E-CORPS PROJECT DECISION TREE

Does the topic area represent a widespread or regional need among surrounding communities?

NO
Avoid one-off type projects, this will not help to build program momentum and recognition.

YES
A widespread need is key to creating a program that builds its impacts and recognition over time.

Is there an existing Extension or extension-like program in place that has created a relationship with communities?

NO
This will make it difficult or impossible to proceed without at least several years of outreach effort.

YES
This is essential to a successful launch and the development of projects meaningful to the communities.

Is there an existing state or federal requirement or program that communities might need assistance to respond to? Examples include grant programs (Brownfields) and state regulatory requirements (Stormwater).

NO
This is not required but as a result towns may be less motivated, and/or the range of possible projects may be wide. The Climate Corps operates under this scenario and it works well, but it does create more work for the instructors to develop projects.

YES
This will help to provide a manageable framework for the practicum projects and, importantly, increase the chances that the projects will be acted upon by the towns.

Are there project types that can be reasonably conducted and completed by a student team within the time constraints of a semester?

NO
Time to pick another topic. The goal of the model is to provide useful and actionable products. Some multi-year options might be possible but this is complicated and probably not a good path for a new program.

YES
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