



2008 Wege Small Cities Sustainable Best Practices Award Summary of 2008 Submissions

Cities with populations under 100,000 have submitted sustainable and meaningful projects for consideration for an award that balances economic, social, and environmental aspects within the community that could be used as a best practice in other cities.

City of Bayfield, WI Greater Bayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City of Bayfield worked collaboratively with Pike's Bay Sanitary District to pursue a regional wastewater treatment facility that would help meet the area's long-term demand and reduce impact on Lake Superior. Goals for the regional facility included a zero percent discharge into Lake Superior standard, providing 50 or more years of service, and energy and cost efficiency. The facility was developed with environmental protection and enhancement in mind, by using energy efficient processes to achieve effluent that is above and beyond typical treatment requirements. The WI Department of Natural Resources has identified the plant as a demonstration facility to showcase several environmental technologies including reed bed sludge management, nitrification of nitrate which results in a lower aeration energy requirement, enhanced efficient ultraviolet disinfection, and energy efficient lighting / day-lighting. The City has indicated that the award money would be used towards the implementation of the "Clean It/Green It" campaign which has a planned launch in July 2008. Homeowners will be provided with a reusable shopping bag filled with environmentally safe cleaning products and a compact fluorescent light bulb. Information on a mini-grant program being provided by the City to homeowners to make their homes more efficient will be included in the bag. Part of the grant money will go towards providing an additional 20 mini-grants to homeowners as previously promised state funding for this effort has been cut.

City of Beaconsfield, QU Picture Clear Water

The Picture Clear Water project is a collaboration of St. Remi School and the City of Beaconsfield, designed to awaken children's interest in the richness of the flora and fauna that inhabit Lake St. Louis and develop awareness of the dangers that threaten it. The project also encourages students to take concrete action to improve the lake environment. Through a research and workshops, the students uncovered that Meadowbrook Stream, which empties into Lake St. Louis about 500 meters west of the Beaconsfield beach, was heavily polluted and was greatly impacting the Lake and the condition of the water at the beach. The main source of pollution was crossed sewer pipe connections in the neighboring City of Kirkland, exacerbated by fertilizer runoff from homes on the stream's banks in Beaconsfield as well as the use of the stream as a dumping ground by



some residents. The students met with government officials to express their concerns, including Mayor Bob Benedetti, Francis Scarpeleggia, Federal Member of Parliament and opposition Critic for Water and Geoffrey Kelley, a member of the Quebec National Assembly. In June 2008, the students will visit homes in Beaconsfield to raise awareness about what people can do to reduce the negative environmental impact on the Stream and the Lake. A stream cleanup and planting of native shrubs is also planned. The partnership between the City and the school to maintain pressure on senior governments and the City of Kirkland to correct the cross connections that are polluting the stream will continue. If this project is selected for the award, the money would be applied to the objectives of the project in particular the ongoing lobbying program to correct the root problems of the pollution.

City of Ajax, ON *Improving Water Quality*

In 2005, an unanticipated environmental “tipping point” was reached when Ajax’s beach was posted for 100% of the swim season due to excessive bacteria levels. Also the shoreline was coated with decaying algae detracting from the waterfront’s appearance and emitting offensive odors. The Town has since taken definitive action to seek solutions to the problems, including convincing the Province to impose 13 additional conditions to the expansion of the sewage treatment plant, partnering with several water quality monitoring studies focused on the Ajax shoreline, and managing the local waterfowl population. In 2006 and 2007, Ajax began a cooperative sampling program of bacteria. The Town retained a consulting ecologist to interpret initial data and learned that nearshore processes are complex and interlinked. The Town knows that storm sewers can contribute bacteria to nearshore waters but an assessment of outputs during wet weather conditions is needed to assess relative contributions. In 2008 the Town is investigating possible source of bacteria and other contaminants within its jurisdiction. Ajax is funding a water quality sampling program and scientific analyses of its storm water system. The Town is also participating in an international Lake Ontario Study examining water quality along shorelines and in the coastal marshes and the Duffins and Carruthers Creeks, led by the US EPA and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Should Ajax receive this Award, the funds would be used to continue scientific tracing of the sources of contaminants in the Town’s storm sewer system and identify remedial measures, such as physical changes to prevent wildlife from inhabiting the system.



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