

**Office of the Mayor
Thomas Friedel**



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May 4, 2009

Selection Committee
Small Cities Sustainability Award
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Selection Committee:

Please accept the attached proposal for consideration of the 2009 *Small Cities Sustainability Award*.

The City of Racine is committed to the preservation of Great Lakes St. Lawrence water resources and as such desires to incorporate the principles of sustainability into all aspects of how we do business whether that be in recreational opportunities for our citizens, educational programs for our school children, or in new construction and city redevelopment plans. Economic vitality is necessary for small municipalities to retain and attract young professionals and an active business community, but the way in which we grow must be sensitive to the needs of the environment. The Root River Environmental Education Community Center (REC) is just one example of how we, as a small city, are trying to meet these goals. The REC offers recreational outlets and environmental education to traditionally underserved populations (improving social equity). In cooperation with the Racine Health Department, it serves as a base of operations for water quality research designed to provide relevant information to the scientific community and state agencies (environmental stewardship). Data generated from these studies may also be used as a resource for local redevelopment projects and best management practices along the Root River, a major tributary to Lake Michigan (economic vitality and environmental sustainability).

If selected, the City of Racine would use the monetary award to implement site improvements (including environmental demonstration projects such as rain gardens, vegetated swales, or other storm water management techniques), promote educational activities (developing an outdoor classroom area), and to increase public awareness of the REC and the social, educational, and environmental stewardship opportunities it provides.

Thank you for considering our proposal. In my absence please contact Dr. Julie Kinzelman (262-636-9501, julie.kinzelman@cityofracine.org) with any questions you may have regarding this project.

Regards,



Thomas Friedel
Mayor, City of Racine, Wisconsin