst Prof of Behavioral Scienc	51,382.50	FR	AFUM	AY	1.00
UMFK	LeClair, Jerry	KPLNT	Structural Spclst Painter CL2	36,150.40	FR	Service and Maintenance		1.00
UMFK	Levesque, Wayne J.	KPLNT	Facilities Maint Worker CL1	28,995.20	FR	Service and Maintenance		1.00
UMFK	Lugdon, Shannon L.	KDEVL	Development Officer	43,260.00	FR	UMPSA		1.00
UMFK	Martin, John L.	KPRES	Dir of CRSD	30,310.84	PR	Non-Represented Faculty	FY	0.50

Back to some math. Mr. Martin is now being paid \$30,310.84 as a .5 FTE (1040 hrs, or 20 hours per week). That's \$29.14 per hour by my math.

If my math is right, within six months, Mr. Martin received an hourly pay increase of \$13.09 or 81% increase in pay, and he gets to work only 20 hours vs. 36 hours per week?

Has anyone that you know gotten that kind of well-deserved increase in the last year? Most of your friends I suspect have suffered quite a bit given the lockdowns, business closures and the like, yet Mr. Martin has made out quite well from what we see in these documents.

Is there any message we can get from what we now know about Sustainable Development and the Center for Rural Sustainable Development?

1. UMFK has some explaining to do on why Mr. Martin is on its payroll as the Director for the Center for Rural Sustainable Development. Mr. Martin's own financial disclosure in 2019: https://www.maine.gov/ethics/sites/maine.gov.ethics/files/inline-files/Martin%2C%20John_HD151.pdf, he lists himself as an Assistant Professor of Political Science, but that's not how the UMaine system is apparently paying him. Why not list your correct title?

2. Does UMFK have a vested interest in Mr. Martin's appointments on the Appropriations and Environmental Committees in Augusta? One might assume those committees are vital to the Center for Rural Sustainable Development's mission and goals. Is this a conflict of interest or not? You can decide.

3. I find it understandable that given Representative Martin's busy schedule between teaching, being a Representative, serving on at least 12 boards and directing the CRSD, some things fall through the cracks. My guess his drop from 36 hours to 20 hours per week has taken some of the pressure off of him to produce anything worthy to share about CRSD initiatives with the public.

4. Finally, as the WHO said it clearly in their 70s song, We Don't Get Fooled Again, I'm thinking it aptly applies here. A bureaucrat of 56 years, who knows the ins and outs, may think he still rules the roost and can get away with much. Yet Mr. Martin, I for one, have your number. You and your supervisor (if you have one at UMFK), have some explaining to do. I'm sure you will describe your Agenda 21 work as really important and for our best interests, we the voters better re-elect you or else... (lest you have to really work to get those 20 hours per week in at UMFK). By the way, is there a UMFK office I can find you at sometime to get more insight on your Rural Sustainable Development initiatives and successes?

You now know how Sustainable Development has crept into District #151. If you want honesty and integrity in Augusta, vote for me. I will never lie to you or take a dime I didn't earn, just sayin...

I finish this observation with this image of Mr. Martin with the original tech guru for our great state, Senator King...the computer guy for all our kids. But that's another story for another day.



Yup, FMR Corporation made me an instant millionaire